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Ordination & Installation  
of Deacons  
February 9, 2025

**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  
**389 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 5

### February 9, 2025

**Liturgist** Kate Judd  
**Preaching Today** Emma Mitchell, *Pastoral Associate*  
**Leading Worship** Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*  
Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

**Bulletin Cover Image** chancel image by Perry Neubauer, *from the church archives*

### Today's Programs and Events

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: Upstander Project Conversation, Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)  
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes, Library and The Well  
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common  
12:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well  
7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Four Centuries of First Church History, [via Zoom](#)  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, 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](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.

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

Have an edit or update for our website?  
Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form

## GATHERING

**VOLUNTARY**

Andante

Felix Mendelssohn

**\*HYMN 237**

How Firm a Foundation

**\*GREETING**

Kate Judd

- L: Siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you from God.  
**C: And to the whole world, God's love, light, and healing!**  
L: Arise and show forth the glory and justice of God!  
**C: With Jesus, our light has come.  
God's spirit shines on us, full of grace and peace.**  
L: Then let us gather and sing God's praise!  
**C: With you, God, our feast is abundant.  
We drink from the rivers of your delight.**  
L: With you is the fountain of life!  
**All: In your light we see light!  
All glory and honor be yours, almighty and everlasting One!**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**ANTHEM**

Let It Breathe On Me

Magnolia Lewis-Butts

**CONFESSING**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENCE**

Emma Mitchell

**BREATHING PRACTICE**

*from "Black Liturgies" by Cole Arthur Riley*

- L: *(Inhale)* How long, O God?  
**C: *(Exhale)* This is too much to hold.**  
L: *(Inhale)* There is power in this breath together.  
**C: *(Exhale)* There is agency in this collective body.**  
L: *(Inhale)* God, tear down the tyrants.  
**C: *(Exhale)* Lift up the healers.**  
L: *(Inhale)* God, restore us to ourselves.  
**C: *(Exhale)* Let this breath be a mending.**

*\*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.*

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

### \*HYMN 220

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

### A MUTUAL BLESSING

Mike Solberg

**Adults: God be with you there.**

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

*Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.*

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

### INVITATION

### CANDIDATES' PROMISES

### \*CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Do you affirm these Deacons' gifts of care and leadership?

**All: We do.**

L: Will you receive, respect, and respond to their ministry among you?

**All: We will.**

L: Will you uphold and enfold them and all the Deacons of this church with your prayer and gratitude?

**All: We will.**

### THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

*The laying on of hands is an ancient practice by which, through human touch, the Holy Spirit consecrates ("sets apart") and confirms persons called to particular ministries in a community. It is also a sign that these leaders stand in a long and living line of servants who have been called from within their communities for this same ministry.*

### ORDINATION PRAYER AND DECLARATION

### INSTALLATION PRAYER

L: Let us pray:

**All: We welcome you in this ministry with hope,  
and we install you in joy!**

Trust God, seek the Spirit's consolation,  
love this congregation with all your hearts,  
serve, forbear, witness, and lead,  
in the name of the good and gracious God. Amen.

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

From Psalm 22

#### SERMON

Emma Mitchell

#### \*HYMN C-7

Psalm 130

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, 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.**

#### 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Spiritual

**\*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**

**GOING FORTH**

**\*HYMN 487**

Abide with Me

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Adagio

Mendelssohn



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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 Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.*

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

OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

237

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3. When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4. "When through fier - y tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5. "The souls that on Je - sus have leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe ov - er you shall not flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to their foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 for I will be near you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 those souls, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!"

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*, 1787, alt.  
 MUSIC: Early American melody from Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832

FOUNDATION  
 11 11.11 11





SERMON HYMN

Psalm 130

C-7

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O  
2. O God, if you re - cord our sin none  
3. I wait for God, my soul a - waits God's  
4. O Is - ra - el, look to your God, whose

God, hear my de - spair! O let your spir - it  
could es - cape your blame. But you are a for -  
word, my strength and stay. My soul, it waits for  
love will nev - er fail. For God's a - bun - dant

fo - cus on the an - guish of my prayer.  
giv - ing God that all may bless your name.  
God still more than sen - tries wait for day.  
love re - deems the sins that you be - wail.

