

February 21-28, 2021 at

First Congregational United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Worshiping Sundays at 10:30 AM via Zoom



Worship with Us This Sunday

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom at 10:30 on Sunday morning as we mark the first Sunday in our Lenten journey and introduce the theme, "Again and Again." Polly Gordon will lead us in the Lenten candle liturgy and also serves as our soloist. Rev. Sam will introduce the season of Lent in the Children's Moment. Rev. Laura Johnson will read our scripture text on the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, and Rev. Amanda will preach. Again and again, we face the temptations of ego, power, and security. Again and again, we discover the divine gift of the freedom to choose--to choose love, mercy, and justice.

To prepare for worship: This Lenten season we will begin with six candles lit on the worship table, one for each week of our journey. Each week, we will extinguish a candle as we move deeper into the shadows cast by the cross. We invite you to mark Lent at home with six candles. You might choose purple candles, the color of Lent. On Sunday mornings, participate in the Lenten candle liturgy with us and extinguish one of your candles.

Following worship join us for our Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one another. The optional discussion question this week will be: How are you holding up in this stage of the pandemic? Join us!



Sanctuary Committee to Present "The Undocumented Lawyer"

The FCC Sanctuary Committee is pleased to invite the Congregation and friends to an early screening of the unreleased HBO documentary "The Undocumented Lawyer." The film tells the story of Lizbeth Mateo, an undocumented immigration lawyer. When Lizbeth's client takes sanctuary in a church, Lizbeth relies on her own experience for guidance. The film will be released nationally by HBO in March.

"The Undocumented Lawyer" will be available to watch online through a link that will be provided through the FCC Listserv and available from 6 p.m. on February 22 through 6 p.m. on February 28. The Sanctuary Committee will also hold an online Q&A with Elizabeth Schmelzel, a Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition lawyer who defends immigrants' rights. In addition to her work with CAIR, Elizabeth is an adjunct professor at George Mason Law School, where she teaches Refugee and Asylum Law. The Q&A will discuss the film and related immigration issues, and scheduling information will be provided soon. The film and Q&A are free, but please consider an online donation to FCC to help defray expenses for the presentation.



The Rev. Brandon Harris, Preacher on February 28

On the second Sunday of Lent, February 28, we are grateful to worship jointly with Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ and welcome the Rev. Brandon Harris to the virtual pulpit. The Reverend Brandon Harris is originally from Rochester, NY. He serves as the 10th Settled Senior Minister of the Peoples Congregational Church, UCC in Washington D.C. He previously served as a Protestant Chaplain at Georgetown University and currently serves as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. Rev. Harris is a proud graduate of our nation's first historically black college, The

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Religion. He is a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he earned a Master of Divinity with certificates in Black Church Studies and Baptist Studies. He is currently enrolled in an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising at Indiana University. Ordained at the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, he holds dual standing American Baptist Churches USA and the United Church of Christ.

Committed to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, he was a Fellow of the Campus Chaplaincy for a Multifaith World sponsored by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and a State of Formation Fellow of Hebrew College and Boston University. He has also served as Board Chair of the Alumni Association of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship and is a member of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University Alumni Board. A proud upstate New Yorker, he loves all things fall, coffee, reading, and exploring cities. He lives in Washington D.C. with his wife Tiffany Daniels-Harris.



Sign Up to Read Scripture in Worship During Lent and Easter

[Click here](#) to sign up as a liturgist or Scripture reader during the Lenten and Easter seasons. For now, liturgists and readers will lead from home by Zoom. It is possible that sometime in March we will once again offer an option for liturgists or Scripture readers to lead from the sanctuary as we

live stream. If you have any questions or have trouble using the Google doc, email Rev. Amanda at ahendlervoss@gmail.com and she will sign you up.

Connect with Rev. Amanda this Winter

[Click here](#) to schedule a time to connect with Rev. Amanda on a one-to-one basis by Zoom or phone this winter. This is an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to continue getting to know Rev. Amanda, sharing in a time of conversation and, if desired, pastoral support and prayer for these times. She would love to connect with you.

Break Away Meditation: Wednesday at 12:15

Join us by Zoom on Wednesday from 12:15- 12:45 for our weekly breakaway meditation. Together we enjoy a time of grounding our bodies, listening to a selected reading, quieting the mind, and entering into a time of silent meditation with one another. All are welcome to attend!

