

# Regathering Season October 6, 2024

# FIRST CHURCH

Congregational 1633-1636 United Church of Christ Garden and Mason Streets Cambridge, Massachusetts

# WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE... Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are

on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

Liturgist Preaching Today Leading Worship Dean Eaton, Deacon Mike Solberg, Interim Senior Minister Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance Lee Prouty, Facilities Manager Jennifer Velázquez, guest organist

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, First Church member

# **Today's Programs and Events**

9:30 a.m.	Adult Formation: Braving Change, Harter Room and via Zoom
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments and All-Church Art Show in Margaret Jewett Hall
12:30 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well
7:00 p.m.	Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults
	through the Confirmation Curriculum, Harter Room
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <u>via livestream</u>

# New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a visitor card found on the small clipboards or this "virtual visitor card" so that we might connect with you about our community.

# **Give to First Church**

You can give electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u>

# **Contact a Pastor or Staff Member**

Find <u>contact information</u> for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

# **Minister On Call**

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL 388 YEARS ON THE WAY 1636-2024

#### GATHERING

VOLUNTARY	Rockingham	Healey Willan
*HYMN 20	The Household of God	
*GREETING		Dean Eaton
L:	The spirit of Christ be with you.	
<b>C</b> :	And also with you.	
L:	Beloved of God, come gather in!	
	Be at home in this household of grace!	
	Here there is room for all that we are:	
<b>C</b> :	room for our stories, our hopes, our yearnings, our fears.	
L:	Here there is room to wonder and grow,	
C:	room to pray and love and act together for a better world.	
L:	Siblings in the Spirit, God's heart is open,	
	and God's invitation is deep and wide.	
C:	Young, old, and everyone, come into the warmth of that welcome and together let us make room for joy!	2,
WORDS OF WELCOME		

ANTHEM

Davidson (Sacred Harp, 1909)

Seaborn M. Denson

#### CONFESSING

# INVITATION TO CONFESSION



#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:

# C: Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your path in thought, word, and deed,

\*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

#### **DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

#### \*GREETING OF PEACE

- L: The peace of Christ be with you!
- C: And also with you!

Adults:God be with you there.Children:God be with you here.

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School for a Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.

*HYMN 517	O God of Every Nation

#### OPENING THE WORD

# PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

SERMON When You Come Together: A Communion Meditation Mike Solberg

\*HYMN 253

God Is Here!

#### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INVITATION TO OFFERING** 

Karen McArthur

Our offering supports the many ministries of our church, with 10% for missions in the community and beyond. Please use our new <u>all-in-one link</u> for gifts from your bank account or by credit/debit card:



OFFERTORY

Bread of the World

**Richard Shephard** 

#### **\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Praise God, the Source of life and birth, Praise God, the Word, who came to earth, Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame, All glory, honor, to God's name. Amen.

# SHARING THE FEAST

\*INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

#### \*SHARING BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice, and peace are welcome at this table. We

welcome all, whether members of our church, or another church, or no church, for Jesus himself is the host of us all. For those here in the Sanctuary, please come forward with your bulletins to receive the elements at one of the stations, and then proceed to the chancel to gather in a circle, making space to include the front pew in the circle for those who require seating. The cups are filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. At the three stations in the front of the sanctuary, we invite you to take a piece of bread from the plate and dip it into the cup. At the back of the sanctuary, there is a station with individual servings of bread and individual cups. Anyone who, for any reason, is not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of Holy Communion!

#### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- L: Let us give thanks!
- C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus for gladness in this bread and cup,

for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### **GOING FORTH**

*HYMN 314	As We Gather at Your Table	(see insert)
*BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL RESPONSE	Thuma Mina	Hymn 344
Sen	d me, Lord.) 3. (Fill me, Lord.) Fill me, . d me Jesus, send me, Jesus, d me Jesus, send me, Lord! 4. (Thuma mina.)	Jesus
	d me, Lord.) Lead me, Jesus thuma mina, somandl d me, Lord.) Lead me, Jesus	•

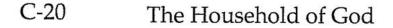


As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal.

Your gifts matter.

The UCC Appeal for Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts invites people to offer monetary contributions toward hurricane relief, and/or to join volunteer efforts with <u>Crisis Cleanup</u> <u>phone banking</u> – which allows people to remotely assist with connecting crisis need to relief services – and for assembling <u>hygiene and cleanup buckets</u>.

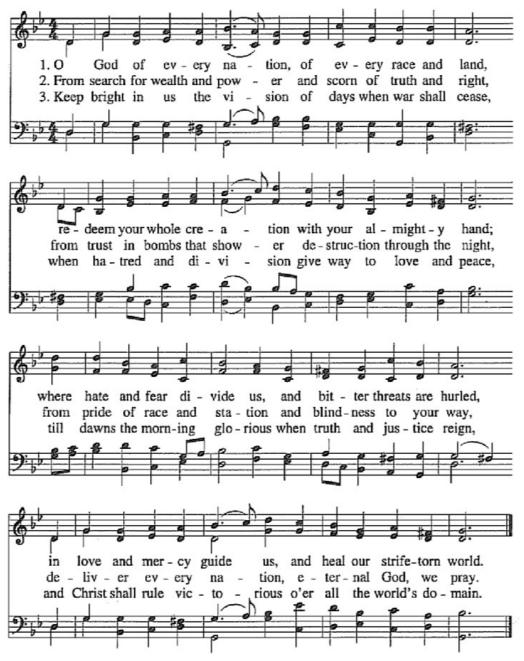
Learn more and respond: https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief





