

GABRIEL'S HORN

First Congregational United Church of Christ

September 2018



"If You Call Me"

A Poem by Dave Grishaw-Jones

I do not believe that you call me to perfection, to some
Blissful state of irresponsibility or happy disentanglement.
I do not believe that you call us to righteousness, to
Satisfied anger at the wrongs and wrong-headed among us.

There is no finish line, at least none that I can see from here.
And there are no pearly gates; these were designed
By architects of complacency, priests of sanctimonious smugness.

Then what? I'm no longer sure that's the question.
I'm inclined to ask another. Who are you that calls?

I believe you are the spirit brooding over the face
Of the waters, and over the face of the shifting continents,
And over the faces of all people, everywhere--
Brooding One, Restless Dreamer, Maker of All and All.

I believe you are the fire burning in the desert bush,
And the pit in the prophet's stomach that requires
A visit to pharaoh's chambers, the empire's many white houses--
Let my people go! Let my people go! Thus says the Lord.

I believe you are the great fish swallowing Jonah,
Who has slipped from his calling, but is still needed,
And he's buried in you, in loss and grief and failure--
To Nineveh, you go! To Nineveh, you go! A change is coming.

I believe you are the tears in Mary's eye, salty, sweet,
Like the first waters, brooding, rolling like rivers to her tongue,
And she tastes urgency, resurrection, shocking opportunity--
Beloved, he lives! Beloved, he lives! Jesus, our Friend!

If you call me, O Friend, it is not to perfection, to clarity of purpose;
It is not to satisfied anger, to happy disentanglement, or victorious salvation.
If you call me, O Friend, you call me only to you:
To your brooding eyes at the beginning of every beginning;



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To the holy ground of sacred story, to people everywhere rushing to freedom;
 To the messy belly of life in cities and neighborhoods, at borders, in camps;
 To Jesus' bloody side, to his loving arms, to his beloved circle.

May I follow this one breath, just this, into your presence,
 And hear even here, even now, the voice of love
 Speak my name, our name, many names.
 May its speaking find the deep, dark, holy hope in me.
 And may this calling shape every other calling:
 O Friend.

Friends and Beloved Community,

As I settle into these new digs—a new office, a new apartment, a new city—I lean on spiritual practice for balance and inspiration. Meditation is a lifelong practice for me, and so too is poetry. This is one I wrote just this summer, as I anticipated my cross-country trek to First Church and DC. I hope you'll find it meaningful (or just curious)—and I truly hope you'll feel free to share your own poetry (or writing of any kind) with me. I know you're out there!

I look forward to your visits in the office, to long walks in your favorite places and cups of coffee in haunts I wouldn't find on my own. Give me a call, and let's set it up!

Yours, in faith, in courage,

Dave Grishaw-Jones
dgrishawjones@firstuccdc.org
 202-628-4317

Care of Parish Commission

Coffee Hour Hosts

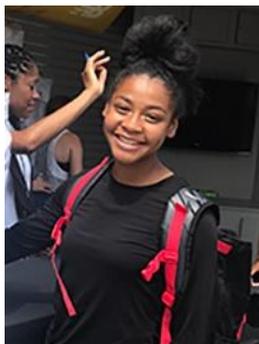
| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| September 2 | Carolyn Marsh | John Marsh | Bob Dinklemeyer | |
| September 9 | Melissa Ho/Scott Day | James Moore | Gail Sonnemann | Nan/Nick McConnell |
| September 16 | Kimberly Darling | Matt LaGamma | Moira Jones | Carol Malone |
| September 23 | Anisa Heming | David Greer | Courtney McCaffrey | Tom McCaffrey |
| September 30 | Hilary Oat-Judge | Chris Barr | Chris Byrne | Garnell Yarbrough |

Homecoming Sunday Potluck
 Sunday, September 9



Come one, come all! As we return to First Church for Homecoming Sunday on September 9, let's show how grateful we are for the outstanding staff (Byron, Cindy, James, John, and Sam) and members (especially the Pastoral Search Committee and Worship Commission) who guided us through the transition. They are the linchpins in nurturing our beloved community. Get your cookbooks out and start thinking of special dishes to show our gratitude!!

First Church Welcomes Ziyah and Mia to our Childcare Team!



Ziyah Holman



Mia Young

First Church is delighted to welcome Ziyah Holman and Mia Young to our childcare team. Ziyah and Mia will team up with Luis and Timur Murillo to provide care and fun for our youngest children in the nursery. Rev. Sam has created a schedule for the four of them to ensure that we have two childcare providers each Sunday.

