

March 8-15, 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



Daylight Saving Time Begins This Weekend!

Time to spring forward. Don't forget to set your clocks **ahead** one hour on Saturday night!

Walking the Lonesome Valley: Lenten Nurture Series March 8 and 15 at 12 noon in the Sanctuary

During Lent we follow Jesus during his 40 days wandering alone in the wilderness. After his baptism, Jesus is driven into the desert where he experiences three temptations or considers three alternative paths for his life. He returns from his time alone with a clearer sense of who he is and what he is called to do. We have all had experiences of walking the lonesome valley. What were the experiences or questions that drove you there? Where did you come out or find in yourself as you emerged from your solitary journey? Sharing this Sunday: Susan Saudek, Kristy Goodfellow Mills, Brent Gist.

Outreach & Membership Inquirers' Gathering This Sunday, March 8, at 9:30 AM in the Community Hall

Please join us for a wonderful time of fellowship where you can learn more about the First Church community and the United Church of Christ. Whether it is your first Sunday or you have been with us for a while, we welcome you for conversation, sharing, and fun. Please contact Ann Bushmiller at abushmiller@yahoo.com or Rev. Sam McFerran at mcferran.sam@gmail.com with any questions.



Invest in futures

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing March 8 Second Sunday offering

Through the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we plant seeds of new life.

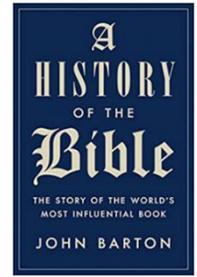
Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives. The three stories below show examples of the offering's impacts on individuals. Please see the March issue of *Gabriel's Horn* for more information.

New Church Directories Now Available

The updated church directory has been printed and hard copies will be available Sunday in the Narthex. Please take one copy per household. If you would like an electronic copy, please contact the church office at churchoffice@firstuccdc.org and one will be emailed to you.

Theology Reading Group: Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 PM

The Theology Reading Group will next meet on Thursday, March 12, 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 second of four meetings with the book, focusing on the section on the New Testament, pages 145 – 211. All are welcome – no need to have come to a prior session.



Morehouse College Glee Club Free Concert on Friday, March 20 at Noon

The Morehouse College Glee Club, one of the longest-standing, all-male collegiate choral groups, will perform a free concert of repertoire ranging from African-American heritage compositions to arrangements of modern popular music. For over 40 years, this exceptional choral group has been performing at the MLK Jr. Memorial Library, inviting Morehouse alumni and the Washington, D.C. community at large to attend. During the MLK Library modernization, this annual concert takes place at First Church. Be sure to arrive early on Friday, March 20, for an enjoyable afternoon of musical excellence. The event is **free** and open to the public, and seating is first-come, first-served.

First Church Joins Effort to Pay Off Medical Debt

First Church is joining congregations in DC, Maryland, and Virginia to pay off the medical debt of people who have high medical debt, are living below the poverty level and live in communities served by our churches. DMV congregations have set a goal of collectively raising \$25,000. For each dollar raised, we will erase \$100 of medical debt. Raising \$25,000 would eliminate \$2,500,000 of medical debt! **First Church's fundraising goal is \$2,000.** The campaign to raise funds begins now and will continue through April. We have dedicated the **Second Sunday Offering on Easter, April 12**, to this important cause. If you plan to give in church please write "RIP Medical Debt" on checks made out to First Congregational UCC. There are several other ways you can give and also help raise awareness about this effort.

How to help:

- Website: www.congregationsagainstmedicaldebt.org
- Online direct donation link: <http://bit.ly/DMVDebtDonate>. When making a donation please use the "Medical Debt Buyout Project" line item. Westmoreland UCC is serving as the holding place for all funds raised during March and April and all proceeds go directly to RIP Medical Debt, the non-profit which purchases the debt.
- Social Media Hash tag: DMVMedDebt on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Please send these links and information about how to donate to your friends and family so they can learn about the effort and donate.

Sam is keeping track of First Church donations so if you make an online donation please let Sam know by emailing him at mcferran.sam@gmail.com

Coffee Hour Hosts

Nan McConnell	Nick McConnell	David Greer
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Sound

Nick McConnell		Jean Alexander	Marian Drake
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Ushers

Deadline for April Gabriel's Horn: March 24

Prayer List

Karen Byrne's mother, Mary Ellen Strupp, and her family
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

Calendar

Sunday, March 8

9:15 am Bible Workbench
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
9:30 am Inquirers' Gathering, *Comm. Hall*
10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Dwight Davis preaching
11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*
12:00 pm Care of Parish Comm., *Chapel*
12:00 pm Adult Lenten Nurture, *Comm. Hall*

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

5:30 pm Worship Comm., *Pastor's Office*

Wednesday, March 11

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*
6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Thursday, March 12

5:30 pm Worship Comm., *Pastor's Office*
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, March 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. Sam McFerran preaching
11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*
12:00 pm Adult Lenten Nurture, *Comm. Hall*



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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
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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