

BUILDING A
JUST
&
LOVING
COMMUNITY

1865-2015

September 8, 2019
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Homecoming Sunday

First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 G Street NW, Washington, DC

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

BEARING WITNESS TO THE GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE

Rev. Jean Alexander

Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome 12:1-13

I urge you, then, my brothers and sisters, remembering the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God; that is the kind of worship for you, as sensible people. Do not model your behavior on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and mature.

And through the grace that I have been given, I say this to every one of you: never pride yourself on being better than you really are, but think of yourself dispassionately, recognizing that God has given to each one their measure of faith. Just as each of us has various parts of one body, and the parts do not all have the same function: in the same way, all of us, though there are so many of us, make up one Body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another. Then since the gifts that we have differ according to the grace that was given to each of us: if it is a gift of prophecy, we should prophesy as much as our faith tells us; if it is a gift of practical service let us devote ourselves to serving; if it is teaching, to teaching; if it is encouraging, to encouraging. When you give, you should give generously from the heart; if you are put in charge, you must be conscientious; if you do works of mercy, let it be because you enjoy doing them. Let love be without any pretense. Avoid what is evil; stick to what is good. In neighborly love let your feelings of deep affection for one another come to expression and regard others as more important than yourself. In the service of Christ, work whole-heartedly but with conscientiousness and an eager spirit. Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship; keep praying regularly; share with any of God's holy people who are in need; look for opportunities to be hospitable.

(New Jerusalem Bible, adapted)

SERMON

Rev. Jean Alexander

*HYMN

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

NCH 313

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O God Thou Faithful God

Siegfried Karg-Elert

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns Erfreruen

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

(Pray using words from your own language and tradition or the following words.)

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

(see page 10)

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Medley of Victorian Hymns
Played on reed organ renovated by Dr. Lee Rodkey

*Please rise, in body or in spirit.

NCH=New Century Hymnal

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Announcements

The Sanctuary Overlook is available for parents and small children.
Assisted listening devices are available. Please ask an usher if you would care for one.
CD recordings of today's service are available following worship.
Don't forget to validate your parking ticket! The validator is next to the coffee pot.
Please join us in the Community Hall following worship for an ice cream social.

Participating in Worship:

First Church Choir

Worship Notes

Thanks to Today's Guest Preacher, Rev. Jean Alexander

Jean Alexander is a 1971 graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary. She served here at First Congregational UCC as "Assisting Minister" from 1976-84. Jean has also served as the pastor of Bethesda UCC in Bethesda, MD, from 1985-97, as Conference Minister of the Maine Conference UCC, 1997-2005, and as minister of the United Parish of Auburndale in Newton, MA. She is retired and is thoroughly enjoying it. Her first love was music and her undergraduate degree was in music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Ice Cream Social and Opportunity Fair Today following Worship

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

Homecoming Sunday 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 than with an old-fashioned ice cream social during fellowship hour? Ice cream and healthy snacks will be provided. There will also be an **Opportunity Fair** for you to learn more about the myriad of volunteer options available at First Church.

Today’s 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.



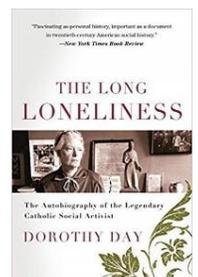
Special Congregational Meeting
After Church Sunday September 15, 2019

Agenda:

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

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.





National Trans Visibility March, September 28

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 28. 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.



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.

Prayer List

Welcome to Beatrice Mae Heming,
daughter of Anisa and Jared Heming

Rev. Mike Durst

Rosa Gutierrez

Pat Ashbrook • Ruth Shinn

Don Bassler

Calendar

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

STOP DEPORTATIONS DANCE PARTY!



Saturday Sept 28th, 7 to 930 pm
All Souls Unitarian, 16th & Harvard

*What Do You Do When Migrants Are Under Attack? **STAND UP & DANCE!***

Dare to sit down as Latinx dance band Ocho de Bastos music pulsates the air. If notes are not enough, let our global appetizers, homemade desserts, wine and home-brewed beer seduce you in.

BE THERE: Saturday, Sept 28th, 7 to 930

BE SQUARE: All Souls Unitarian 16th and Harvard

BEE LINE: Columbia Heights Metro, parking on 16th st nw and surrounding streets, bus lines on 16th street

BE READY: Our tickets are free - give all you can!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stop-deportations-dance-party-fundraiser-tickets-6919574734>

BE A SHARER: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2366438786809763/>

BE INFORMED: Questions? Denise Woods woodsasoc@gmail.com 202 415 9757 text

While our neighbors live in fear let this night show you care! Boogie with abandon and support Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition (CAIR) and Congregational Action Network (CAN):

If donating dollars is not enough for you to do to stop deportations - your food & drink contributions are welcome here: volunteersignup.org/MAA48

Damn the divides - unite the tribes! Let's dance!



Peace and justice for all,

Denise Woods, Lisa Spain and Ellen Daniels

Stop Deportations Planning Circle

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way; here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

African American spiritual

1. I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2. I'm gon-na work so (work so)
3. I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4. I'm gon-na sing so (sing so) } God can use me ____

— an - y - where, Lord, — an - y - time! — (an - y - time!)

I'm gon-na live so (live so)
I'm gon-na work so (work so)
I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
I'm gon-na sing so (sing so) } God can use me ____

— an - y - where, Lord, — an - y - time! — (an - y - time!)
(my Lord,)



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking.

Welcome to First Congregational UCC. We were founded in 1865 by abolitionists as the first racially integrated church in Washington, D.C. In 1867 our mission committee played a prominent role in the founding of Howard University. The church has been located at its present site at 10th and G Streets NW since 1868. In more recent years, the church affirmed its vision as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church (1987), a Just Peace Church (1985), and a Multiracial/Multicultural Church (2003). Our new building, constructed according to Gold LEED standards, was dedicated in 2012.

First Church continues to follow its faith journey into the future, and to be a prophetic voice for the Spirit in the nation's capital. If you would like to know more about First Church or would like to make it your spiritual home and community, please contact churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org or 202.628.4317.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church

Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran

Minister – Rev. Karen Byrne

Director of Music – Mr. John Horman

Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Cindy Dobbs

Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, Dwight Davis

Nursery & Childcare Staff – Luis Murillo, Timur Murillo, Ziyah Holman, Mia Young



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