

Advent
December 22, 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 22, 2024

Liturgist	Chris Blanc
Leading Worship	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i> Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship & Finance</i> Emma Mitchell, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
UnPageant Players	Graham Funck, <i>Angel Gabriel with trumpet</i> Hazel Lee, <i>Mary</i> Teddy Newton, <i>Joseph</i> Anna Cyr Kolash, <i>Baby Jesus</i> Abbie Cyr, <i>the Star</i>
Bulletin Cover	Advent image by Perry Neubauer, <i>from the church archives</i>

Today's Programs and Events

10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
12:15 p.m.	Festive Christmas Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall
7:30 p.m.	Seraphim Singers Concert, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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

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

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach

*HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

alt. Kate Layzer

**O Come, o come Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in peace to dwell.**

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Youth Group

L: Advent is a season of waiting and preparation.

C: We wait with hope for the Divine Light to show us the way with love.

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

C: Help us open our hearts to hope, peace, joy, and love.

L: The Light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Chris Blanc and Emma Mitchell

ANTHEM

Comfort ye

Katherine K. Davis

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: 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,
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.**

**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.*

SILENCE

ADVENT SONG

Give Me Hope in the Darkness

see page 7

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

*(After the Choir sings it through, please join in singing it twice more,
adding harmony as on page 7.)*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Mike Solberg

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... *(silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)*

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.**

THE UNPAGEANT

GETTING READY

LISTENING TO THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 11:1-2 & 6-9

Karen McArthur

*HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel

Children bring wolf & lamb to the crèche.

**Now bless the God of Israel, who comes in love and power,
who raises from the royal house deliverance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.**

In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!

MARY LISTENS TO AN ANGEL

Luke 1:26-32

***HYMN**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
*The Angel Gabriel plays a trumpet fanfare,
and the smaller angels with wings are invited to circle the crèche.*

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame;
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,”
most highly favored lady! Gloria!**

**“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations praise and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”
Most highly favored lady! Gloria!**

**The gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady! Gloria!**

MARY & JOSEPH JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:1-5

***HYMN**

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Mary & Joseph approach the crèche
**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of God’s heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

***HYMN**

Away in Manger

Baby is brought forward by the Star.

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is night.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask the to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

ANGELS APPEAR IN THE SKY

Luke 2:8-14

***HYMN**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels approach the crèche.

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lor, the newborn King.
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo!**

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE CHRIST CHILD

Luke 2:15-20

***HYMN**

The First Nowell

Shepherds & sheep approach the crèche.

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

THE WISE ONES FOLLOW THE STAR Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

***HYMN**

We Three Kings of Orient Are
Magi approach the crèche.

**We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.**

**O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

Good Christians, All, Rejoice

Townpeople join and circle the crèche.

**Good Christians, all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christians, all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.**

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

**Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

***CONCLUDING PRAYER**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN**

Joy to the World
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

***BENEDICTION**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**



drawing by Graham Funck

ADVENT SONG

Give Me Hope In The Darkness

The musical score is written for three parts: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Give me hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness, hope in the dark-ness to sing my soul a - wake." The word "hope" is circled in each instance. There are some faint, irregular markings on the page, including a large white scribble in the middle and a small white mark on the right side.

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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We hold in our hearts Robb and Claire Morgan as they are starting this season in hopeful anticipation of their “surprise” second baby, due in April.
- We pray for Kate Layzer and her family as they mourn the loss of Kate’s mother Anne, who died peacefully last week.
- 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 on 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 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 all those impacted by the school shooting this week in Madison, WI, and we remember all those whose lives have been lost to or tragically affected by gun violence across our nation. We pray that lawmakers may find a way to enact common sense gun legislation.
- 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 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 our neighbors all over the world. Especially we pray for all whose lives are affected by political upheaval in Syria and South Korea and by wars in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, and Sudan. 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.
- 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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

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.



