

GABRIEL'S HORN

First Congregational United Church of Christ

September 2019



Update on Designated Pastor Process and Transition

On Sunday, August 18, more than 30 people gathered for a nurture to discuss the designated pastor ministry and the ministerial priorities that will guide this process. While not a formal congregational meeting, the group was enthusiastic in wanting to express support for the designated pastor ministry.

The ministerial priorities for the designated minister have been approved by Council and shared with the congregation. Comments and feedback will go into the final document that we will send to the Associate Conference Minister, Marvin Silver, by the end of the month. This document will guide the Conference in seeking candidates and guide the candidates in understanding First Church priorities.

Council has also approved a Designated Pastor Selection Committee (please see the bios included in this issue of the Horn) that will shepherd the process to final selection.

The next steps for the Designated process (best case scenario) are:

- End of August - Ministerial priorities document is sent to the Central Atlantic Conference
- September - Conference starts recruiting and shares our document with prospective candidates
- September 15 - A special short congregational meeting after church will approve Designated Pastor Selection Committee (DPSC)
- After September 15 - Conference sends applications to the DPSC
- September thru end of October - Committee reviews applications, checks references, listens to sermons
- November - Committee makes recommendation to Council for Candidate for Designated Minister
- November - Congregation meets Designated Minister candidate
- November 17 - Fall Congregational meeting approves Designated Minister or a special meeting is called if schedule requires.

During this transition, Council has approved a three-month agreement with The Rev. Karen Byrne to serve as Minister to provide additional ministerial support. We are thrilled someone known to our church is able to seamlessly step in and be an additional resource during this time of transition. Details of Karen's responsibilities are included in a separate article.

Thank you for your love and support. We are excited about our future.

Nan McConnell, Moderator

Kim Darling, Assistant Moderator

Three-Month Agreement with The Rev. Karen S. Byrne, M.Div., J.D.

Council has approved a three-month agreement (September 1 – November 30, 2019) with The Rev. Karen Byrne to serve as Minister and assist with the following:

1. Worship planning – work on worship planning with Associate Minister and Director of Music, attend worship coordination meetings on Tuesday and serve as a worship leader when needed and available.
2. Attend or be on phone for Worship Commission meetings.
3. Worship preacher – September 15, October 27 and November 17 and for those Sundays take responsibility for working with Cindy on the worship folder.
4. Work with Associate Minister, Director of Music, and Worship Commission on Advent planning, planning for the season as a whole in the life of the church. Designated Minister will not be in place to do pre-advent planning.
5. Pastoral care – visitation and help with special non-Sunday services.
6. Help plan all-church retreat and worship service that is part of the retreat on October 27.
7. Serve as a resource to Associate Minister on programming, including Adult Education.

Karen is a graduate of UVa Law School and Union Theological Seminary. She served as pastor of Winslow Congregation in central Maine for five years. Since 2014 she has served as one of several volunteer summer ministers at the Community Church on Monhegan Island, Maine. Karen is on the list of Central Atlantic Associate Supply Pastors and a great resource to First Church. If mutually agreeable and if needed, we have the option to extend this agreement.

Council recognizes there are challenges in hiring a member of the church. Our Associate Minister and Director of Music have been consulted. Our Associate Minister has consulted with staff. Everyone agrees that we need additional help and that Karen brings the right balance of experience and sensitivity to this role. She will coordinate her work with the Associate Minister and as a contractor will report to Council.

Designated Minister Selection Committee

Council has approved the following slate for the Designated Minister Selection Committee. There will be a congregational meeting on September 15, 2019, in the sanctuary immediately following the service to vote on this committee.

David Greer, chair, joined First Congregational Church in 2005. He currently serves on the Finance Commission and is their representative to Council. He is a member of the LGBTQ community. In the past he has served on Facilities and Christian Education commissions and as an at-large member of Council.

Katherine Antos joined First Church in 2014. She currently works with the Christian Education Commission and volunteers in the CE suite. Katherine is married to Justin (also a member since 2014) and has two children, Dillon and Charlotte.

Alexandra (Alyx) Cheng has been member since 2016. While a member of the Outreach and Membership Commission in 2017-2018 she worked on developing the new website, and she has volunteered at the Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth.