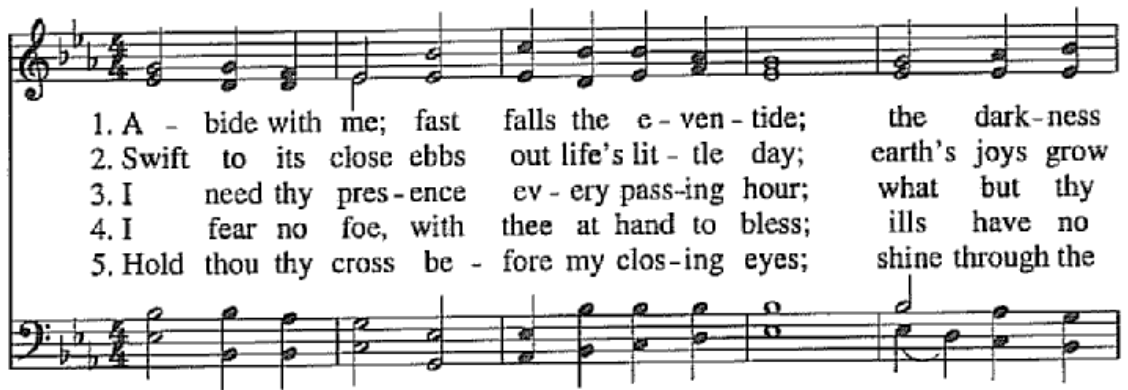
WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: Harmonization by Peter Sykes