The UnPageant

Today 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

Today 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.



seraphim

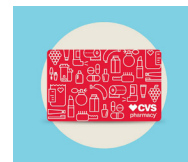
The Seraphim Singers: *Light from Deepest Heaven*

Today at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

After the joyful UnPageant in the morning, settle into a comfortable chair and tune into First Church's livestream to hear a special Night Song with the Seraphim Singers. You will hear selected pieces from this year's Christmas concert, directed by Jennifer Lester. This unique Night Song will take the place of the Seraphim Singers' annual Christmas concert at First Church. For details about Seraphim's other upcoming Christmas concerts, visit www.seraphimsingers.org

Christmas Gifts for First Church Shelter Guests

Each Christmas the Shelter Oversight Committee tries to make sure each Shelter guest receives \$50 in CVS gift cards. Providing guests with these cards allows them to decide what they need or want. With the cards, they can buy socks, health or hygiene products, food, beverage, snacks etc. If you want to contribute towards the purchase of these cards, contact Shelter Director Jim Stewart at: jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org



CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service **Tuesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m.** **Sanctuary and via livestream**

Come, all ye faithful, and come, worship together on Christmas Eve! Join us in person or online for this festive, family-friendly, candlelit service of lessons and carols. In the warmth and light of our Sanctuary or by your Christmas tree at home, join us as we celebrate this holy night and sing out our joy to the world!

Christmas Day Service **Wednesday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.** **Lindsay Chapel & via livestream**

Join us on Christmas morning for a joy-filled and bright service in which we will fill our Chapel with the sounds of Christmas—readings, prayers of thanksgiving and praise, and a very special harpsichord meditation by Peter Sykes of William Byrd’s “The Bells.” We will also celebrate Christmas Communion together.



Epiphany Art Exhibit **January 5-6, 2025, Margaret Jewett Hall**

As we celebrate Epiphany at the start of a new year, First Church member and artist Henry Gates displays “I-THOU,” celebrating the spiritual relation of the individual with God through times of life transition and passage.

Epiphany Potluck & Service **Monday, January 6, 2025** **6:00 p.m. Potluck, MJH; 7:10 p.m. Service, Chapel to Sanctuary**

Epiphany (“manifestation”) is a Christian feast so ancient that it predates Christmas. We will celebrate Epiphany on Monday, January 6, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner in Margaret Jewett Hall. The meal will be potluck through and through: you are invited to bring either a main dish casserole (last names beginning with A-H), a salad or side dish (last names beginning with I-M), dessert (N-R), or drinks (S-Z). After our feast and a brief gathering ritual in the Chapel, we will set off together on a candlelight journey through the darkness until we arrive at the Sanctuary and circle it with light. Under the dome in the chancel, we will renew our baptismal promises, ending with a joyful “sprinkling” of all present. This event is for all ages, so gather up friends, neighbors, kids, and come share the light!



STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

An Update from the Campaign

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

As of December 15, we are 67% towards our goal of \$751,000!

Of the 93 pledges/intentions received so far:

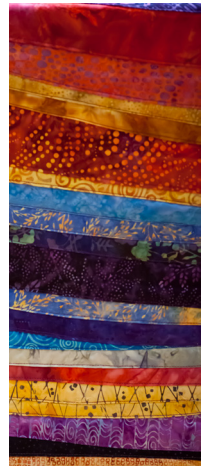
- 9 are from newcomers
- 58 are from people who pledged last year, with an average increase of 19%
- 26 are from people who have pledged or given previously, but had not pledged last year

Pledging or sharing your intentions is a great help to the Stewardship and Finance Committees, so that we can continue to plan wisely.

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, placing it in the offering plate next Sunday, or emailing Karen McArthur. There are extra pledge cards on the tables at the back of the Sanctuary and by Hastings Common.

Even as we focus on our commitments for 2025, it is equally important that we fulfill our commitments for 2024. As was reported at the Fall Congregational Meeting, we are dealing with a deficit of around \$35,000 for 2024, which was based on us being able to meet our budgeted amount of pledges and gifts for this year. As of now, **the shortfall in pledges and gifts is \$121,000**. If this amount is not raised, the deficit will increase and require tapping our investments for the balance. Keeping the deficit as small as possible is critical for us to start 2025 on solid financial ground.

