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Advent  
December 1, 2024

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**  
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.

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**388 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

## December 1, 2024

<b>Liturgist</b>	Leslie Pelton-Cairns, <i>Deacon</i>
<b>Preaching Today</b>	Emma Mitchell, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Communications &amp; Christian Formation</i>
	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i>
	Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover</b>	Advent image by Perry Neubauer, from the church archives

### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Multigenerational Advent Formation, Harter Room
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
12:15 p.m.	Advent Workshop and Luncheon, Margaret Jewett Hall
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### 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: [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give)

### Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto: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.

## GATHERING

### VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

alt. Kate Layzer

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and with thy captive people dwell;  
who mourn in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in peace to dwell.**

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Godly Play Class

L: Advent is a season of waiting.

**C: We wait for the Light to show us the way  
through this dark time of year.**

L: Loving and patient God, be with us now,  
as we light the first candle of Advent.

**C: Help us open our hearts to hope and wonder.**

L: The Light of Christ!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Leslie Pelton-Cairns

### ANTHEM

The Angel Gabriel

arr. Edgar Pettman

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### ADVENT SONG

Give Me Hope in the Darkness

*see page 5*

**Give me hope in the darkness, hope in the darkness,  
hope in the darkness to sing my soul awake.**

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Now let us ask for healing, pardon and peace.

**C: In your presence, God, and in each other's company,  
we confess that our lives and the life of the world  
are cast in shadow by what we do and by what we fail to do.  
But we know a light shines in the darkness,**

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded 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.*

and the darkness does not overcome it.  
Pardon our deliberate faults.  
Heal our weaknesses and fears.  
Give us strength to grow in the love we lack.  
Illumine our souls with the first glimmers  
of the Coming Light of Christ, our Comfort and Redeemer. Amen.

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

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

### \*HYMN 130

O Christ, How Shall I Meet You

### A MUTUAL BLESSING

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

*Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

### READING

Luke 21:25-36

### SERMON

Emma Mitchell

### \*HYMN 115

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

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



### OFFERTORY

A Tender Shoot

Oscar Goldschmidt

## \*ADVENT DOXOLOGY

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SHARING THE FEAST

## \*INVITATION

L: Friends, let's share what we know in our hearts.

Who is invited to this welcome table of love?

**C: Everyone!**

L: Everyone! The young and the old,

**C: the rich and the poor**

L: the lowest and the least;

**C: sinners and saints together in communion.**

L: Come, then, find your place here

where there are no strangers or outcasts,

only siblings in the sight of God.

## REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: And what do we remember at this table?

**C: We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us.**

L: We remember his life and his love.

**C: We remember his suffering and death.**

L: We remember his rising and the promise of new life.

**C: We remember that he taught us we are holy,**

L: that every person and all creation is holy and beloved in God's sight.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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 THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice, and peace are welcome at this table. For those worshipping via the livestream, please take and eat. 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 prefer to be seated.*

### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks to God:

**All: We 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 fruits 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**

People, Look East

*see page 6*

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

#### **\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

O Sapientia

Healey Willan

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### **First Church Land Acknowledgment**

*We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.*



**SCAN ME**

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

# ADVENT SONG

## Give Me Hope In The Darkness

The musical score is written for three parts: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Give me hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness, Give me hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness to sing my soul a - wake." The words "hope" and "dark-ness" are circled in the original image. There are some faint, irregular markings above the second system of staves.

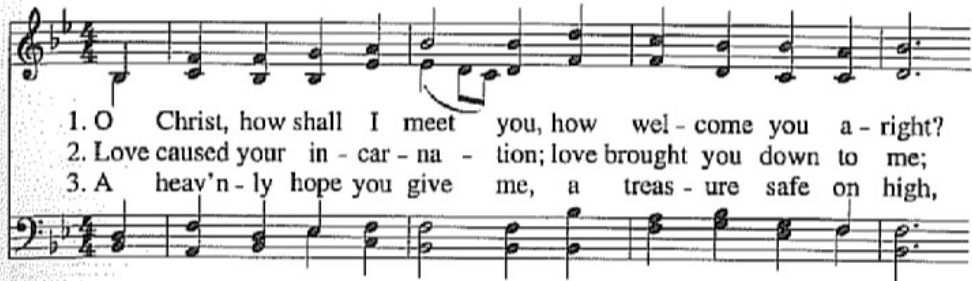
Give me hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness,  
Give me hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness,  
hope in the dark-ness to sing my soul a - wake.

hope in the dark-ness to sing my soul a - wake.