Dwight Davis has been a member since 2010. He is currently a *member in discernment* as he seeks ordination in the UCC, and an at-large member of Council. Dwight is married to Kenya (also a member since 2010) and has four sons, Isaiah (who also joined in 2010), Desmond, Daniel and Donovan.

Hannah Long-Higgins joined First Church in 2018. She has been active with the young adults' group.

Meg Maguire joined First Church in 1979. Meg leads the Home for All Advocacy Task Force, volunteers at the Shaw Community Center, and is active with Washington Interfaith Network. In the past Meg chaired the Site Development Task Force (2005 – 2012) and served on Social Action and Awareness Commission. Meg is married to Dale Ostrander, a member since 1980.

Grandon Purnell has been a member of First Church since 2018. He currently is a member of Social Action and Awareness Commission and is active in the CE suite. Grandon is married to Derecka and has two sons, Grandon and Garvey.

Constance Jean (CJ) Thayer joined First Church in 2017. She is married to Dan (who also joined in 2017) and mother to Mary Juliet (MJ).

Special Congregational Meeting After Church Sunday September 15, 2019

Agenda:

- 1) Approve slate for the Designated Minister Selection Committee
 - 2) Proposal for additional ministerial support
- Be there! We need a quorum of members.

Council Capsule

Council Capsule for August 2019

On August 6, 2019, Council approved moving forward with the hiring of a Designated Minister and the creation of a Designated Pastor Selection Committee (DPSC).

Why is a Designated Minister good for First Church now, and better than hiring a supply pastor followed by a Called Pastor?

- Defined 2-3 year term of employment, but with the option to extend a call
- Greater church stability after two recent short-term ministries
- The conference recruits and screens candidates, forwarding credentials of 3-5 candidates to the church for local review and selection
- The church selection committee focuses on considering candidates in light of church priorities.
- Successful candidate and the church are joyous because there is a match.

The congregation will vote on and bless the DPSC at a special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 15, 2019. The slate includes David Greer (chair), Katherine Antos, Alexandra (Alyx) Cheng, Dwight Davis, Hannah Long-Higgins, Meg Maguire, Grandon Purnell, and Constance Jean (CJ) Thayer.

A document, drafted by the Pastoral Search Committee, has been drafted and circulated to the congregation. The document, derived from the church profile and comments from the congregation, describes to applicants the primary ministry goals and scope of work required.

Council will sponsor an Opportunity Fair on Homecoming Sunday, September 8, 2019, during coffee hour. Any church group, member, officer or staff member is invited to set up a table to explain their tasks and sign up volunteers.

Council has named a Visioning Team to receive as much feedback as possible from the congregation about the future of First Church. The Visioning Team members are Nan McConnell, Kim Darling, Ann Saudek, Melissa Ho, Garnell Yarbrough, and Marian Drake. The Team will send a questionnaire to the congregation, hold focus groups in September, draft a vision statement, and bring a document to the all-church retreat on Sunday, October 27 (starting with worship at 10:30 until 3:00).

Treasurer Nora Marsh reported on the budget status as of July 31, 2019. Pledges received are at 48.7%; income is at 63%; building use income is going well; and expenses are at 57.18%. Council has tasked David Greer, the Finance Commission, and Nora Marsh to lead a discussion at Council in September on budget guidelines for commissions.

Council approved exploring a contract with Rev. Karen Byrne for additional ministerial help for three months.

Nan McConnell as moderator has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sasha Bruce Youthwork which governs collaboration between these groups to provide Youth Drop-In Center services on Monday nights. Council will consider at its September meeting the Sasha Bruce proposal to hold the Youth Drop-In Center on a second day each week at First Church.

The next council meeting is on September 10, 2019.

Mark Your Calendars for These Special Dates

September 8 Homecoming Sunday: Rev. Jean Alexander preaching

We look forward to reconvening after summer on September 8 at 10:30 for Homecoming Sunday. Please think about reaching out to people and encouraging them to come and celebrate with us.

First Church Opportunity Fair, September 8 at the Homecoming Sunday Ice Cream Social

Do you need volunteers? Do you want to help, but prefer one-time tasks?
Learn more about how First Church operates.

