

September 20-27, 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 at 10:30 AM via Zoom



Worship with Us: Faith & Democracy Sunday

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom this Faith & Democracy Sunday at 10:30 AM as we lift up voter empowerment and issues on the ballot in 2020. The Rev. Jason Carson Wilson will offer our Call to Worship, we will enjoy a Moment for Mission short film from the

Rev. Matthew Braddock of Christ Congregational UCC as he reflects on immigration reform, and our special music will come from the duo Abigail Cipparone and Michael Hopkins. Rev. Amanda will preach on "Lessons from the Wilderness," a reflection on God's provision of manna following the exodus out of Egypt. The Call to Worship, Moment for Mission, and Benediction resources come to us from the Central Atlantic Conference's Faith & Democracy 2020 campaign.

Following worship, please join us for a Faith & Democracy nurture that will touch on voter empowerment, getting out the vote, and a conversation about how our congregation might respond to the election results.

Faith & Democracy Nurture: This Sunday

Please join Diane Brenneman, Meg Maguire, Gail Sonneman, Rev. Jason Carson Wilson, and Rev. Amanda for a nurture educational conversation on Faith & Democracy 2020. We will delve into getting out the vote, voter empowerment, how you can take action, and how our congregation might respond to election results. This nurture will take place directly following worship on Sunday. We hope to see you there!

Installation of the Rev. Kaeley McEvoy: This Sunday at 4:00 PM

We celebrate with the Rev. Kaeley McEvoy as she is formally installed as the Associate Pastor at Westmoreland Congregational UCC on Sunday afternoon at 4:00. To join the virtual service, in partnership with the Potomac Association, visit www.westmorelanducc.org for Zoom login information. We are grateful that the Rev. Karen Byrne will read scripture as a worship leader for this service!

Central Atlantic Conference Virtual Annual Meeting

The Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC will be meeting virtually for worship, fellowship, formation, and business the week of September 21-26. The First Church delegation includes: Rev. Karen Byrne, Kim Darling, Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss, Rev. Laura Johnson, Rev. Ron Hopson, and Rev. Jason Carson Wilson. Sessions include Faith & Democracy, racial justice, and pandemic church life in a panel facilitated by Rev. Audrey Price, including Rev. Amanda. If you would like to join the delegation or participate in any way, please contact Rev. Amanda at ahendlervoss@gmail.com. We would value growing our delegation to include young adults and lay leaders. Look out for a report from the annual meeting in the next Gabriel's Horn.



OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE 2020

Six (6) Sundays left to November 3!

Now is the time to get your vote on! Are you ready?

What's your plan? You must be able to answer these questions if you live in the District/Maryland/Virginia:



- Are you registered to vote? No? Register to vote by October 13.
- Will you vote by mail? If you are registered to vote:
 - DC is automatically sending you a ballot the first week of October
 - MD is automatically sending you a request for a ballot to fill out and return
 - You must request an absentee ballot in VA by 10/23/20

Will you vote early?

Will you vote in person?

- Where will you vote?

IMPORTANT DATES:

- September 18: Early voting begins in Virginia
- October 26: Early voting begins in Maryland
- October 27: Early voting begins in DC

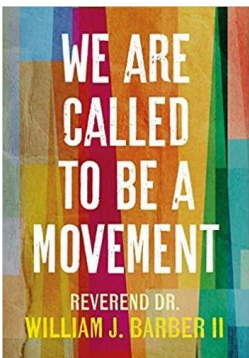
Don't let these dates slip under the radar. Make your plan today!

Official websites for DMV voting questions:

WWW.DCBOE.ORG

WWW.ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV

WWW.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV



Theology Book Group: Wednesday, October 7

The Theology Book Group meets next on Wednesday, October 7 to discuss an important sermon by Rev. William Barber II, *The Call to Movement*. This short but powerful call to Christian action on behalf of the poor provides a good warm-up for the election. You can read the book and/or view the sermon itself, delivered at Washington National Cathedral in 2018 <https://cathedral.org/sermons/sermon-the-rev-dr-william-j-barber-ii/>. The link to the discussion is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/2023655260>. All are welcome.



White Privilege: Let's Talk Discussion Series

Six Wednesdays: October 14, 20, 28, November 4, 11, 18
7:00-8:30 PM on Zoom

Following on the success of the previous *White Privilege: Let's Talk* discussion series, we are offering another, co-led by Karen

Byrne and Laura Johnson. These conversations are intended to help white people deepen their conceptual and interpretive tools for identifying the many ways whiteness is valued and rewarded at the expense of people of color.

Our focus is personal experience; we are neither a book group, nor a task force. Participants are supported as they explore deeply and honestly their own feelings about race within a safe, supportive, and mutually accountable environment. As with the earlier series, these conversations are part of First Church's commitment to anti-racism. We will use (with creative modifications) the UCC curriculum, "White Privilege: Let's Talk"; <http://privilege.uccpages.org/>.

Participants are asked to commit to attending all six sessions, with the understanding that life situations happen, and grace abounds. We are planning another series in the coming months, so if you are unable to join us this time, there will be another opportunity. Please email Karen or Laura if you would like to participate or want more information. We also encourage you to speak with any of the people who have participated in the White Privilege: Let's Talk discussions held in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Rev. Laura Johnson, johnson.laurad@gmail.com, 860-508-3592

Rev. Karen Byrne, revkarenbyrne@gmail.com, 202-365-0017

Connect with Rev. Amanda This Fall

[Click here](#) to sign up to connect with Rev. Amanda this fall by phone, Zoom, or (on Friday mornings only) at the church (please note that physical distancing will be observed and masks will be worn by all). If none of these dates work for you but you would still like to connect, there is a space at the bottom of the sign-up sheet to indicate that and Rev. Amanda will be in touch with you to find a time that works. These one-hour meetings may include pastoral care, a time to better get to know each other, and an opportunity to catch up and share from the heart.

Help Us Lead Worship This Fall

As we move to streaming from the sanctuary beginning this Sunday, there are three ways you can serve as a liturgist or scripture reader this fall: submit a pre-recorded video of yourself, participate by Zoom from home, or join the small crew streaming live from the sanctuary while following our guidelines for safety. [Click here](#) to sign up to serve as a liturgist or scripture reader this fall. We are so grateful for your voice!

Staff Vacation Schedule

- Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss – Friday, October 3
- John Horman – September 23-25
- Cindy Dobbs – October 6-9

Prayer List

Dwan Reece and Peter Parsons, as Peter recovers from brain surgery.
Peter Smolinsky Withbroe, son of Nancy Withbroe and Paul Smolinsky,
who leaves for Marine bootcamp later this month.

Paul Bushmiller, recovering from surgery.

John and Nora Marsh, as they care for their Aunt Louise and Uncle Bill,
transitioning them to a nursing home.

Garnell Yarbrough, for healing from illness

Immigrants in the Farmville ICE Detention Center, upon the police violently disrupting their
peaceful protest, and the outbreak of Covid

The Latinx and immigrant communities who are suffering and for the Congregational Action
Network seeking to support and resource the congregations that serve them.

People's UCC, our sibling congregation

Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses

Rev. Laura Johnson, who serves as a hospital chaplain

Hospital employees and first responders

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

Pat Ashbrook • Don Bassler



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

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