The song included in our Advent Confession is based on “Give Me Birds at the Dawning”, written by Betsy Binstock and arranged by Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, from “Twenty-Five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs”, copyright 2016, Amidon Music Publishing. The words have been adapted to fit the Advent season.

## O Christ, How Shall I Meet You

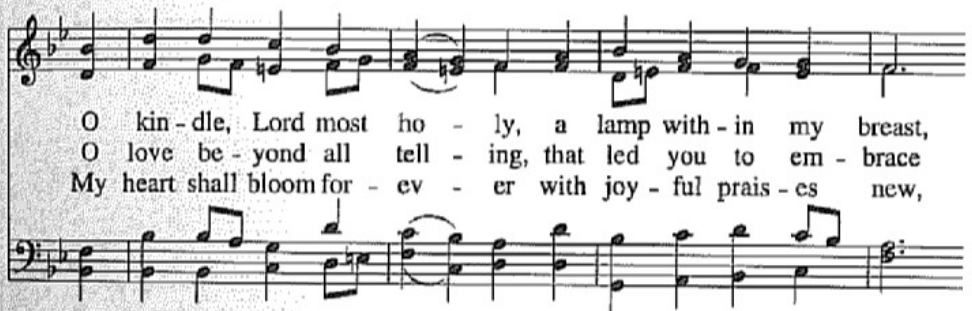
130



1. O Christ, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2. Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3. A heav'n - ly hope you give me, a treas - ure safe on high,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty:  
 that will not fail nor leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er with joy - ful prais - es new,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love all love ex - cell - ing our lost and fal - len race.  
 and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.



Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1. Com-fort, com - fort ye my peo-ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
 2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
 3. Make ye straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough-er pla - ces plain;

com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
 bid-ding all to true re-pent-ance since the reign of God is here.  
 let your hearts be true and hum-ble, as be - fits this ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.  
 let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johann Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.  
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

PSALM 42  
 87.87.77.88

CLOSING HYMN

116

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day - Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928  
 MUSIC: French carol; harm. Barry Rose, 1980

BESANÇON  
 87.98.87

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Jeff, Nathan, and Peter Wilson-Braun, their extended family and friends, and all of us who are mourning the loss of Carol Wilson-Braun, who died last Sunday morning, November 24, after a clear-eyed and courageous battle with ALS.
- We pray for Susie Neubauer, her family, and all of us who are mourning the loss of Perry Neubauer, who died on November 13 after a brief but difficult illness.
- We pray for the Ingersoll family as they mourn the loss of Evan's father Phil Ingersoll, who died at the age of 87 on Tuesday, November 19, after a year of decline.
- 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; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; and Keith Manville, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: 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.
- We pray for our nation following the election and its outcomes. We pray for all those who fear policies and power that may threaten who they are, and what and who they love and value. We pray for all who are vulnerable, including our planet. We pray for ourselves, that we will remember who we are as followers of Christ, and what that means for our responsibilities in this place at this time.
- We pray for immigrants in the U.S. who are experiencing anxiety about their future safety, given the promise of the incoming administration of mass deportation.
- We pray for our neighbors all over the world, who will be dealing with the changes resulting from the U.S. elections. Especially we pray for all whose lives are affected by the wars and political upheaval in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, Sudan, and so many other places. We pray for the dead, for their loved ones, and for their broader communities. We pray for changed hearts for all those inflicting violence upon others, and thus upon their own souls. We give thanks for the peacemakers. We pray that we, like they, may be free of the myth of redemptive violence, and take collective action, however small, to be people of true peace in this world. May we all see your way more clearly, O God.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from natural and climate-related disasters, including those impacted by fires in California and throughout the Northeast. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the potential for even more restrictive and criminalizing national policies from the incoming administration.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, in Haiti, and in far too many other places in our world.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

- 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.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

*Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.*

### **Advent Formation Series: Hope in the Dark**

**Today and Sundays, December 8 & 15**

**9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room**

Inspired by writer and activist Rebecca Solnit's book *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities*, we will gather to explore what it looks like to find hope in the dark – in the darkness of this season, in the darkness of the unknown of what's ahead, in the darkness of the womb before the birth of Jesus. In this pregnant and liminal time, we need each other. These multigenerational formation sessions will include storytelling, art making, embodied practices, and discussions of sacred and grounding texts. We welcome teens, adults, and kids ages 8 and up with a grown-up to join us. Whether you can come to one or all three, come gather in and find hope in the dark with us!