Please let Kim Darling know (kdarling@gmail.com) if you want to set up a table to present your volunteer opportunities.

Care of Parish Commission

Homecoming Potluck Dinner on September 7 at 6:00 PM

Join us prior to the Hymn Sing on September 7. Bring a favorite dish to share. All are welcome!



Ice Cream Social on Homecoming Sunday, September 8

“The only emperor is the emperor of ice cream.” – Wallace Stevens

Homecoming Sunday on September 8 is when we wind down our summertime fun and amp up for the new church wide program year. What better way to ease the transition then with an old-fashioned ice cream social during fellowship hour. Ice cream and healthy snacks will be provided. We are calling on you emperors, empresses and impresarios to bring your favorite ice cream topping or accompaniment. There will also be an Opportunity Fair for you to learn more about the myriad of volunteer options available at First Church.

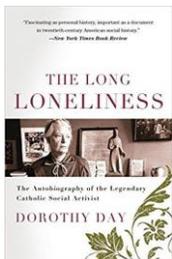
Faith Formation

In case you missed it...

Sam McFerran’s position is now called Associate Minister.

Sam retains the same duties with primary emphasis on faith formation. Council voted for the change because the title identifies Sam’s role in the church, rather than Minister of Faith Formation.

The Nurture session on Sunday, August 25, of the all-church-read book, *The Energy Bus*, led by Dwight Davis, engaged members in a lively discussion of the power of positive energy in all aspects of our lives.



Theology Reading Group: September 24 at 6:30 PM

The theology Book Group will meet on Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30 to discuss Dorothy Day’s autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*. Day helped found the Catholic worker Movement in the 1930’s, which continues today in faithful solidarity with the poor.

Adult Education at First Church Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

During the coming school year, First Church will offer adults a variety of opportunities to learn about our faith. We also hope to explore, in cooperation with Council, commissions, staff and each of you, additional ways that we can expand our adult education program. Please consider participating, and let us know your thoughts.

Bible Workbench: Each Sunday before worship a small but hardy band meets in the Chapel for discussion of a weekly Bible reading. We work with a specific Bible passage (one of the lectionary readings for that Sunday) plus some additional material which is partly about the passage and partly about what's happening in the world. We meet from 9:30-10:20. All are welcome! For more information, contact Andrew Hamilton at hamilton8691@gmail.com.

Exploring the Gospel of Mark: Bible Study – Beginning on September 15, we will begin a six-session Bible study that explores the notion of our own sense of discipleship. We will read both the Gospel of Mark, as well as the book, *Preaching Mark in Two Voices* by Gary Charles and Brian Blount. We will meet at 9:15 AM in the Christian Ed Suite on 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, and 11/24.

Wednesday Meditation: The Church hosts a free, silent meditation, not affiliated with any specific religion, every Wednesday from 12:15pm to 12:45pm upstairs in the Chapel. We sit in a circle in chairs and the leader shares a reading of their choice, after which we enter into 15 to 20 minutes of quiet meditation. The group trades off the leadership role every week on a voluntary basis. Most of the participants are not First Church members, but have seen our sign, which we put in front of the church. For more information, contact Nora Marsh at knoramash@icloud.com.

Theology Reading Group: This group meets monthly on a weekday evening, 6:30 to 8:00, in the church Living Room to discuss a book or video. Typical books read and discussed include Martin Luther King's last book, *Where Do We Go From Here?*, Joe Schmidt's *Praying Our Experiences*, and Marilynne Robinson's novel, *Gilead*. All are welcome. For more information, contact Peter Byrne at byrne@law.georgetown.edu.

Retreats: In the long-standing tradition of retreats at First Church, Sunday, October 27 will be dedicated to the theme of "Celebrating the Past/Embracing the Future," beginning with opening worship at 10:30 am and continuing into the afternoon. In addition, we hope to offer a time of quiet and reflection during the Advent and Lent seasons.

