

March 22-29, 2020 at

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Worshiping Sundays 10:30 AM at 10th & G Streets, NW



Welcome Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss, Designated Senior Minister!



Rev. Amanda officially joined the staff on Tuesday, March 17, and her first Sunday will be **this Sunday, March 22**. We will not gather in person as a congregation, but the service will be live streamed and all are encouraged to participate and be together in a new way. It's vital to stay connected in these days of "distancing." Please see the information below regarding live streaming of the worship service.

We fully anticipate holding both the welcome reception for Amanda and the cluster get-togethers at a later time as the situation becomes safer, so all of our members can participate. We are hoping to come up with some creative, electronic methods for allowing members to get to know Rev. Amanda a little better.

One way you can contribute to our community is by completing a new survey exploring how we can stay connected to one another and to God. [Click here](#) and fill it out, it will take less than ten minutes of your time.

Live Streaming Begins This Sunday!

We are grateful and excited to worship together virtually this Sunday morning at 10:30 as our worship service streams live on YouTube. [Click here](#) to stream the service live or to watch a recording of it afterwards. While you are there, please subscribe to the First UCC DC YouTube channel to stay connected with us in the future. We hope to use YouTube Live so that we can also enjoy a chat function next to the video stream, allowing us to exchange greetings, pass the peace, and access a link to online giving. Join us from your home on any device this Sunday! See you soon.

The church office will email an electronic version of the worship folder so you may follow the service.

Cluster Group Gatherings to meet Pastor Amanda

As we practice social distancing, our cluster group gatherings have moved online and we will meet virtually via zoom video conferencing (call in by phone also available). All are welcome to join one of the three virtual gatherings below to enjoy some face time with Amanda.

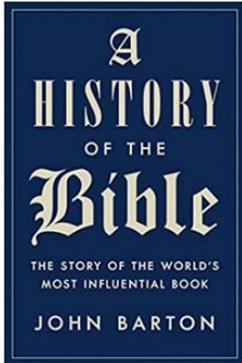
- Saturday, March 28 at 2:00: [Click here](#) to join by Zoom or dial in at (646) 876-9923 (meeting ID: 914 641 967)
- Saturday, March 28 at 5:30: [Click here](#) to join by Zoom or dial in at (646) 876-9923 (meeting ID: 286 701 707)
- Sunday, March 29 at 3:00: [Click here](#) to join by Zoom or dial in at (646) 876-9923 (meeting ID: 129 430 108)

Online Giving

As we walk our Lenten journey and worship virtually, we invite you to give in new ways. Mail your check to the office, give online through our website www.firstuccdc.org or utilize our PayPal app to invest in the work of the church and support our shared mission.

Church Office:

Church staff members are in their office as needed. Rest assured that all emails are being read and voicemail messages are being heard. We encourage you to please keep in touch. Let us know what you need. We will do our best to provide the most up-to-date information that we can. Also, don't forget to check the church website at www.firstuccdc.org for updates.



Theology Reading Group: Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 PM

The Theology Reading Group will next meet on Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 PM. We will be continuing with John Barton, *A History of the Bible*, a well-written account for the general reader critically presenting contemporary scholarship about what the Bible is and how it has been understood over time. This will be the third of four meetings with the book, focusing on the section on the New Testament, pages 215-307. Rather than meeting in person, we will meet remotely by Zoom. Please contact Peter Byrne at byrne@law.georgetown.edu for more information.

Easter Flower Orders

We are still planning to order lilies and a variety of colorful spring flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning. They will be a lovely addition to the sanctuary, whether we are worshipping together or live streaming. There is an order form attached to this newsletter so that you may mail your form and payment to the office. Or send an email to churchoffice@firstuccdc.org.

Please be sure that the office has your order no later than Monday, March 30.



New Church Directories Now Available

The updated church directory has been printed and hard copies are available from the church office. We are also able to email an electronic copy, so please contact the church office at churchoffice@firstuccdc.org if you would like one.

Deadline for April Gabriel's Horn: March 24

Prayer List

Karen Byrne and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Ellen Strupp

Melissa Laws, mother of Malachi Luke

Jeremy Lyon, Diane Brenneman's grandson,
who is active duty military and deployed

Rosa Gutierrez Lopez (in sanctuary at Cedar Lane UU Church)

Pat Ashbrook

Don Bassler • Ruth Shinn

How Are You Coping?



A Walk in the Woods



A Playful Reminder



A Change from the Busy-ness of 10th & G

"It is very surreal watching the news. It's like a reality show in a way. I don't see the virus when I go outside and walk up the street. I don't know anyone who is sick... yet. I don't see anything different. It is almost like getting caught up in a movie or book and then realizing that it is not reality. But it is reality! Sort of like a bad dream that you can't wake up from. It is very unsettling. I am feeling something akin to shock. Is this really happening? Yes, I know it is but there is a big gap between knowing and experiencing. I know I am very lucky because I work from home, have plenty of food, water and support. I am not experiencing the stark reality of this new reality. If anyone out there in my vicinity needs help that I can provide, while remaining safe, I am available to help as best I can. Someone I know on Facebook was offering free yoga online. We can pitch in with what we have to offer to help others get through this. Please try to reach out to friends, neighbors, family. Give them a call, email or post something and let them know you are there. Be generous!"

Nora Marsh



"Fostering a dog while the shelter in my hometown closes. He's a very sweet, out of shape, lazy old guy, who mostly just lays on the floor and eats treats while I telework :) He can hardly walk around the block once without panting! A perfect social distancing partner-in-crime/coworker through the uncertainty of it all. Sending prayers, good vibes, and figurative hugs!"

Olivia Hoynes

"I've been thinking there's no more perfect time of dealing with this crisis than during Lent. I feel like I'm walking that lonesome valley with Jesus... May we be able to rise on Easter!"

Polly Gordon

"I'm four weeks ahead of you – have been social distanced with pneumonia and its' slow recovery since Valentine's Day. I read too fast (book a day is not good) but knitting is great, funny Facebook posts and sleep are very nice, and Insta-cart beats all! Blessings and good health to all!"

Carol Malone



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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
Nursery & Childcare Staff – Timur Murillo, Ziyah Holman, Jordann Edwards, Patrick Darling-LaGamma

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