

# GABRIEL'S HORN

First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 2018



## Daylight Saving Time Ends November 4

Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night, November 3. You'll get an extra hour of sleep! (Or you'll be an hour early for church.)

## "Without a Home, Everything Else Falls Apart" – from Evicted by Matt Desmond

On **November 18**, join a special Nurture after church with FCUCC member Robert Burns, a housing expert, and members of the Home for All Task Force to discuss the challenges laid bare in Matt Desmond's book, "Evicted". In the nurture we'll explore some of these issues and how they apply to DC. You do not have to read the book to get something out of, and contribute to, the discussion.

There are many resources available for members and friends to better understand the housing plight of low-income families, including:

- The book "Evicted" by Matt Desmond – the library has three copies to check out.
- A small, powerful exhibit at the National Building Museum. See the museum's website.
- Many YouTube videos of varying length. Search for "Evicted Matt Desmond" in YouTube.
- An August 6 piece in the WaPo "In expensive cities, rents fall for the rich—but rise for the poor"
- An interactive map of affordable housing being built and preserved in DC from the DC Fiscal Policy Institute's website. <https://www.dcfpi.org/all/affordable-housing-pipeline-interactive-map/>. For perspective, in this market, affordable housing for families at 80% and below of area median income (AMI) is open to those earning \$88,250 and less; to people at 50% and below of AMI, the ceiling is \$55,150. Because income here is so high, these thresholds are high, but there are big disparities. Black DC residents' median income is \$42,161, vs \$134,000 for whites. Full-time minimum wage is \$15,080 per year.

If you have ideas, questions, related experiences or learning resources you'd like to share on this topic, please reach out to Janneke Ratcliffe, [janneke1018@gmail.com](mailto:janneke1018@gmail.com) or any Home for All task force member.

More about the book:

"Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers. ... As we see families forced into shelters, squalid apartments, or more dangerous neighborhoods, we bear witness to the human cost of America's vast inequality—and to people's determination and intelligence in the face of hardship."



## First Church Welcomes John Yarrington November 16, 17 & 18

On November 16, 17 and 18 First Church will welcome Dr. John Yarrington, well known national choral clinician to share his insights and expertise on singing and how to create beautiful choral sound. John is a long-time friend of John Horman, Director of Music for First Church, and their paths periodically cross at national musical events. Both have served together as clinicians at national conferences for Methodists and Presbyterians at Montreat and Junaluska, North Carolina.

John Yarrington has written many articles for major journals relating to church music and especially the changing voice. His published compositions are with Augsburg Fortress, Choristers Guild, and MorningStar. Books include "Training the Youth Choir," "Somebody's Got My Robe," and "Somebody's Got My Hymnal." A new book, in progress, is entitled "Have We Had This Conversation?"

Dr. Yarrington directs the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church. Previous positions in church music have included McFarlin Memorial Methodist in Norman, Oklahoma; The First United Methodist Church of Dallas, Texas, and Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas.

### Schedule for the weekend:

Friday evening: 7:00 Dinner and an opportunity to meet the clinician

Saturday morning: 9:30-12:30 Rehearsal and choral workshop

Sunday morning: 9:30 Rehearsal and Warm-up, followed by worship at 10:30

Events on the Yarrington Choral Weekend are open to all – no choir experience is necessary. The purpose of the weekend is to create musical fellowship through singing. Put the date(s) on your calendar and come enjoy beautiful choral music and the joy of singing together.

## Care of Parish Commission



### Potluck

### Potluck Luncheon Sunday, November 4, Following Worship

Please join us following the worship service on November 4 for a farewell potluck luncheon on Dave's last Sunday with us. During this time of transition, this opportunity to gather and support one another is especially precious. All are welcome!

## News from Care of Parish

Care of Parish is always trying to meet the needs of our congregation. To this end we have revised the instructions for coffee hour and will mail them out each month to people who have signed up as hosts. Small choices can make a big difference and we use small plates for coffee hour and big ones for potlucks to save money. It all adds up. Have you ever thought about the difference you can make by carrying your own utensils with you so that you aren't left using and tossing plastic ones?

Are you willing to send out cards or make visits to homebound congregants? Care of Parish is seeking allies who could volunteer to help in this meaningful way. Please reach out to Mary Alice Ball ([maryaliceball.phd@gmail.com](mailto:maryaliceball.phd@gmail.com)) if you are interested. Thank you!

## Coffee Hour Hosts

<b>November 4</b>	Anisa Heming	Stefani Filak	Barbara Rice	Faith Brightbill
<b>November 11</b>	Kenya Davis	Dwight Davis	Aaron Dorfman	Susan Saudek
<b>November 18</b>	Jean Alexander	Bruce Hanson	Barry Mills	Kristy Goodfellow Mills
<b>November 25</b>	Alyx Cheng	Susie Hayward	Nora Marsh	Caitlin Smith

## Christian Education Commission



Please help make a difference by volunteering with A Wider Circle on Saturday, November 17 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM

6 and older are welcome to volunteer. Children 12 and under need an accompanying adult. Please contact Rev. Sam McFerran if you would like to volunteer. AWC's location is at 9159 Brookville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910. (A tour and orientation of AWC will begin at 9:15)

**This is the Greatest Show!!!**  
**Youth Movie and Pizza Night**  
**Saturday, November 17 from 6 – 9 PM**  
**Location- First Church, Living Room**

5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a fun evening of movies, pizza, and games! It will be led by Rev. Sam and Youth leader Caitlin Smith. Please RSVP to Sam at [mcferran.sam@gmail.com](mailto:mcferran.sam@gmail.com).