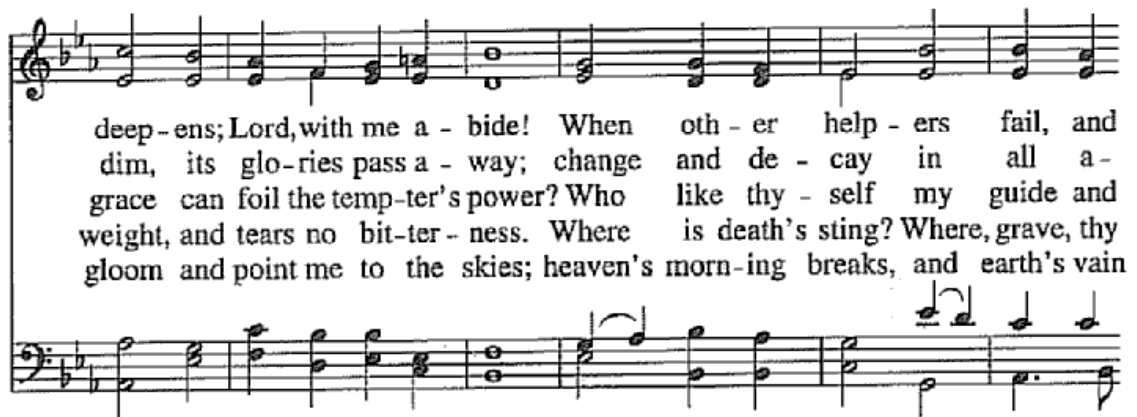
OXFORD

487

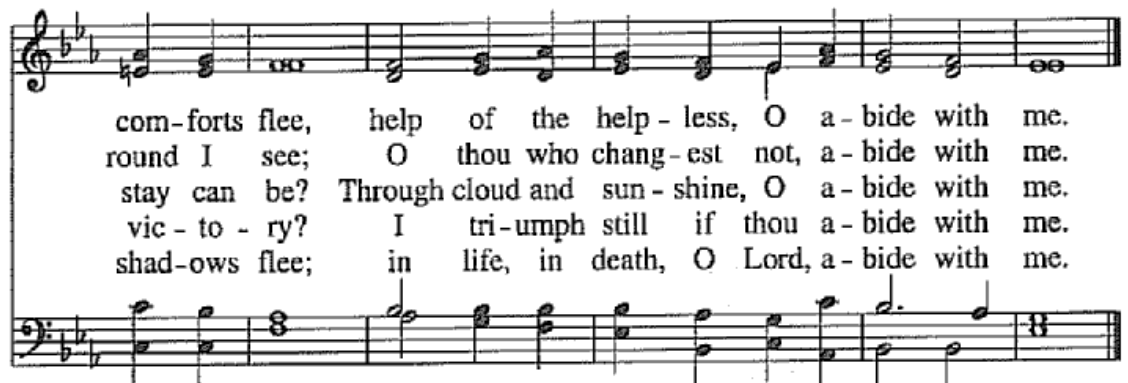
## Abide with Me



1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness  
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow  
 3. I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; what but thy  
 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no  
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; shine through the



deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide! When oth - er help - ers fail, and  
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; change and de - cay in all a -  
 grace can foil the temp - ter's power? Who like thy - self my guide and  
 weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy  
 gloom and point me to the skies; heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain



com - forts flee, help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 round I see; O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
 vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.  
 shad - ows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

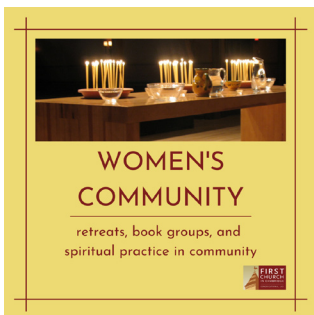
## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Rev. Karen Fritz and the Fritz-Kill family on the recent death of Rev. Tony Kill, beloved pastor and former First Church Interim Minister (1986).
- We pray for Renate Rose as she recovers at home after being struck by a car.
- 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; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray in celebration with former Senior Minister Dan Smith, who has been called by the Cotuit Federated Church to be their Associate Pastor and Community Minister. In addition to this half-time position, Dan continues to teach at Harvard Divinity School, serve as a Harvard Chaplain, and work on several grant-funded projects helping communities engage in the work of truth-telling, reckoning, and repair. May God be with him!
- We pray for all those mourning the loss of life in recent plane crashes; and we pray for those in the aviation industry who are working under stressful circumstances to provide a sense of safety for air travelers.
- We pray for all those impacted by the deadly and devastating wildfires in southern California, and we continue to pray for our earth and all creation in the face of the climate crisis.
- We pray for our nation. We pray for those whose life's work has been abruptly terminated, or whose job has been compromised, or whose family has been separated, or who are struggling with increasing prices and economic uncertainty. We pray for those who are experiencing anxiety about actual and potential changes to how our federal government treats the rights and freedoms of a variety of groups, including immigrants, trans and gender non-conforming people, and people facing decisions about their reproductive health. We pray that we, as church, will see and embody the way of Jesus Christ in this time and place, even, if need be, at cost to ourselves.
- We pray for peace in Eastern Congo, the home of the Amani and Amini Mataboro Tom, where Rwandan-backed rebels have taken control of the city of Goma. We pray for the friends and neighbors of the Tom family, and for the millions of people who are in dangerous circumstances. May they know God's presence and protection.
- We pray with thanksgiving for news of a ceasefire in Gaza, where thousands have died in the tragic war that began in October 2023. We pray that the agreement to end the violence is a lasting one, and we pray for all who will try to rebuild their lives in Gaza.
- We pray for our neighbors all over the world. Especially we pray for all whose lives are affected by political upheaval and war around the globe. We pray for the dead, for their loved ones, and for their broader communities.