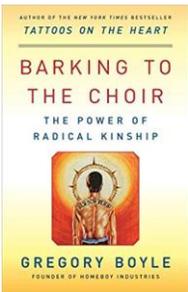


Easter Flower Orders

As we plan to livestream our Easter service from the sanctuary on April 4, we will order lilies and spring flowers to decorate the sanctuary. You may order a plant in honor of or in memory of a loved one and those names will be listed in the Easter worship folder. Please fill out the form that will be emailed to you separately. You may pay online via Vanco or PayPal (indicate Easter flowers) or you may mail a check (with Easter Flowers on the memo line) to the church at 945 G Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001. You may also email your order information to the church office at: churchoffice@firstuccdc.org.

Please note that all orders must be received by Friday, March 12.

We will announce plans later for how to collect your plant(s) from the church for yourself or you may donate them to members and friends who are homebound or experiencing special sorrows or joys.



Theology Book Group: Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00 PM

The Theology Book Group will next meet virtually on Tuesday, March 2, at 6 pm, to discuss Gregory Boyle, *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*. Boyle, a Jesuit priest, is the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest program in the world to assist in rehabilitation of former gang members. This book gives theological and spiritual reflections on Boyle's joyful ministry. The link is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/99900391268>. All are welcome.

Updating Our Church Directory

As many of you know, we have moved to an online church directory. Every new year we ask you to please take a moment to go online and update your profile. You can share as much or as little of your contact information as you like. We'd really like to have up-to-date information, especially pictures. A printed version will be coming soon and you may request one from the church office. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Cindy in the church office at churchoffice@firstuccdc.org

- Use this link to access the directory: <https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/firstuccdc>
- Use the email that you use for church emails
- Click on "forgot my password"
- Create password
- Edit profile
- To view the full church directory, click on "visit your church or organization's directory"
- If needed, use church password "First1865"

COVID Vaccine Information

Hey DC seniors 65 or older and health care workers: the DC Moderna COVID vaccine rollout has begun smoothly. All eligible will be served whether you have health insurance or not.

[Click here](#) to access MD vaccination sites and [click here](#) to pre-register if you are a Montgomery County resident.

Find the latest information at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc> or 855-363-0333.

1) Get an appointment.

- Sign up online at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc> or by phone at 855-363-0333
- Check Friday AM for available appointments; the call line opens at 8 AM.
- Check across the 30 sites for an opening
- If you have Kaiser insurance, set up your appointment through Kaiser.

2) Day of your appointment Hydrate! Bring ID, and health insurance card/ Medicare ID if you have insurance

3) Your second appointment will be 4 weeks later. Plan ahead that you may be sick for a day or two after the second shot.

4) Need help? Call Gail Sonnemann (202-286-0845), Nan McConnell (202-841-7970) or Nick McConnell (202-841-7972). For help registering in MD, contact Kurt Fischbeck by email at khfischbeck@gmail.com or by phone at 301-435-9318 (work) or 301-718-1848 (home). If you live in Virginia and need help registering for your vaccine, call the state hotline at 1-877-829-4682.

5) When you figure out the appointment process, help a friend or neighbor set up their appointment online or by phone.

Monday Night Meals to Go

We are grateful to renew our partnership with Sasha Bruce Youthwork as together we seek to feed those who may be hungry or living on the streets this season. To-go meals will be distributed outdoors along with PPE and resource cards on Monday evenings in front of the church. Trained volunteers are needed; please complete the doodle poll sent out by Janneke Ratcliffe to sign up if you have previously volunteered at the Drop-in Center. We give thanks for the opportunity to help make food and resource distribution possible in this season.

Prayer List

Prayers of safety, comfort, and warmth for all those in Texas experiencing power and water outages due to snow and ice.

Byron Adams' niece, Valerie, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Prayers of hope for our Racial Justice Audit yearlong process.

Prayers of joy and wisdom for our 2021 Confirmation cohort of youth and mentors.

Prayers for all those being vaccinated, for those making it possible, and for those awaiting their turn.

All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.

Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.

Dwan Reece and Peter Parsons

Garnell Yarbrough, for continued healing

Immigrants in the Farmville ICE Detention Center

The Latinx and immigrant communities who are suffering

and for the Congregational Action Network

seeking to support and resource the congregations that serve them.

People's UCC, our sibling congregation

Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses.

Rev. Laura Johnson and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.

Hospital employees and first responders

Pat Ashbrook • Don Bassler



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church

Designated Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran

Director of Music – Mr. John Horman

Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Cindy Dobbs

Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment – Dwight Davis, Lynaya Morris

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