Both Ziyah and Mia are members of the track team at Georgetown Day School. Ziyah is a rising junior who also helps lead a Girl Scout pack. Mia is a rising senior who is also a trained dancer. Most importantly, they share a joy for working with young children, having served as babysitters and camp counselors. Their first Sunday with us will be Labor Day weekend, when they will be trained in CPR and then join us on September 2. If you are free in September, please swing by the CE Suite to introduce yourself.

We are grateful for their enthusiasm for being part of the First Church community. We continue to be blessed to have such wonderful young people to provide care to our babies and toddlers!

CPR Training at First Church: Saturday, September 1 at 9 AM

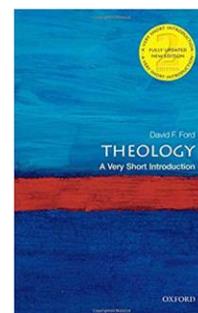


For the second year, First Church is offering CPR training at First Church for our childcare workers and our church members. The training will again be led by Jennifer Balarezo of GOT CPR. Jen is an extraordinary educator in CPR and first aid. She is also a trained ICU nurse and EMT.

If you are interested, please contact Rev. Sam at mcferran.sam@gmail.com. The cost for CPR training is between \$55-\$65, depending upon the number of participants.

Theology Book Group Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 PM

The Theology Reading Group will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 18, at 6:30, to discuss *Theology, A Very Short Introduction* by David Ford, the Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge. The book is an account of theology as an intellectual discipline and is available at Amazon.com. At the following meeting, October 16, we will discuss Thomas Merton's classic spiritual autobiography, *Seven Story Mountain*. Everyone is welcome!



Faith and Justice:
Labor in the Pulpit on September 2
Focus on Washington Interfaith Network



First Church is excited to host its third “Labor in the Pulpit” service Sunday, September 2. This year, our focus is local worker justice issues and our involvement with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). Rev. Alison Dunn-Almaguer, WIN’s assistant organizer, will deliver the sermon.

For over 20 years, WIN has served as a prophetic voice for justice and brought about real change to critical issues such as affordable housing, living wages, strong schools and safe neighborhoods. WIN has developed a powerful network among 48 faith communities who represent the city’s religious, racial, economic, and geographic diversity.

Rev. Almaguer has been a prophetic change agent, empowering these faith communities to create power by holding elected and corporate officials accountable. Most recently, she is working on a campaign to protect the wages and benefits of employees for the DC Circulator Bus in light of the DC Council’s recent decision to privatize those services to a foreign multi-national corporation. She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and an ordained pastor. She and her husband (also a pastor) are also very proud parents of their baby, Zora. We could not be more delighted to have her with us on Labor Day Sunday, September 2.

Si Se Puede!

Rev. Sam McFerran



Take Us Out to the Ballgame:
First Church at the Ball Park: September 22, 2018

60 members and friends of First Church will be going to Nats Park to root on the Nationals as they take on the New York Mets! It should be a great time of fellowship and fun! Please email Rev. Sam McFerran to see if there are any tickets left at mcferran.sam@gmail.com.

Outreach & Membership Commission

Nametags!

Do you have a nametag? Do you need a nametag? Please let the church office know if you need a new nametag. Our new Senior Pastor has arrived and getting to know everyone will take some time, so please be sure to wear your nametag each Sunday!



Facilities Commission

| <i>How did we use our building over the summer?</i> | | |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Use | Hours | % of Total |
| Worship & Meditation (Sunday, Break Away Meditation) | 23.5 | 5% |
| Christian Ed – children & teens (Sunday School, child care) | 33.75 | 7% |
| Christian Ed – adults (Nurture, Bible Workbench, Bible Study) | 19.5 | 4% |
| Music Program (rehearsals and practice time) | 34.25 | 7% |
| Meetings of Council, Commissions, Staff, Committees, etc. | 44.0 | 9% |
| Fellowship | 35.5 | 7% |
| Service to Others (Drop-In Center, HER Resiliency Center) | 64.5 | 13% |
| Contracted Users (C100, Pathways, Table Church, Encore) | 100.0 | 21% |
| Occasional Use (conference, seminars, lectures, concerts) | 127.0 | 26% |
| Total Hours of Building Use (not including office tenants) | 127.0 | |

Social Action and Awareness Commission



September 9 Second Sunday Offering: Steinbruck Center

First Church is one of more than 1,000 faith communities across the United States that have designated themselves as “sanctuary congregations,” committing to stand with immigrants facing deportation and other unjust and discriminatory federal policies. Our Sanctuary Working Group is engaging in direct action on immigration issues and encouraging First Church members and friends to make their voices heard on this critical human rights and social justice issue. First Church also is a member of Sanctuary DMV and the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network.