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



## COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH



### Women's Community Book Group

**Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., [via Zoom](#)**

Please join us for a discussion of Ann Patchett's [These Precious Days](#). "This collection of essays spans from marriage and knitting to things more unavoidable, such as family, death, and lockdown, all with the strength of narration Patchett is known for." Just in case you don't have time to read every essay, please look for an email from Susan and Alex with a few of the suggested essays on which we will focus during our gathering. We are always looking for new people to join

us, so please do not hesitate to come Tuesday night--we'd love to have you and a friend!

Contact Alex ([alex@steinert-evoy.org](mailto:alex@steinert-evoy.org)) to get on the list.

### Adult Formation: What Is Christian Nationalism?

**Sunday, February 16, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

Perhaps you have heard references to this ideology in the news lately, as it has become more clearly part of the self-understanding of many in the "MAGA movement." Pastor Mike will review the core meaning of Christian Nationalism, the nature of support for the ideology today, and lay out some ways in which he believes it goes against core aspects of Christian faith.



### Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, February 18, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., [via Zoom](#)**

Please join us for a conversation about aging gracefully. Our focus in February will be Elder Activism. If you wish to receive information about the meeting and the Zoom invitation, please reach out to Linda Ziebell ([lindaziebell@comcast.net](mailto:lindaziebell@comcast.net)) or Martha Mueller Cook ([marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com)).

## TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Pastoral Transition Work: Summary of January Listening Sessions**

Over the month of January, we began our pastoral transition work with a series of listening sessions. These gatherings focused on themes and hopes from our church life over the past few years. You can read a summary of these sessions on the transition page of our website:

[firstchurchcambridge.org/transition](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/transition)

At our Annual Meeting, we announced the members of our Discovery Team: Moana Bentin, Andy Clark, Bill Hsiao, Martha Mueller Cook, Curt Nickish, Meredith Quinn, and Mike Solberg. The Discovery Team will continue to listen in various ways to the congregation and staff over the next several months to understand what is important to all of us moving forward. They will produce a report by early summer that will serve as guide for the Search Committee charged with finding our new Senior Minister.

Please plan to attend the Discovery Team conversations scheduled in the 10 o'clock hour on three upcoming Sundays (February 23, March 2, and April 6), where you have an opportunity to join in structured dialogue about topics related to our transition. Questions about the process? Please contact Martha Mueller Cook: [marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com)

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### **Discovery Team Conversations**

**Sundays, February 23, March 2, and April 6, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.**

**Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

One Sunday per month in February, March, and April, our newly-appointed Discovery Team will host conversations in which we “drill down” on some specific issues and themes that will affect our upcoming search for a new Senior Minister. We’ll be describing the specific topics soon, but for now, please plan on being a part of these conversations held during the pre-worship Adult Formation Hour. Each person’s contributions to the conversation will be important in our discovery and discernment process. Child care will be provided during the 10 o'clock hour.

## COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

### Leadership Retreat

Saturday, March 1, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### Margaret Jewett Hall

Mark your calendars for a First Church Leadership Retreat. The event will include both practical details about getting things done at First Church and broader leadership training in the church environment (hint: it's different in some ways than outside the church!). All are welcome, while all those who serve on a church committee or other task force, team, or issue-based group are particularly encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend the full event, please still come for as much time as you are able. Lunch will be provided, and child care can be arranged (contact Sarah Higginbotham to make a child care plan). So that we can efficiently plan lunch, [please RSVP here](#), no later than Tuesday, February 25. Please contact Moderator Phil Servello-Jones or Pastor Mike with any questions. See you there!



### FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

Lent/Spring  
2025



### Faith & Life Groups: Spring 2025

#### Call for Leaders!

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person this Spring? Contact Beth Spaulding (bspaulding68@gmail.com) to discuss your idea for the next round of Faith & Life Groups, running in April/May, with registration happening in March.

Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group).

***Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to Beth by February 17!***

### In Memoriam

A memorial service for beloved First Church member **Carol Wilson-Braun** will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a video presentation beginning at 10:00 a.m. and a light luncheon to follow. In order for the family to plan appropriately, please email Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck (bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org) to RSVP with numbers for the luncheon.