Nurtures: From time to time, we gather after worship to hear speakers talk about how faith is working in their lives, followed by questions, answers and discussion. We assemble in the Chapel or Community Hall as soon as people have a chance to stop by coffee hour, and end by 1:00. Sometimes speakers are from our congregation, and sometimes they are visitors. Sometimes one person will speak, other times we'll hear from a panel of speakers on a given topic. Often nurtures emerge as opportunities for our Commissions to more thoroughly share their ministry and good work. For instance, Social Action and Awareness may provide a nurture on Affordable Housing or Immigration Justice; Christian Education may provide a nurture about Poetry or the Youth Mission Trip to the Cheyenne River Creek Reservation; or the Care of Parish Congregation may provide a nurture about how we can more easily provide pastoral care and support to one another.

Potomac Association and Central Atlantic Conference workshops: The fall and spring meetings of our association of 30 local UCC churches and the annual meeting of our conference usually include workshops on topics relevant to our church lives. The upcoming annual meeting of the Conference, on October 4-5, offers five workshops, including “Our Faith, Our Voice, Our Vote” and “How Can Both New and Established Churches Reach Out to Unserved People?”.

In addition to the above, we are looking for ways to increase adult education opportunities. Here are some ways that we might do that:

- An annual lecture series on an aspect of being church in these challenging times, strengthening our connection to the world of progressive Christianity. This lecture could be established in memory of someone.
- Young Adults at First Church: this group provides an opportunity for young adults (in theory 20s-30s, but all are welcome) to gather and explore ways we live out our faith. Other additional small groups could form on an on-going basis to socialize and share common interests, such as growing in prayer practice, living with people who are differently abled, etc.
- More all-congregation book reading, such as this summer’s congregation-wide reading of *The Energy Bus*. A variation on this may be an all-congregation invitation to see a play or film, followed by a nurture or pot luck to discuss.
- Sacred Conversations on Race: a series of congregational-wide, inter-racial discussions about race, using UCC materials and coordinating with the Social Action Commission and Anti-racism Task Force.
- *Let’s Talk – White Privilege*: Since 2017, First Church has each year formed a six-week discussion series intended to help white people see the many ways whiteness is valued and rewarded at the expense of people of color. We hope to offer this series again in early 2020. These conversations are neither a book group nor a task force, but rather an in-depth honest sharing about our personal experience with race.
- Sermon Discussion: similar to our practice with Nurtures, these discussions would be held after worship. After grabbing some refreshment (on a non-potluck Sunday), those who want would gather in the sanctuary with that morning’s preacher to hear each other’s questions and comments about that day’s sermon, and the preacher’s replies. We might try this once, and, if it is well-received, consider trying it regularly.

Rev. Sam McFerran, Associate Minister
Mark Jensen, Christian Ed. Commission Chair
Rev. Karen Byrne

What Does God Call Us to Do Now? by Rev. Sam

As Christians and people of faith, we must always be aware of the tensions that are inherent in our religious lives: The tension between service to a church community and focusing on individual spiritual growth. The tension between acceptance of different religious perspectives and rejection of bigotry and discrimination. Particularly in recent months, I know many of us have been struggling with a tension between joyfully celebrating the blessings in our lives, and our acute awareness of the great brokenness in our lives and the world around us.

(continued on page 8)

There is no manual on how to navigate this tension. Do we just focus on the positive, pretending the fears and anxiety do not exist? Do we dwell in fear, paralyzed by anxiety about the problems of the world, while missing opportunities for simple joys in front of us? Fortunately, our faith and our church community can help us find direction and take action.

On a personal level, we can help each other lead healthy lives. We can offer each other comfort when we are grieving or feeling sad. We can build each other up when we need that extra encouragement. We can share stories that provide inspiration or comfort. We can celebrate with pure joy for the happiness and light we see in one another.

Similarly, we can come together to transform the world as God intended it to be – a place of hope and dignity, peace and freedom. Despite the fact that the problems of the world seem overwhelming, we must remember that even small acts – individual or collective – can effectively bear witness to God’s love and vision of Beloved Community.

During the Fall, we will reflect on what God is calling us to do now. We will reflect on how we are listening to God, how we are feeling this tension in our lives, and we will share what It means to be a disciple of Christ now.