The Second Sunday Offering on September 9 will support the Steinbruck Center at Luther Place Memorial Church at 1226 Vermont Avenue NW. The hostel-type dorm provides bunk beds, showers, and a dining room at low cost to many activists and Dreamers who have come to DC to engage in protests, rallies, and lobbying efforts to support immigrants and their families.

Calendar

Sunday, September 2

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Alison Dunn-Almaguer preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

Tuesday, September 4

- 7:00 pm Worship Commission, *Chapel*

Wednesday, September 5

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, September 6

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, September 9

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Dave Grishaw-Jones preaching
- 11:30 am Potluck Luncheon, *Comm. Hall*
- 12:00 pm Christian Ed. Comm., *Ed. Suite*

Monday, September 10

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Tuesday, September 11

- 6:30 pm Church Council, *Comm. Hall*

Wednesday, September 12

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, September 13

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, September 16

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Dave Grishaw-Jones preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

Monday, September 17

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Wednesday, September 19

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, September 20

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, September 23

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Dave Grishaw-Jones preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

Monday, September 24

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Wednesday, September 26

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, September 27

- 6:30 pm Facilities Commission, *Chapel*
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Saturday, September 29

- 3:00 pm Capital Horns Concert,
Sanctuary

Sunday, September 30

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*



Brass Event at First Church: Saturday, September 29

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to hear the thrilling sound of the Capital Horns of the Washington Conservatory in the First Church Sanctuary at 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 29. Admission is free, but a good will offering will be taken during the intermission to benefit Pathways to Housing, the charitable organization for the homeless housed at First Church.

The Capital Horns is a horn choir composed of local professional and amateur hornists. They will be performing a wide variety of music which makes full use of a horn's four octave range and rich sonorities. In addition to works written specifically for horn ensembles, they will also be performing arrangements of popular pieces by talented local arrangers as well as an amazing antiphonal piece by Gabrielli. The program is will be designed to appeal to all ages, so bring friends and family.

The program will also feature pieces by Beethoven, R. Strauss, Elgar, Lauridsen, Tchesnokov, and former hornist/composer William Martin Joel. The 16-voice horn choir will be led by distinguished conductor, Jeff Bianchi. Be sure to take advantage of this rare opportunity to not only hear a unique musical group but also support Pathways to Housing, an organization dedicated to assisting DC needy.

Live!

at 10th & G

Coming this fall...

Check the Live! at 10th & G Facebook page for more information:
<https://www.facebook.com/liveat10thandg/>



Capital Hearings Present *Worlds of Our Creation*. September 15 at 8:00 pm. This year's fall concert explores music that speaks to the realities and illusions of perspective. \$15-25.



Capital Horn Club presents *Horns Helping the Homeless Benefit Concert*. September 29 at 3:00 pm. Come hear the voluptuous sound of the Capital Horns in their debut DC concert. A free will offering will be collected to benefit for Pathways to Housing.

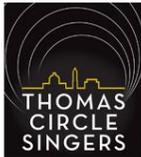


FED UP! Coalition presents *Art for Awareness*. October 6 at 5:00 pm. An event comprising short film screenings, poetry readings, music, etc. to help raise awareness about the opioid epidemic. \$30.



Choral Arts Society Chamber Chorus Presents *Dusk and Dawn*, October 20 at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Awash in music inspired by light and dark, Artistic Director Scott Tucker has created a program that evokes both the literal and mystical imagery attributed to these fundamental themes. \$25.

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Thomas Circle Singers Present *The Poet Sings*, October 27, 5:00 pm. Intended to be read aloud, poetry conveys an even more powerful message when it is sung. \$25.



Washington Bach Consort Presents *Bach to Mozart*, November 2 at 7:00 pm. Special guest artists The Franklin Quartet will perform rarely heard Mozartian transcriptions in a concert that also includes selections from *The Well-Tempered Clavier* performed on fortepiano. \$10-35.



Capital Blend Concert. November 10 at 7:30 pm. Capital Blend is an all-female *a cappella* group based in the D.C. area. \$15.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Senior Minister – Rev. David Grishaw-Jones
Minister of Faith Formation – Rev. Sam McFerran
Minister of Justice Formation – Rev. James D. Ross, II
Director of Music – Mr. John Horman
Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Cindy Dobbs
Members in Discernment – Dwight Davis, Lynaya Morris
Nursery & Childcare Staff – Luis Murillo, Timur Murillo, Ziyah Holman, Mia Young

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