-Hymn Insert 1-





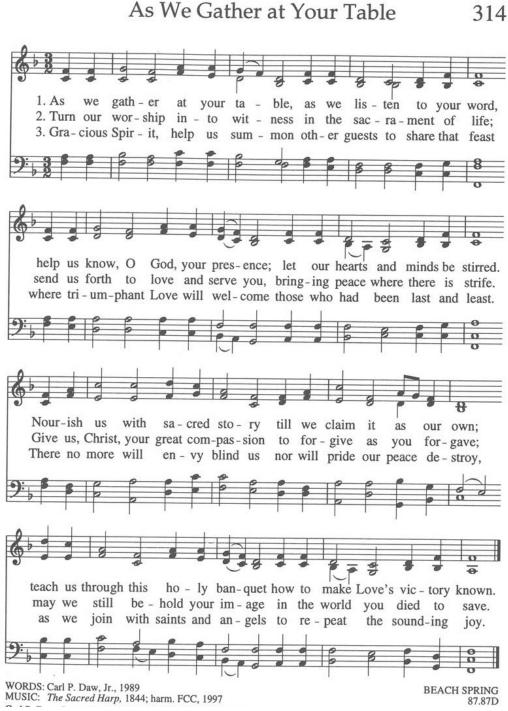
<sup>-</sup>Hymn Insert 2-

#### SERMON HYMN



-Hymn Insert 3-

#### **CLOSING HYMN**



-Hymn Insert 4-

#### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

- The flowers on the chancel are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of Brian O'Donovan on the anniversary of his death in October 2023.
- We celebrate with George Williams, who was released from the hospital after a very long recovery.
- We pray for Keith Manville, Director of Operations Kirsten Manville's father, as he continues his recovery from a stroke at a rehab facility.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Ellen Frith, who is living with a serious chronic illness; Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; and Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Bob Spaulding, Beth Spaulding's father; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Abby Shuman's uncle Barry.
- As we approach the one-year anniversary of Hamas's attack on Israel, and as war in the Middle East expands and intensifies, our hearts cry out in prayer. We pray for all the families who have lost loved ones in Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel, and all those who are enduring hunger, displacement, and the terror of war. We pray especially for the people of southern Lebanon as they endure deadly airstrikes from the Israeli military. We pray in thanksgiving for all the peacemakers, and we pray that we might take wise and compassionate action for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region, as well as redoubled efforts to address the humanitarian crises resulting from these wars.
- We pray for our nation during this election season, amid intense political polarization.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from natural and climate-related disasters, especially those in the southeastern region of the US, where Hurricane Helene caused catastrophic damage and loss of life. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the ongoing safety, security, and wellbeing of Amani, Amini, and Ephrem Matabaro, and for all people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where ongoing armed conflicts have led to more than 6 million people killed and more than 5 million people displaced from their homes. We pray also for those who have experienced devastating incidents of gender-based violence during the conflicts.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the experience of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and in Haiti.
- We continue to pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are unable to give and receive care in their own states.

# **TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH**

# Adult Formation: Braving Change

# Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

In this season of new beginnings, Susan Reynolds and Beth Spaulding lead the second of two 9:30 sessions on navigating change in our own lives and the life of our church community. Using Andi Andrew's *Braving Change* as a guide, we will explore how to mourn, accept and thrive through change, always giving ourselves the grace and space to see where God is leading us. All are invited, (even if you didn't attend the first session on September 22), and no preparation or book purchase is required.





# All-Church Art Show

**Today, 12:30 -1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** We know that creativity flows deep and wide within our community, and we are thrilled to showcase and celebrate your work. As we make room for all, we are excited to create this intentional space to share our gifts of painting, drawing, sculpture, writing, and crafting with each other.

# Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., The Well

7th and 8th graders from First Church and Old South Church meet for a session of their year-long sexuality education curriculum.





#### Night Song

Today, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset. Learn more about Night Song.

**Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?** Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



# **REGATHERING SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH**



Fall Faith & Life Groups: DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SOME GROUPS Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. If you are looking for a way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you!

# Please see group descriptions & register by Friday, October 11, for a specific Faith & Life group here.

After registering, you will be contacted by the leader. Questions? Please reach out to Beth Spaulding (bspaulding68@gmail.com) or the leader of the group directly.

- Care Group for the Caregivers with Amy Matias and Stefanie Haug
- Exploring Hope for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land with Adam Weiss
- Tending our Spirits in a Time of Transition with Rev. Liz Williams
- First Church's History and Its Impact on Changes Ahead with Henry Gates

# **Newcomers Gathering**

# Sunday, October 20,9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room

Are you new to First Church? Whether you've been with us for one Sunday or many more, if you FEEL new to this community and want to build connections and learn more about life at First Church, this gathering is for you. We'll gather together, share some light refreshments, and get



to know each other with some games. We'll also share some time with a few current members of First Church who will share their reflections and be available to answer your questions about their experiences at First Church. Come play, eat, and build connection!



# Family Choir Returns!

# *Rehearsals:* Sundays, October 20 & 27, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., Chapel; and Sunday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing with others? Have you heard that research shows how singing in a group can boost health and happiness? First Church folks of all ages and experience levels are warmly invited to join the Family Choir for a few rehearsals leading up to a

musical offering in our All Saints Worship on November 3. Grab a coffee and cookie after worship on two Sundays in late October and head to the Chapel to learn a simple South African harmony song with Sarah Higginbotham.



# Monday, October 7

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

#### Wednesday, October 9

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 7:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

#### Thursday, October 10

7:30 p.m.9:00 p.m.Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

#### Friday, October 11

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

#### Sunday, October 13

10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

#### Monday, October 14

Church Office & Building Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

# See our **Events Calendar** for Zoom links and details.

Sign up here to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the <u>First Church Communications Request</u> form.

> First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC 11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

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