Friends, being loved by God, being called by God to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly, is a challenge, but it is also truly a privilege to serve. It is also a great privilege to serve alongside each of you. Amen

Worship Commission



Faith and Justice: Labor in the Pulpit September 1, 2019

For our fourth year, First Church is honoring Labor Day by drawing our attention to the importance of worker justice. This initiative, sponsored by Interfaith Worker Justice, calls us to reflect upon how faith communities can use our voices to help call forth better wages, working conditions, and benefits so workers can support themselves, their families, and their communities.

This year, we are so excited and honored to have Terry Flood and her colleagues from Jubilee Jobs share their important work in helping poor, disadvantaged, and unemployed individuals in the Washington, DC, area obtain the jobs they desperately need and in guiding them to move beyond poverty toward sustained self-sufficiency. Their work truly transforms lives.

We look forward to welcoming Terry and her colleagues from Jubilee Jobs, and we hope you can join us! Please email Rev. Sam McFerran with any questions at mcferran.sam@gmail.com



Malcolm Himschoot to Preach at First Church September 29

The Reverend Malcolm Himschoot will be our guest preacher on September 29. Malcolm serves the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, as the denomination's Minister for Ministerial Calls and Transitions. He studied urban ministry at the Iliff School of Theology, graduating with an M.Div. in 2004, and was ordained in the UCC while serving the ecumenical Denver Inner City Parish. From there he served in pastoral ministry with Plymouth Church, Minneapolis; and Arvada UCC, Community UCC of Boulder, and Parker UCC, all in Colorado. He briefly taught at Iliff and served a program coordinating role with the UCC's Open and Affirming Coalition.

A widely-known transgender man and educator, Himschoot's early story was made into a documentary, [Call Me Malcolm](#), which showed at film festivals, colleges, universities and seminaries. For that work he was the 2011 recipient of the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries' Social Prophet Award. His volunteer work has included community organizing for responsible development, immigration reform, criminal sentencing reform, and Showing Up for Racial Justice.

Himschoot is a father, an urban farmer's husband, and a writer. His 2016 article, [Practices of Spirit for Transgender and Genderqueer Christians](#) was published in *Vol. 8 of Sacred Spaces: The E-Journal of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors*.

Nurture

And after worship, Malcolm will lead an adult nurture discussion about the Practices of Resilience and Spirit by Trans and Nonbinary People. The nurture is open to all and these practices may be helpful for anyone struggling in today's political and cultural climate.



Connected by Hymns of Faith: A Homecoming Hymn Sing

Have you ever said to yourself on Sunday morning, "Why don't we sing more of the hymns that I REALLY love?" Well... we will be doing just that on the evening of September 7 following a delicious potluck dinner in the Community Hall. The hymns on the program are the hymns you chose as

your favorites through worship folder balloting this summer. After dinner we will make our way into the sanctuary and fill it with the strains of hymns like:

This Little Light of Mine
A Mighty Fortress
Great Is Your Faithfulness
De Colores
And more!

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You
How Can I Keep from Singing
Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Amazing Grace
Be Thou My Vision
Marching in the Light of God
O for a Thousand Tongues

Accompanied by pipe organ, piano, guitars, percussion and cello, we will fill the hall with the sound of joyful voices singing praise to God and rejoicing in the power of our beloved community. As an added treat we are borrowing a 100-year-old reed organ to accompany the older hymns. Fully restored, this relic of the past will help transport us in sound to another era.

It's going to be a night of wonderful fellowship and music. Come home for HOMECOMING with a warm "welcome back" and a song in your heart! See you Saturday night, September 7 for a "Good Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing".

The Month in Review August 2019

August 4, 2019

Musical Selection: "I'll Bid My Heart Be Still" Rebecca Clarke
"Prelude" (from Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major) J.S. Bach

Hymns: "Enter, Rejoice and Come In" NCH 73
"Sheaves of Summer" NCH 338
"Rise, O Church Like Christ Arisen" Glory to God 536

Guest musician: Robin Massie, viola

August 11, 2019

Music Selection "Andante" (from Sonata in D Major) Wolfgang A. Mozart

Hymns: "If You Will Only Let God Guide You" NCH 410
"Lord, Prepare Me" Glory to God 701
"Guide My Feet" NCH 497

Guest Musicians: Cindy Dobbs, piano; Hannah Long- Higgins, cello

August 18, 2019

Musical Selection: "My Heart Ever Faithful" J.S. Bach

Hymns: "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" NCH 59
"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" NCH 337
"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" NCH 77

