

October 25-November 1, 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.

Worshipping Sundays at 10:30 AM via Zoom



Worship with Us This Sunday

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom this Sunday at 10:30 AM as we welcome guest preacher, the Rev. Carolyn Boyd. We will continue our fall worship theme, "Wonder & Gratitude," and hear an inspired stewardship moment from Meg Maguire. LaTanya Purnell wrote and will speak our Call to Worship all the way from Houston, Heather Goetsch will lead a meditative Centering Time, and Laura Johnson will read our scripture text from the gospel of Matthew focused on the two greatest commandments. Join us!

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

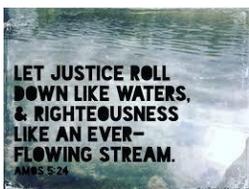


October 25 Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Boyd

This Sunday 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." 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. In her public ministry, she teaches, preaches, volunteers, and serves throughout the DMV. She is married to Dennis Clark and resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

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 25 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!



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. 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).

Advent Resource

Care of Parish will be providing an Advent resource to fold and place as a devotional table tent on your kitchen or dining table. Table tents for each week of Advent and Christmas Eve feature a themed devotional, scripture reading, reflection, suggested practices, and a prayer. Our theme this year as we are distanced and worshiping from home is "Hygge: The Art of Comfort & Coziness." Hygge (pronounced "hoo-ga") is a Danish concept in which darkness serves as a beautiful and necessary companion to light. This resource will be mailed to your home unless you opt out. If you prefer to receive a pdf and print the resource yourself (note it must print on 11 X 17), please email Cindy at churchoffice@firstuccdc.org by November 3.

Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 1, 2020

Immediately after church via Zoom

We have several items on the agenda for our Fall Meeting including an update on our finances and a new social action advocacy policy. Look for an email a few days before with all of the attachments. Our agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and Moderator's Report
 - a. Modified 2020 Nominations Report (handout and vote)
 - b. Updated CE Charter (handout and vote)
2. Social Action Advocacy Policy – John Smeltzer
 - a. Handout and vote
3. Designated Senior Minister's Report
4. Associate Minister's Report
5. Treasurer's Report – David Greer
 - a. Budget vs. Actuals (handout)
 - b. Balance Sheet (handout)
 - c. Investment Report (handout)
6. Budget Committee Report – Lucille Dickinson
 - a. 2021 Asking Budget (handouts)

Stewardship Season is Here: Wonder & Gratitude

Sunday, October 18 marked the launch of our 2020 Stewardship Season as we explore the theme "Wonder & Gratitude." 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 worshipping 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. [Click here](#) to access the online pledge card.

A Faithful Response to the Election

Please stay tuned for updates as some actions will take place in response to the outcome of the election.

- Pre-Election Prayer Vigil: A prayer vigil hosted by the Central Atlantic Conference is scheduled to take place on Monday, November 2 at 5:00 PM. Please stay tuned for a link to join this vigil.
- Election Day Concert: Hosted by the Director of The Center for Congregational Song, this 12-hour broadcast on Facebook live will feature songs and hymns to help us pray together, sing together, and be a non-anxious presence on election day. Special guests, interviews, and lots of great music will be shared. Tune in when you need a break from the news, letting your Spirit rest and recharge. Special guests include Paul Vasile, The Many, and more. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- Post-Election Prayer Vigil: Join First Church for a time of sharing and prayer on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 PM by Zoom. Please note that this event will be postponed in the event that there is a call to action on street corners and at Lafayette Square. Stay tuned.
- Protect the Results Call to Action: [Click here](#) to sign up to receive updates on this nation-wide call to action to protect the results of our elections. If election results are undermined, the Protect the Results Coalition will activate nationwide mobilizations to demand that all votes are counted. In the District, this mobilization will tentatively take place on Wednesday, November 4 at 5:00 PM in Lafayette Square. Please note you can also take part by mobilizing in your own neighborhood.



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!



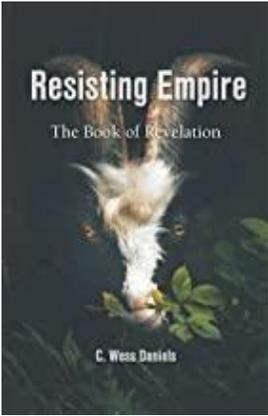
White Privilege: Let's Talk Discussion Series

Six Wednesdays: October 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18
7:00-8:30 PM on Zoom

Following the success of the previous White Privilege: Let's Talk discussion series, Karen Byrne and Laura Johnson are currently co-leading another group. 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. These conversations are part of First Church's Comprehensive Plan to Dismantle Racism and utilize the UCC curriculum, "White Privilege: Let's Talk". While this group is now closed, we are planning another series in the coming months, so if you are interested please email Karen or Laura for more information.

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

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



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*.

Advent Olive Oil Sales

Advance notice on sales during Advent to support the Olive Oil Ministry and Palestinian charities and organizations: Look for details in the November Horn about the sale of olive oil and other Palestinian products during advent. The selling prices will again be \$20 per bottle and \$30 for the one-liter tins. There will be Jenin, Nabali, and Rumi olive oil in bottles and the one-liter Jenin tins in stock. If there is demand, the \$6 olive oil-based soap, tapenade, and zaatar will be available (but not the \$5 soap from Zabadeh or the Palestinian cookbooks).

Prayer List

Karen Tramontano and Sally Painter on the death of Sally's father
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.
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 as she leaves sanctuary and begins a new chapter
Pat Ashbrook • Don Bassler



OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE 2020

TWO (2) 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 early voting sites.

STEP TWO:

- **Are you voting by mail?** The deadlines have passed to request a mail ballot. If you did not request or receive a mail-in ballot, you must vote in person.
- If you did receive a mail-in ballot, carefully complete your ballot. 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 so that it is postmarked no later than November 3, 2020. OR you may place it 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. If you change your mind and want to vote in person, bring your absentee ballot in to your polling place and give it to the election officials so they may destroy it and allow you to vote provisionally.

STEP THREE:

- Are you ready to vote in-person? Where and when 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 for early voting and November 3 voting.

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



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

945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001
Phone: 202.628.4317 • www.firstuccdc.org