### **Advent Workshop**

**Today, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Join us after worship for a variety of arts and craft activities to prepare for the season. Bring your Advent candle ring to decorate with greens (new candle rings and candles will be available until we run out). Choose among other crafts, including beeswax candle-dipping, ornament-making, and more. Enjoy a soup and bread lunch as you take in the creative energy around you. All are welcome!

### **Advent Art: Twelve Feasts & Festivals**

**Today, Hastings Common**

Advent is a season of anticipation of life in Christ. This version of medieval art as revised by First Church member Henry Gates looks through Advent to the whole mystery of traditional Christian faith. Twelve colors symbolize the twelve feasts of the 13th century church. Join Henry on the first Sunday of Advent to discuss these traditions and how they affect our contemporary faith, or not.





## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

# ACTS OF REPARATION

A DOCUMENTARY FILM  
BY MACKY ALSTON + SELINA LEWIS DAVIDSON

### Reparations Film Screening & Discussion

Today, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

First Church in Jamaica Plain, 6 Eliot St., JP

The Beloved Community group invites you to a screening of [Acts of Reparation](#), a new film by Macky Alston and executive produced by our own Abby Shuman.

*Two friends – one Black, one white – travel South to their ancestral lands to explore what reparations means to them.*

*From kitchen tables to porches, lost cemeteries to discovered diaries, their journeys lead to unexpected opportunities that transform their friendship, families and communities. Together they reclaim and reckon with their roots.*

Some may remember that Macky Alston visited First Church several times to screen his previous documentary and film our reparations work. While First Church does not appear in the final version of the film, we encourage everyone to come view the film, hear from a panel, and participate in the discussion. This event is sponsored by the Reparations Interfaith Coalition, of which First Church is a member. It is the first film in the Grassroots Reparations Campaign's Spirit of Reparations Film Series.

[Register here.](#) And if you would like to join a carpool to Jamaica Plain, please email Susan Redlich: sredlich2010@hotmail.com

### 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.](#)



### This "Interim" Time at First Church

The purpose of an interim, or transitional, time in a congregation is for the church to prepare itself for new pastoral leadership. Given the importance of pastoral leadership in a congregation, the goal of the transitional time is to lay the groundwork for a good, healthy, faithful, and "successful" tenure by the next leader...

[Read Pastor Mike's full letter and see a possible timeline for this interim period on the Transition page on our website.](#)

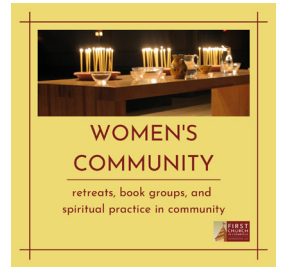


## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

### Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

Women readers, join us for our final book before we focus on the holidays. We will be reading Anne Lamott's most recent book, [\*Somehow: Thoughts on Love\*](#). Some of you may have been lucky enough to see her speak about this book with her husband at First Parish last year; if so, bring your recollections of the conversation. In Lamott's words: "Love is our only hope. It is not always the easiest choice, but it is always the right one, the noble path, the way home to safety, no matter how bleak the future looks."



### Friday Café Benefit Concert at the Burren Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m.

#### The Burren, Davis Square, Somerville

Start the holiday season with generosity and joy in the cheery backroom of the Burren Pub. This event features a variety of outstanding musicians to lift your spirits, including David Coffin, the Hankus Netsky klezmer duo, blues singer Danielle Miraglia, bluegrass band Grain Thief, and many others. And at the end of the evening, all funds raised through ticket sales will be donated directly to the Friday Café. Doors open at 5:30 for dinner before the show. Round up some friends for a great time and a great cause!

[Buy tickets here.](#)

### Youth Group: Holiday Baking and Card Writing

Friday, December 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Kitchen & Hastings Common

First Church teens are invited to gather for a cozy evening of cookie baking and crafting holiday messages for church members. Hang out with friends and help spread some sweet joy in the Advent season!



### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 7, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

The Men's Breakfast is a forum for any and all who identify as men at First Church. We meet monthly to share breakfast and to share experiences. We prepare breakfast and participate with a rotating monthly leader. All are welcome! If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: [p.byerly@comcast.net](mailto:p.byerly@comcast.net)

## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

**Trusting in the Mercy of God:  
a day of centering prayer for Advent**  
**Saturday, December 7, 9:30 - 3:30 p.m.**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lynnfield, MA**

First Church Community Minister Henry Schoenfield offers a day-long retreat in the Advent season. All are welcome!  
To register, email: [info@henryshoenfield.com](mailto:info@henryshoenfield.com)

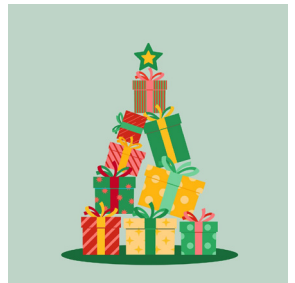


**Alternative Christmas Fair**  
**Sunday, December 8, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Margaret Jewett Hall**

Please join us for First Church's annual Alternative Christmas Fair. What makes it "alternative?" All proceeds raised by the vendors will go directly to benefit their non-profit organizations' charitable and social justice causes. Come buy presents for your loved ones, support worthy causes, and celebrate the season with friends and family. Hope to see you there!

### **Advent Season Gift-Giving and Donation Suggestions**

The Missions & Social Justice Committee is pleased to share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations in this holiday season. In the case that you and your family are able to support any of these organizations, we hope that you find the list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Martha Mueller Cook, co-chair of the Missions & Social Justice Committee, at: [marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com).



**Learn how you can support the following organizations and initiatives  
by reading [the full description](#) on our website.**

Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop  
Christmas at the First Church Shelter  
Helping Hands Food Pantry  
Solutions at Work  
Friday Café

## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Young Adults: Christmas Party & Hymn Sing**

**Friday, December 13, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Home of Angela & Phil Servello-Jones**

Come celebrate the season by singing carols, drinking cider, and sharing fellowship with other Young Adults (20s-30s). RSVP by emailing [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) or letting Angela or

Phil know. Whether you're brand new to First Church, or have been here your whole life, you're welcome to join the party. Keep an eye out for monthly Young Adult gatherings in 2025.

### **Special Advent Music Sunday**

**Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary and via livestream**

It's all about Pachelbel this year! The First Church Choir and guest instrumentalists will present a setting of the beloved Magnificat text by this famous composer. We will also experience the famous Canon in person! Seeing it, as well as hearing it, will show everyone what an amazing piece it really is.



### **The UnPageant**

**Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary and via livestream**

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we'll gather for our untraditional take on the Christmas pageant: the UnPageant! The UnPageant is First Church's unrehearsed, low-stress, multigenerational telling of the story of Jesus' birth. Come hear the age-old texts and sing the cherished carols as we celebrate the wonder of God's love among us.

### **Festive Christmas Coffee Hour**

**Sunday, December 22 at 12:15 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall**

We invite everyone to contribute a favorite holiday treat for a festive time of fellowship after the UnPageant. Whether it's a batch of your sought-after Christmas cookies or a holiday veggie plate in the shape of a snowman, we want to see it and eat it! Plan to drop off your offering in the Kitchen before worship, and then come ready to enjoy a mini-feast of snacks for the season.



**For more about Advent at First Church:**

**[firstchurchcambridge.org/advent-2024/](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/advent-2024/)**



## OUR 2025 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL



### The Household of God in This Time of Change

Many, many thanks to all who have shared their pledge or intention for giving for 2025.

***After bringing our pledges forward last Sunday,  
we are just over halfway to our goal of \$751,000!  
(as of November 26)***

At our Fall Congregational Meeting on November 17, the congregation voted in favor of our 2025 budget that is based on a collective 3.5% increase over this year's pledges and gifts. Some people have been able to increase their giving by significantly more than that, others have faithfully maintained their pledge, and for some, changing circumstances have necessitated a decrease. We're all in this together, and every gift makes a difference!

If you haven't yet shared your financial intention for 2025, we invite you to be "wildly generous" – to stretch and deepen your giving as we each share our commitment to this next year together. You may [make your 2025 Stewardship Pledge online](#) or by mailing your pledge card to the church, or including it in the offering plate next Sunday, or by emailing [Karen McArthur](#). There are extra pledge cards on the tables at the back of the sanctuary and at the Hastings Common door.

Again, many thanks for your role in our household of God in this time of change!

Your Stewardship Committee,  
*Anne McClintock, Caroline Newton, Chris Reynolds, Rose Whaley, and Winnie Yip*



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, December 2

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Care Group for the Caregivers, via Zoom

## Tuesday, December 3

- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

*Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.*

## Wednesday, December 4

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

*Have a church program or event to promote?*

*Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).*

## Thursday, December 5

- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

## Friday, December 6

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Group: Holiday Baking and Card Writing, Hastings Common

## Saturday, December 7

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

*See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.*

## Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Advent Formation, Harter Room
- 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, Library & The Well
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common
- 12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



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