Guest Musicians: Scott Herman, trumpet; Alyssa Herman, soprano

August 25, 2019

Musical Selection: "Clair de Lune" Claude Debussy
"Domine Deus, Agnus Dei" Antonio Vivaldi

Hymns: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" Glory to God 69
"Go in Grace and Make Disciples" Glory to God 296
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" NCH 423

Guest Musicians: Marian Drake, soprano; Anna Westbrook, piano



September Second Sunday Offering Recipient - Downtown Drop-In Center

Thank you, First Church, for your support of the Downtown Drop-In Center (DIC)! This strategic partnership between the non-profit Sasha Bruce Youthwork and First Church, offers respite, food, mental health and employment services to youth in the First Church Narthex and Living Room on Monday nights.

As the program coordinator Pam Lieber says, "You don't need an appointment. You don't need to be clean and sober. You just need to want to connect with a caring group of people who can help you get your life back on track." It is a place to get out of the cold, the rain, or the heat. The drop-in center is a "soft touch" place, a place that doesn't bombard clients with demands but strives to build a relationship with skittish young people fleeing awful situations.

Your pledges and regular giving to First Church support the Drop-In Center's operational costs for utilities, cleaning and staff (previously Rev. James Ross and now Amy Driver). Also, our guests look forward to the delicious food you graciously cook and donate each November for our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner.

Please also consider donating to the DIC through the September Second Sunday offering. This year we'd also like to give away warm clothing, hygiene items, and snacks, and ensure that we have enough food to feed each guest, and send a plate home with them.

There's always room to volunteer! Please contact Priscilla.waters3@gmail.com for more information, or stop by to chat at the September 8, 2019 "Opportunity Fair."

NATIONAL TRANS VISIBILITY MARCH



Members of the transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary communities will take a major stand against hate and discrimination when they rally here in Washington for the first ever National Trans Visibility March (NTVM) on Saturday, September 28th. Many UCC members and friends from around the country will be participating in the March. First Church will serve as a hospitality location, providing coffee and bagels, as well as snack packs for marchers to take with them. We will also hold a brief prayer service before stepping off to join the March.

What you can do to help:

- Join the March! The March will begin with a rally at 10:00 AM at Freedom Plaza (Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th Street, N.W.).
- Join the prayer service before the March. We will gather at First Church at 9:30 AM and then walk down to the Plaza.
- Help prepare snack packs. A group will meet after the service on Sunday, September 22, in the Community Hall to assemble snack packs.
- Volunteer for a hospitality shift to be present in the building and help with coffee, etc. We are planning to keep the building open from 8:00 – 10:30 am. Please contact priscilla.waters3@gmail.com by email or during coffee hour to sign-up for hospitality shifts.

Facilities Commission

The Difference a Full-Time Sexton Makes

Earlier this year, we hired Ines Marquez to be our full-time sexton. (We had previously been paying for 24 hours of Ines's time through Red Coats, a cleaning services contractor.) We did this for two reasons. First, because of our employment justice concerns for Ines, and second, because 24 hours per week was no longer enough time to keep our building clean and keep up with the needs of our ambitious event rentals.

During the busy seasons, September through December and February through May, Ines keeps the building clean, sets rooms up for events, resets after the events, etc. And during the summer when rentals are few, she's able to take on the big tasks such as cleaning upholstery and carpets, helping with projects like clearing out closets, and deep cleaning the limestone floors.



If you've wondered about whether or not this has made a difference, look at this picture showing two steps from the main staircase. The bottom step shows how most of our limestone looks despite the almost daily regular mopping Ines has done in the past. The top step shows how most of our limestone floors look now after she has spent 40-50 hours this summer deep cleaning the sanctuary and narthex floors by putting down a lot of soapy water, scrubbing them with a hand brush or a long-handled brush, and then wet vacuuming up the dirty water. This deep cleaning is something that can only be done during a slow time when there's not a lot of people going through the building and Ines isn't trying to keep up with multiple events.

Twice in years past I have gotten quotes from stone maintenance contractors to do a thorough cleaning of our limestone. The cheapest quote I got was for \$16,000. Please take a moment to thank Ines and compliment her on the floors the next time you see her.

