

March 7-14, 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.

Worshipping Sundays at 10:30 AM via Zoom



Worship with us this Communion Sunday

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom at 10:30 AM on this Communion Sunday as we continue our Lenten theme, "Again and Again." Anthony Leonard and Robert Mann-Thompson will lead our Lenten candle liturgy, we will offer a visual meditation on Psalm 23 lamenting deaths from COVID-19, and Kurt Fischbeck will read from the first letter to the Corinthians on God choosing what is foolish and weak to shame what the world considers wise and strong. Rev. Amanda will preach the sermon, Rev. Sam will share the Prayers of the People, and we will participate in the ancient practice of communion. Please prepare your worship table at home with some form of bread and cup, which we will bless and break together.

Following worship we invite you to join us for the first session of the Sankofa nurture series co-led by Rev. Sam and the Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson. This program will take place at 11:40 on the same Zoom link as worship, and all are invited to join us. Please note there will not be a Zoom coffee hour.



Sankofa Nurture Series:

Learning from our Past Through a Lens of Reconciliation

Praying for a Future of Transformation

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson and Rev. Sam McFerran

March 7: Hospitality and Worship

March 14: Leadership and Social Action

March 21: What does it take to move into the future together?

Friends, we hope you can join us for this exciting nurture series that will help us move forward to become Beloved Community by better understanding our past and creating a space where we can truly learn from one another.

Sankofa, a symbolic bird from West Africa, is a helpful theological tool that reminds us, as individuals and as a faith community, that we can only truly move forward if we clearly and courageously understand our past. We will look at our past, both with appreciation for the First Church Saints before us, and also with an honest examination of some of the stumbling blocks that have prevented us from becoming a more inclusive, anti-racist, and accepting community. This series will directly support our efforts in the annual Racial Justice Audit.

Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson and Rev. Sam McFerran will lead a conversation, rooted in helping us do the transformative work of becoming the community and the witness that God so desires. God is still speaking. Please join us for these Holy Conversations.

Deepening Our Relationship with Peoples Congregational UCC

On Wednesday, March 10, we invite you to join us for a joint prayer service by Zoom from 12:00 – 12:30 PM in which we will share joys, concerns, and requests, receive a brief devotional reflection, and pray together with our sibling church. The pastoral teams from both churches will lead this time. Please look out for the link in an upcoming newsletter.



Welcome Our New Member in Discernment: LaTayna Purnell

The First Church Council unanimously approved the request of LaTayna Purnell to become a Member in Discernment (MID) as she seeks ordination in the United Church of Christ. Please take a moment to congratulate LaTayna, hold her in your prayers, and look out for an excerpt from her faith formation essay in the April issue of Gabriel's Horn.

Daylight Saving: Spring Forward on March 14

Zoom in to church on time on Sunday, March 14, by setting your clocks ahead for the start of Daylight Saving Time. Or don't forget a recording of Sunday service is available around the clock on our YouTube Channel: [First UCC DC](#).



Maundy Thursday Worship Service: April 1 at 7:00 PM

[Click here](#) to join us by Zoom for a worship service focused on Jesus' last supper with the disciples on Maundy Thursday, April 1, at 7:00 PM. We will mark this holy day with beautiful music and heartfelt testimony as we break the bread and share in the cup together. Please plan to set your worship table at home with some form of bread and cup, which we will bless together.

Communion Table Design

As we live stream from the sanctuary, we value the way visual arts can draw us more deeply into sacred space and the experience of worship. If you are gifted in design or visual arts, we invite you to share your gift by designing a beautiful altar for one or more Sundays. Please [sign-up here](#) at least one week in advance, and we will reach out to you that week prior to check in and provide any support needed for your design.



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.



Potomac Association Racial Justice Advocates presents:

"Lifting the Veil: Black Voices Exploring Racial Trauma"

One of the greatest challenges before people of African descent today is how do we overcome the racial trauma of white supremacy and systemic racism that continues to harm our minds, bodies, emotions, and spirits. The impact of 400 plus years of dehumanizing experiences and today's realities of racial injustice plaguing our communities and lives can be difficult to overcome. Yet, lifting the veil is needed in order for transformation from darkness to light to take place.

Join us for a time to explore the impact of racial trauma and experience ways of healing that connect us to our ancestral past and power.

Facilitated by Kathy English Holt, Peoples Congregational UCC

Dr. Vivian H. Jackson, Potomac Association Racial Justice Advocates

Bishop Rainey Cheeks, Inner Light Ministries UCC

Rev. Marvin Silver, Justice & Witness Action Network (Central Atlantic Conference UCC)

For: People of African descent of the Potomac Association (of the Central Atlantic Conference, UCC)

Where: On-Line (Zoom)

When: Saturday, March 13, 2021

Time: 9am-9:30am (A Time of Gathering); 9:30am-11am (Program)

Register at <http://bit.ly/LentRacialJustice> and receive sign-in information.



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.

The cost per plant is \$20. This is the last week to place your order. All orders must be received in the church office 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.

[Easter Flower Order Form](#)

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.

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 (updated)

Virginia, Maryland, and DC are providing vaccinations for COVID-19. All eligible will be served whether you have health insurance or not.

1) Find the latest information for where you live:

- DC residents: see <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc> or call 855-363-0333.

Need help? Call Gail Sonnemann (202-286-0845), Nan McConnell (202-841-7970) or Nick McConnell (202-841-7972).

- Maryland residents: see <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/> to access MD vaccination sites. If you are a Montgomery County resident preregister at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dovid19/vaccine/>
Need help? Contact Kurt Fischbeck by email at khfischbeck@gmail.com by phone at 301-435-9318 (work) or 301-718-1848 (home).
- Virginia residents: Contact the state hotline at 1-877-829-4882.

2) Anyone: do contact your own doctor and/or health insurance to see whether they are offering appointments and can help you sign up.

3) Day of your appointment: Hydrate! Bring ID and evidence (email) that you have an appointment.

4) Whoever gave you your first vaccination will tell you how to set up the appointment for the second vaccination.



Second Sunday Offering on March 14: One Great Hour of Sharing
Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the United Church of Christ channels resources for international and domestic disaster response, for international health, education, and agricultural development, for refugee ministries, and for emergency relief. Once a year in Lent, First Church asks all to contribute generously to fund this loving response to human need, both domestic and international.

What, how and where do offerings to One Great Hours of Sharing Serve? Watch <https://youtu.be/7zukT3gNoRg>. Learn and feel the spirit move you to give generously.

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.

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!

Prayer List

Joel Prentice, as he recovers from a major heart procedure and awaits a transplant.

Justin Heddings, our building engineer, recovering from a serious car accident.

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



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, LaTayna Purnell
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