

October 11-18, 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 This Sunday

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom this Sunday morning at 10:30 as we continue our fall worship theme, "Wonder & Gratitude." Susan Saudek will offer a personal call to worship, Rev. Sam will share a time with our children, and Rev. Amanda will preach a sermon entitled, "Whatever is True" on the spiritual practices for resilience found in Philippians 4:1-9. Join us!



October 11 Second Sunday Offering: UCC Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives,

advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

A portion of the monies collected are used to fund [NIN grants](#). Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please give generously and see the October issue of *Gabriel's Horn* for more information.

RSVP: Sacred Conversations to End Racism: October 11 or 14

Join Rev. Amanda and Rev. Kris Watson, both part of the first cohort of trained and vetted Sacred Conversations facilitators in the UCC, for a congregation-wide discussion on the docuseries "Race: The Power of an Illusion" (episodes 1 & 2). Please RSVP to Rev. Amanda at ahendlervoss@gmail.com for either the Sunday, October 11 session from 11:35 AM-1:05 PM or the Wednesday, October 14 session from 6:30-8:00 PM. Both sessions will cover the same ground, but we need to know if the October 14 session is needed or if everyone plans to attend on October 11. In preparation for the conversations, please watch [episode 1](#) and [episode 2](#) of "Race: The Power of an Illusion."



White Privilege: Let's Talk Discussion Series

Six Wednesdays: October 14, 21, 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

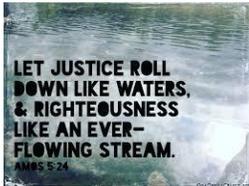
conceptual and interpretive tools for identifying the many ways whiteness is valued and rewarded at the expense of people of color.

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



The Prophets for Perilous Times

Four lessons: October 18, 25; November 8, 15
11:40 am– 12:40 or 1:00 pm

Join the Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson as we engage the current crises of COVID-19 and racism in light of some of the prophets of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Our primary resource will be the Bible. Additional resources from Biblical scholarship as well as contemporary writing on social justice also will be utilized. The purpose of this course is to inform and empower participants to advance the cause of health, safety, justice and equality for all persons and particularly for persons of traditionally marginalized and stigmatized groups.

We will invite consideration of short texts from the prophets in light of the current social and political realities in our country. Dr. Hopson will offer informed interpretation of the scriptures and suggest possibilities for application of the insights gained from the study discussion, to our individual lives and to the public square. Join us!



OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE 2020

Four (4) Sundays Left until November 3.
LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!!!

- 9/18: VA started early in person voting
- 10/1: DC Sent absentee ballots to all registered
- 10/26: MD starts early in person voting
- 10/27: DC starts early in person voting



STEP ONE:

- **Are you registered to vote?** Don't know? [Click here](#) to find out. Register to vote by October 13.

STEP TWO:

- Will you vote by mail? If you are already registered to vote:
 - DC automatically sent you a ballot the first week of October
 - MD automatically sent you a request for a ballot to fill out and return by 10/20
 - You must request an absentee ballot in VA by October 23

Carefully complete your ballot as soon as you receive it. Some require your signature on an outer mailing envelope AND an inner ballot envelope. Follow the instructions in order to ensure the election board to counts your ballot! All three jurisdictions are providing postage free return envelopes.

Put your ballot in the regular mail OR in an election dropbox near you that each jurisdiction provides for this election. Go to your jurisdiction's official website or call to find the location of a dropbox near you.

STEP THREE:

- Already registered and ready to vote in-person? Where will you vote? Some polling places have changed locations due to the corona virus in order to provide appropriate social distancing for in-person voters. Check your jurisdiction's website to get the correct list of your polling places.

Questions? Concerns? Confusion? Contact Diane Brenneman at dmbrenneman46@aol.com.

Official websites and phone numbers for DMV voting questions:

WWW.DCBOE.ORG (202)727-2525

WWW.ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV (800)222-8683

WWW.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV (800)552-9745

Help Us Lead Worship This Fall

We have transitioned to streaming from the sanctuary and 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!

Prayer List

The family of Breonna Taylor, the city of Louisville, and all our Black siblings

The family of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The 2020 Presidential Election, already underway,

for a safe, free, and fair election in which every vote is counted.

Dwan Reece and Peter Parsons, as Peter returns home after brain surgery

Peter Smolinsky Withbroe, son of Nancy and Paul, away at Marine bootcamp

John and Nora Marsh, as they care for their Aunt Louise and Uncle Bill,

transitioning them to a nursing home.

Garnell Yarbrough, for continued healing

Immigrants in the Farmville ICE Detention Center

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



**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

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