And a memorial service for longtime and well-loved member **Perry Neubauer** will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow.



## FIRST CHURCH NEWS



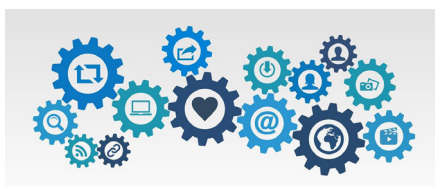
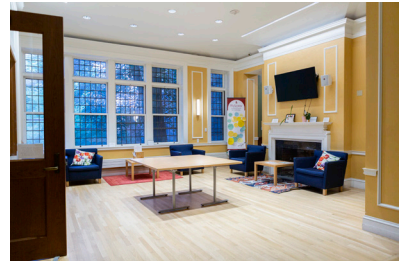
### First Church and GBIO

In solidarity with over 50 other congregations, First Church Cambridge has been putting our faith into local action through the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) (GBIO). Through GBIO, we've been able to achieve things that we'd never have been able to do on our own, like our just-completed campaign for reinvestment in our state's crumbling public housing portfolio, or our previous campaigns around healthcare access and criminal justice reform.

You can find out more about what GBIO has been up to by checking out the latest edition of [The Intersect](#), GBIO's newsletter. And if you're feeling called to help engage the First Church community in GBIO's work (and vice versa), please join other FCCers at one of our Core Team meetings - we meet every first Wednesday of the month from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Email Will Erickson ([wericks2002@gmail.com](mailto:wericks2002@gmail.com)) for the Zoom link!

### Building Use at First Church

Our building is used by many music, dance, and non-profit groups mornings, afternoons, and evenings, seven days a week, but we have openings and would like to share it even more! Do you know of a person or group that might be interested in our space? We can house anything from conferences to birthday parties, small groups to big concerts, recurring or one time events. Our kitchen is also available! Please consider the church for a group you are connected to, or for your own use, and suggest us to others. More information can be found on our website at: [firstchurchcambridge.org/weddings-building-use/](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/weddings-building-use/)



### Are you on the First Church List?

The First Church List is a virtual hub for the First Church community to communicate directly with each other through email messages or online posts on topics of interest. Folks use the List to share personal announcements and prayer requests, publicize events sponsored by outside organizations, ask questions or ask for help from our church community, and remind each other of church events or volunteer opportunities. [Learn how to subscribe to The First Church List.](#)



## WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

### In Our Midst: The Grace of the Black Church

#### A Panel Discussion

sponsored by *Black History in Action for Cambridgeport*

**TODAY at 3:00 p.m.**

#### St. Augustine's Church, 137 Allston St., Cambridge

Join Mayor Denise Simmons as she moderates a panel discussion in conjunction with the exhibition described below. Panelists include: Rev. Irene Monroe (theologian and syndicated columnist), Dr. Melissa Wood Batholomew (Harvard Divinity School), and Rev. Jeffrey Brown (Twelfth Baptist, Roxbury).

The poster is divided into three horizontal sections. The top section is black with the Cambridge Museum of History & Culture logo and the text "Invites you to join us for the community curated exhibit". The middle section is red with the title "Grace: The History of Black Churches in Cambridge" and "Opening Reception" in white and red text, along with event details. The bottom section is black with a list of sponsors including the City of Cambridge, Mayor Denise Simmons, bxp, Cambridge Development Authority, MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge Arts, and the City of Cambridge logo. On the left side of the poster is a black and white line drawing of a church building with a steeple.

