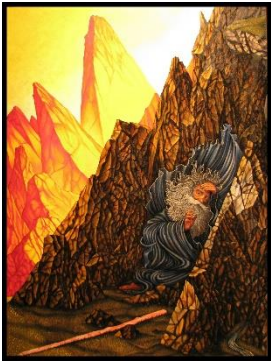


October 18-25, 2020 at

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 Stewardship Sunday at 10:30 AM as we welcome new members and continue our fall worship theme, "Wonder & Gratitude." Peter Tracey will offer a personal call to worship, we will welcome new members David Lindsey and Lindsay Swisher (please take the time to read their brief biographies in the worship folder), and Rev. Amanda will preach about giving through the story of Moses beholding God's glory from a cleft in the rock. We will also enjoy an anthem from the First Church Choir. Join us!

Following worship we invite you to stay for our Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one another.

Stewardship Season is Here: Wonder & Gratitude

Sunday, October 18 marks the launch of our 2020 Stewardship Season as we explore the theme "Wonder & Gratitude." Join us on Sunday as Rev. Amanda preaches about why we give and look out for a deeply felt stewardship letter written by Treasurer David Greer which should arrive in your mailbox next week with a pledge card. Throughout this season we will have the opportunity to hear from beloved members of our community as they share stories of gratitude related to the mission and ministries of our church. Never before have we been so mindful of the simple gift of being in community and worshiping God together. Let us renew our commitment to the community and mission of First Church by making thoughtful pledges for 2021; we ask that you submit a pledge card or email your pledge to Assistant Treasurer Lucille Dickinson at lucilledickinson@aol.com by November 22, our Commitment Sunday. Thank you for your generosity in these challenging times.

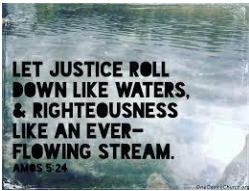


Outdoor Fun for First Church Kids!

Saturday, October 17, 10 AM–12 PM, Anacostia Park
1900 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, D.C. 20020

This Saturday, First Church children and youth will gather at Anacostia Park for an awesome opportunity for safe, in-person fellowship along the Anacostia River! While we have loved seeing one another on Zoom during the pandemic, we have missed each other. Please come for games, sports, smiles and fun.

We ask each family to provide their own masks, snacks, and water. We are so excited for this opportunity to come together. Please contact Rev. Sam if you have any questions at mcferran.sam@gmail.com or 202-294-5437.



The Prophets for Perilous Times

Four lessons:

October 18, 25; November 8, 15, 2020

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. [Click here](#) to join the class (please note the link is separate from our worship Zoom call so that those who wish to remain in Zoom coffee hour can continue to visit).



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

Rev. Amanda as Special Guest for Kids' Sunday School: October 25

Please be sure to have your child join Rev. Sam for Sunday School at 9:30 AM on Sunday, October 25th as we welcome special guest Rev. Amanda. This will be a time for Rev. Amanda to talk with our children, hear from them, and join in the important conversations we have about Bible stories and spiritual growth. [Click here](#) on Sunday, October 25 at 9:30 to join us!



October 25 Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Boyd

On October 25 we look forward to welcoming the Rev. Dr. Carolyn L. Boyd as our guest preacher. She is an author, facilitator, speaker, spiritual advisor, social justice activist, radio talk show host and social commentator. She consults to corporations, non-profit organizations, international NGO's, faith-based institutions, and community-led groups. Rev. Boyd is a practitioner of meditation and contemplative prayer. She is a certified Spiritual Director, or as she is fond of saying, "Soul Coach." She leans on her skills of holy listening and silence with her clients to reveal God's revelatory movement in their lives. She specializes in deep-seated heart wounds, intergenerational trauma, and long-standing barriers to growth and advancement. Rev. Boyd is the President of Church Women United DC Unit. As a long-time activist, she has traveled frequently to the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, working on HIV/AIDS, gender equality, Israeli-Palestine Conflict, water security. At home, she continues to engage in social justice initiatives on a host of fronts: racism, oppressive public policies, climate change, health and economic disparities, and white supremacy. In her public ministry, she teaches, preaches, volunteers, and serves throughout the DMV. She is married to Dennis Clark and resides in Alexandria, Virginia.



First Church (virtual) Game Night

Saturday, November 7 from 7-8 PM

Please join Care of Parish via Zoom ([Click here](#)) for a virtual game night. We will start with a scavenger hunt, where you will have a set time to find things around your house that meet certain categories (e.g., something written in a foreign language, something 100 years old or older). After that, we will play a few rounds of Scattergories, where you will fill out lists with categories (e.g., actors, colors, things at a zoo) that start with a certain letter. No RSVP needed. These activities will likely be most fun for those ages 5 and up, but all are welcome!



OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE 2020

Three (3) Sundays Left until November 3.

VA started early in person voting September 18!

MD starts early in person voting October 26.

DC starts early in person voting October 27.



STEP ONE:

- **Are you registered to vote?** Don't know? Call or go online with your local Board of Elections to find out. Registration online, by email or mail is now CLOSED. BUT DC and MD allow same day registration at in person voting sites.

STEP TWO:

- Will you vote by mail? If you are already registered to vote:
 - o DC automatically sent you a ballot the first week of October
 - o MD automatically sent you a request for a ballot to fill out and return no later than October 20.
 - o You must request an absentee ballot in VA by October 23

Carefully complete your ballot as soon as you receive it. Some ballots require your signature on an outer mailing envelope AND an inner ballot envelope. Follow the instructions. Failure to do so may require the election board to not count 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 of the three jurisdictions are providing 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 of the familiar 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.

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

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

Call the ACLU Election Protection Hotline if you have any problems voting:

English: 1-866-687-8683 Spanish: 1-888-839-8682 Arabic: 1-844-925-5287

Theology Reading Group: Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 PM

The Theology Reading Group will next meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 PM to discuss C. Wess Daniels, *Resisting Empire: The Book of Revelation*. Daniels is a Quaker theologian, who argues that *Revelation* is not about predicting end times but "has everything to do with how small, minoritized communities of faith survive the onslaught of empire. It gives them tools for how to survive in a world where everything around them is completely off-center and seeks to create an alternative moral imagination for those who wish to resist empire." The meeting link is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97826421544>. For those planning ahead, the December book will be Barbara Brown Taylor, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*.



Prayer List

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 bootcamp

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

Garnell Yarbrough, for continued healing

Immigrants in the Farmville ICE Detention Center

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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