September Calendar

Sunday, September 1

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Terry Flood preaching
Labor in the Pulpit
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

Wednesday, September 4

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

Thursday, September 5

- 6:30 pm Choir Dessert, *Living Room*
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Saturday, September 7

- 6:00 pm Homecoming Potluck, *Comm. Hall*
- 7:30 pm Hymn Sing, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, September 8 – Homecoming Sunday

- 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*
Rev. Jean Alexander preaching
- 11:30 am Ice Cream Social, *Comm. Hall*
Opportunity Fair, *Comm. Hall*
- 12:00 pm Care of Parish Comm., *Living Room*

Monday, September 9

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

Tuesday, September 10

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

Wednesday, September 11

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

Thursday, September 12

- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, September 15

- 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*
Rev. Karen Byrne preaching
- 11:30 am Congregational Meeting, *Sanctuary*

Monday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 18

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

Thursday, September 19

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, September 22

- 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*
Andrew Hamilton preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

Monday, September 23

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

Tuesday, September 24

- 6:30 pm Theology Reading Group,
Living Room

Wednesday, September 25

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

Thursday, September 26

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

Saturday, September 28

- 9:00 am Hospitality for Trans Visibility March
Narthex

Sunday, September 29

- 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*
Malcolm Himshoot preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*
- 12:00 pm Finance Comm., *Living Room*

Monday, September 30

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

Special Events at First Church/Live! at 10th&G

The 2019/20 event season at First Church/Live! at 10th&G is shaping up to be pretty amazing! The Thirteen choir – truly inspiring – will hold four concerts here, the Gay Men’s Chorus will perform two concerts and sing during two worship services, the Washington Bach Consort is expanding their chamber music series from three to four concerts, we’ll be hosting a Building on the Young Black Agenda forum coinciding with the CBCF Annual Leadership Conference, and Thomas Circle Singers, New Orchestra of Washington, the Parker Lecture, The Capital Hearings, ACLU-DC, Choral Arts Society of Washington Chamber Singers, The Washington Chorus, and Washington Men’s Camerata have all booked dates for the 2019/20 season.

Detailed information about events during the winter and spring of 2020 will be announced in early 2020, or you may look for it on the websites of the groups listed in the first paragraph.

13TH THE THIRTEEN **The Thirteen Offers a 50% Discount to First Churchers**
[The Thirteen Choir](#) is expanding their season to four concerts here and in celebration are offering First Church members the opportunity to purchase tickets to their four Saturday evenings concerts and to their Church of the Epiphany concert down the street at a 50% discount.

Monteverdi: *The Lost Vespers (1641)*, November 16 at 7:30 pm. Much as J.S. Bach was to do a century later in his B Minor Mass, Monteverdi assembled many mature compositions toward the end of his life into one massive volume, *Selva morale e spirituale* — the moral and spiritual wood. Hidden in plain sight within this monumental volume is a *Vespers of 1641* that The Thirteen has assembled with the well-loved motet *Beatus vir at its core*. \$10-30. Use promo code **Live50** to get tickets at 50% off!

Silent Night *Starry Night*, December 21 at 7:30 pm. Accompany The Thirteen’s song-filled journey through the cosmos and the Christmas story. Featuring your favorite holiday carols, The Thirteen’s own arrangement of *Silent Night*, and contemporary composer Kile Smith’s driving and touching *The Consolation of Apollo*, which pairs the words of the Apollo 8 astronauts on Christmas Eve 1968 with the writings of the Roman philosopher Boethius for a fantastical take on the Christmas story. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing, this performance will be accompanied by projected images from NASA’s Hubble telescope. \$10-30. Use promo code **Live50** to get tickets at 50% off!

Four Chances to Hear the Gay Men’s Chorus

The [Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington](#) will perform four times! First, their **Small Ensembles Extravaganza** on October 26 at 5:00 pm (ASL interpreted) & 8:00 pm. All four of GMCW’s ensembles (Potomac Fever, Rock Creek Singers, Seasons of Love, and 17th Street Dance) return to the stage for a showcase of music and dance featuring songs from the worlds of pop, Broadway, spirituals, and more. Songs include *Africa*, *Don’t Stop Me Now*, *Jolene*, *Take On Me*, *Not Over You*, and *Imagine*. \$20-45.