THE CAMBRIDGE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE Invites you to join us for the community curated exhibit

**Grace: The History of Black Churches in Cambridge**  
*Opening Reception*  
Music & Light Refreshments / Sunday February 16, 2025 / 2 pm - 4 pm

The Kendall Public Lobby, 355-325 Main Street  
Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA, 02139, ADA Accessible  
[www.cambridgehistorymuseum.com](http://www.cambridgehistorymuseum.com) / (617) 349-4327

Sponsored by:

City of Cambridge Office of Mayor E. Denise Simmons bxp CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology CAMBRIDGE ARTS City of Cambridge

### ***Grace: The History of Black Churches in Cambridge***

#### **Opening Reception**

**Sunday, February 16, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Kendall Public Lobby**

details: [bit.ly/GraceReception](https://bit.ly/GraceReception)

The Cambridge Museum of History & Culture invites you to experience ***Grace: The History of Black Churches in Cambridge***, an exhibition honoring Black History Month that shall be on display throughout February at the Kendall Public Lobby. Throughout this nation's history, Black Churches have been a cornerstone of community, culture, and resilience, and this has certainly been the case in Cambridge.

Black Churches have played an essential role not only in the spiritual lives of their congregants, but also serving as incubators for social justice, education, and community building. ***Grace*** strives to illuminate part of the rich history and contributions by highlighting just some of these enduring institutions, focusing on their collective, enduring legacy in our community. By showcasing the history of these important institutions, ***Grace*** aims to foster a deeper understanding of their significance in Cambridge's past, present, and future.

## OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE SNEUCC



The Center for Transformational Leadership  
Presents:

# I Love to Tell the Story

Super Saturday 2025  
March 8th ~ Onsite & Online

The Bishop William Joseph Barber II  
Keynote Speaker

A day of learning for  
Church Leaders, Pastors,  
Staff and Volunteers

 Southern New England Conference  
United Church of Christ  
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus



**Super Saturday: I Love to Tell the Story**  
**March 8, 2025**  
**Onsite at First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury, MA**  
**Online via Zoom**

Story is at the very heart of our faith tradition. The Bible is full of stories. Stories from the Hebrew Bible tell of strife, struggle and hardship as well as comfort, joy and care with God's deep abiding presence woven throughout. In the New Testament, stories of Jesus's ministry and the stories he told remind us of who Jesus was and the power of what he embodied. The stories of our faith, told and retold over generations are central to our identity as followers of Jesus. Just as these stories have guided Christians throughout history, they help us find our path forward as individuals and as a collective.

As Anthony de Mello (Jesuit priest and psychotherapist born in India) explains, "...the shortest distance between truth and a human being is a story." The stories of our faith remind us of who we are and whose we are; they are powerful and compelling. Join us for a day of reflecting on the power of sacred stories and how we might use story to tell of the Christian way of living and the power of the work we do as the Church and as people of faith.

**Onsite Registration is SOLD OUT, but online registration is open until February 24.**

*To learn more and register, go to: [sneucc.org](https://sneucc.org)*

## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

### Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

**Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

All are warmly invited to our annual all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras! Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. The children will decorate our "Alleluia" banner and bury it in the sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning.

We'll also hear a preview of our Lenten programs and formation opportunities. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for heating or serving) to share. RSVP to [Sarah Higginbotham](#) so she can plan the pancake production.



### Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Chapel and via livestream**

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God. Through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer, we gather together in the Spirit to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us in person for our evening service with the imposition of ashes, or participate from home via our livestream.

### THE FRIDAY CAFÉ NEEDS....

- MEN'S XL SHIRTS, SWEATERS, & HOODIES
- MEN'S PANTS AND JEANS, SIZES 32 & 34
- THERMAL SETS, ALL SIZES
- WINTER GLOVES
- MEN'S COATS, SIZES L, XL, XXL

ITEMS SHOULD BE LABELED "FRIDAY CAFÉ"  
AND LEFT IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, February 10

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Care Group for the Caregivers, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Strategy Team Meeting, Harter Room

## Tuesday, February 11

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Communications & Arts Committee, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, February 12

- 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, The Well

## Friday, February 14

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

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

## Sunday, February 16

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: What is Christian Nationalism?, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Multigenerational Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream  
*No Church School programs*
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Four Centuries of First Church History, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

Monday, February 17 - Church Office & Building Closed for Presidents Day Holiday

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

scan for online bulletin



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