## Social Action and Awareness Commission

**WALK & 5K**  
**TO END HIV**

**Walk to End HIV: December 1**

Due to bad weather, the Walk to End HIV has been postponed to December 1. Since this is also World AIDS Day it's a wonderful way to honor the HIV/AIDS community. December is also the season of giving and tax deductions, so here's your opportunity to support Whitman-Walker Health, the area's largest healthcare provider to the LGBTQ community. If you are unable to walk with us you can still make a donation. To make your pledge or for more information go to: [www.walktoendhiv.org](http://www.walktoendhiv.org) The Potomac Association of the UCC has its own team: LGBTQ+ Network United Church of Christ.

We will be joined by our UCC sibling churches and meet 8ish in the Narthex before leaving 9ish for the step off at Freedom Plaza at 9:15. This 5k walk and run is an all ages and species event so bring your kids and pets. Thank you for your generous support and caring enough to fight this scourge. Remember that every HIV/AIDS statistic is somebody's loved one and neighbor. Please call or text Jamey Moore at 202-491-7164 if you have any questions.



## Drop-In Center Thanksgiving Meal: November 19

As we prepare to embrace family, friends, food and football this Thanksgiving season, the First Church family is invited to help make it a special time for guests to the Downtown Drop-In Center. For the third year, First Church will provide a home-cooked fall-themed meal for the Drop-In Center. We will host this year's dinner on Monday, November 19.

Just as we did last year, we ask church members and friends to volunteer that evening to help make the project a success and to provide side dishes to go with the meat the program will purchase. Approximately 70 young people who are experiencing homelessness attended last year's dinner.

Vegetables, casseroles, yams, macaroni and cheese, and mashed potatoes are among the items that were popular last year, but please use your imagination! For ease of clean-up, please provide items in single-use recyclable dishes, if possible.

Volunteers are also needed for set-up, serving, and/or clean-up. Please contact Priscilla Waters at (240) 601-6239 or [priscilla.waters3@gmail.com](mailto:priscilla.waters3@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer a few hours on that evening or make a dish to share.

## Tent of Nations Olive Oil Fundraiser



Are you still looking for the perfect gift for the cooks on your Christmas list? The Social Action and Awareness Commission (SAAC) thinks we have the answer! Cooks will love the olive oil and olive products we will sell during Advent. SAAC will join an interdenominational network of 19 churches, headed by the Middle-East Committee of Westmoreland Congregational UCC, to offer these products imported directly from an organic farm near Bethlehem.

First Church will offer one liter and ½ liter bottles of olive oil, olive Tapenade (chopped olives in olive oil), soap, and beautifully illustrated cookbooks. All funds will go to "Tent of Nations," an organic farm near Bethlehem, owned by the Palestinian Christian Nassar family, since 1916. The farm uses funds to plant and replant trees and build bridges between neighboring Jewish and Muslim communities.

Many international organizations and individuals back the Tent of Nations in their struggle for justice, and to maintain the presence of a Christian Palestinian family on land in the West Bank. They consider their presence as a symbol of Palestinian independence and culture.

SAAC will begin sales at the concert of the Jordanian singing troupe Dozan Wa Awtar, that will be hosted by First Church at **6:30 pm on November 14, 2018**. We will also sell each Sunday in Advent.

- \$20 per 1/2 liter bottle
- \$30 per one liter can
- \$120 for case of 6 bottles
- \$10 for Olive Tapenade
- \$6 for Zaatar Soap

# Calendar

## Thursday, November 1

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

## Friday, November 2

7:00 pm Washington Bach Consort,  
*Sanctuary*

## Sunday, November 4

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 Potluck Luncheon, *Comm. Hall*  
12:00 pm Christian Ed. Comm., *Ed. Suite*

## Monday, November 5

6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center  
for Homeless Youth  
6:30 pm Sanctuary Task Force, *Comm. Hall*

## Tuesday, November 6

7:00 pm Worship Commission, *Chapel*

## Wednesday, November 7

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

## Thursday, November 8

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

## Sunday, November 11

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*  
Lynaya Morris preaching  
11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

## Monday, November 12

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

## Tuesday, November 13

6:30 pm Church Council,  
*Community Hall*

## Wednesday, November 14

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*  
7:00 pm ANERA Concert, *Sanctuary*

## Thursday, November 15

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

## Friday, November 16

7:00 pm Choral Dinner/Workshop,  
*Community Hall*

## Saturday, November 17

9:00 am Choral Workshop,  
*Comm. Hall/Sanctuary*  
6:00 pm Youth Movie Event,  
*Community Hall*

## Sunday, November 18

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*

## Monday, November 19

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

## Wednesday, November 21

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

## Thursday, November 22

Church Office Closed

## Friday, November 23

Church Office Closed

## Sunday, November 25

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*

## Monday, November 26

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

## Wednesday, November 28

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

## Thursday, November 29

5:30 pm Greening the Church  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*



WEAPONS.  
—  
DISARMED.  
—  
DISASSEMBLED  
—  
REPURPOSED.  
—  
TRANSFORMED.

— ***ART Transforming Violence*** —  
November 14, 2018



245 2nd Street NE,  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-547-6000  
[www.fcni.org](http://www.fcni.org)

**Artist Talk and Reception  
with Friend in Residence  
*Welling Hall***

November 14, 2018

**5:15 — Silent Reflection**

**6:00 — Open House**

**6:30 — Remarks**

**Please RSVP at [fcni.org/transforming-violence](http://fcni.org/transforming-violence)**





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church  
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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