On February 22 at 3:00 pm, GMCW’s [GenOUT Chorus](#) presents **Youth Invasion** with special guests, [Nashville Major Minors](#). The GenOUT Chorus is the Washington, DC area’s only vocal ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth. GenOUT operates to give young LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice, and to connect that voice to community. Since its debut in spring 2015, the GenOUT Chorus has performed at the Lincoln Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, the White House, the Library of Congress, and the GALA Choruses Festival.

\$20-25.

Then, the GenOUT Chorus will sing during worship on Sunday, March 29, 2020 which is [Transgender Day of Visibility](#). And the ensemble group, Rock Creek Singers, will return to sing during worship on Pride Sunday, June 13th.

Bach Consort Expands Chamber Series



The [Washington Bach Consort](#) began its chamber series here in the fall of 2014. Consort founder J. Reilly Lewis had wanted to start a chamber series for many years and was thrilled that someone had “finally built a space that was perfectly suited for it!”

At Home with Bach, November 8 at 7:00 pm. This program, featuring the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 alongside other works by Bach, Telemann, and Stölzel, imagines an ephemeral evening of friends and family happily playing together in Bach’s Leipzig apartment. \$10-35.

The Tudors, December 6 at 7:00 pm. In a new series of programs devoted to vocal polyphony, the Consort will transport you to 16th-century England. Revel in a bespoke selection of sacred motets written by the finest composers to serve at the pleasure of four Tudor monarchs, from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I. \$10-35. Details about the two winter/spring concerts in the series may be found [here](#).

Building on the Young Black Agenda

This forum will be hosted by several organizations, from nonprofits to social incubators that work to empower change throughout the African Diaspora. The event, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, will highlight the needs of black and brown communities with special guests including Democratic presidential candidates attending the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference. The goal is simple: build black connectivity within spaces of influence as we discuss specific policies that impact the lives of black & brown families. We’ll discuss issues like criminal justice reform, economic and environmental justice, gerrymandering, voter suppression, college affordability, and a whole host of other issues that permeate our communities. Free.

And check these other fall events:

[New Orchestra of Washington](#) presents *Chiaroscuro*, September 14 at 4:00 pm. Grieg's Holberg Suite and Bacewicz's Con-certo for String Orchestra strive to combine tradition with modernity, while Herman’s Psycho Suite, the famous soundtrack to Alfred Hitchcock’s cinema classic, follows one man’s descent into madness. Finally, Shostakovich’s First Piano Concerto is a stunning display of virtuosic brilliance where two solo instruments, piano and trumpet, compete and duet with one another. \$15-45.



[The Capital Hearings](#) present *POWER PLAY*, September 28, at 8:00 pm. Spanning cultures and conti-nents, this concert features world premieres by Ryan McCarty and the winner of the Hearings’ 9th annual Young Composers Competition, as well as the searing work of Ted Hearne and Moira Smiley, the clever lyricism of Lin-Manuel Miranda, and the uplifting words of Earth, Wind & Fire. \$15-25.

[UCC Office of Communication Inc.](#) presents *The 2019 Parker Lecture*, October 17 at 8:00 am. Rev. Julian De Shazier, senior pastor of University Church Chicago, will deliver this year’s Parker Lecture. Cayden Mak, executive director of 18 Million Rising, will receive the Everett C. Parker Award. The Global Media Monitoring Project of the WACC - Global will receive the Donald H. McGannon Award. \$50.



The Thomas Circle Singers presents *Annelies*, October 19 at 5:00 pm. TCS' encore performance of James Whitbourn's choral setting of the Diary of Anne Frank commemorates the 75th anniversary of the diary and the 90th anniversary of Anne Frank's birth. James Whitbourn’s dramatic music brings to life the harrowing events unfolding in Anne’s life, all thoughtfully portrayed in Melanie Challenger’s libretto. This special performance will be enhanced by a variety of media to help the audience, see, hear, and feel this incredible story of ordinary people living during extraordinarily terrible times. \$20-25.



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