So, please do everything you can to fulfill your pledge for this year, and for those who make end of year gifts, please be as generous as possible. If you have questions about your pledge balance, please [contact Karen](#).



2024 Year-End Information from Stewardship & Finance

As 2024 comes to an end, here are important year-end financial details to consider:

- When you give in late December or January, it is helpful if you note whether you are giving toward your 2024 or 2025 pledge or gift.
- In order to qualify as a 2024 contribution for your tax records, your gift must be dated in 2024 and either received or postmarked by December 31. Gifts postmarked in January will show on your 2025 statement.... [Read the full list of reminders and instructions on our website.](#)

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

New Year, New Sunday Morning Schedule

As we begin a new year in January, we will be shifting the order of our Sunday morning programs and rehearsals to a new (but really, an old) schedule. Longtime members will remember that our pre-worship formation used to take place in “the ten o’clock hour.” We would like to return to this structure, allowing for folks to attend formation programs directly before Morning Worship. As of January 5, our Sunday morning schedule will be:

- 9:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal**
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation program**
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship**

Formation programs at 10:00 will end by 10:45 to allow everyone to make a smooth and non-hurried transition into Morning Worship.



Pastoral Transition Work: Listening Sessions

Sunday, January 5 at 12:20 p.m., Harter Room

Sunday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. and 12:20 p.m., Harter Room

In order to set the stage for the work of the transitional Discovery Team, we will be hosting listening sessions in January. The goal is to follow up on some themes and hopes from the last few years of our church life and do a “check in” about how the transitional time is going. We have three in-person sessions scheduled in early January, each lasting about 45 minutes. Look for other Zoom session times to be announced soon. Please come, share your thoughts, and help set the stage for the transitional work ahead.

We Need Some Good Questions

In early 2025 we will focus our preaching on... well... questions. Specifically, questions that come from you! We want you to submit “big” questions about church / God / faith / Jesus / the Bible, etc., and we will respond in our preaching and worship. Maybe, “Is there a hell, and if so who’s in it?”



Or, “I know we say science and faith aren’t really in conflict, but really, it is so?” Or, “How can I forgive _____?” All questions welcome. This is a good task for this pastoral interim time, as we begin to ask “Who are we?”, “What’s our core message?”, and “Where does God hope to lead us next?” Please email your questions to Pastor Mike at mike@firstchurchcambridge.org. Now send in those “big” questions, as your Christmas gift to the church!



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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY



Men's Breakfast

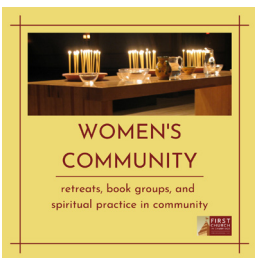
Saturday, January 4, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

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

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Grendel's Den, Harvard Square

If you're in your 20s-30s, and looking for a new friend, a place to explore faith with peers, or just a new favorite restaurant, come to our next Faith on Tap! The Young Adults group meets a couple times each month for casual fellowship, and all in that age range are welcome. RSVP for our early January get-together and get on the mailing list for all Young Adults events by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org



Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., via Zoom

(please note the new start time)

Join us for a lively discussion of Lynda Rutledge's [*West with Giraffes: A Novel*](#). "Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming of age love story, this novel explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals." This will be a wonderful way to start the new year, and we hope

all who identify as women in our church community will consider joining our gathering of friends and book lovers.

Supporting Immigrants and Refugees: How to Respond

Sunday, January 19, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Harter Room and via Zoom

As we approach the transition to a new presidential administration, there are many unknowns about how immigrants and those seeking refuge in our country will be treated and welcomed. As Christians, what will be our response? Join us as we start the conversation by hearing how First Church folks have engaged in the work of immigrant justice and refugee resettlement in the recent past. Bring your questions, your concerns, and your open hearts as we consider how to support our neighbors in a new era of uncertainty.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary and via livestream

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service, Chapel and via livestream

Thursday, December 26 - Church Office & Building Closed

Friday, December 27

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Sunday, December 29

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Multigenerational Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common

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

Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).

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



Scan to find the online bulletin.

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

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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