

January 17-24, 2021 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 as we mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday and reflect on the theme "From Chaos to Community." Our youth, led by Rev. Sam, will share readings from Dr. King along with their own reflections. We will hear the testimonies of two members of our Anti-Racism Task Force, the Rev. Jason Carson Wilson and Janneke Ratcliffe, and Rev. Amanda will introduce the Racial Justice Audit we plan to undergo in 2021. We will close the service with James Weldon Johnson's Lift Every Voice and Sing, long considered "The Black National Anthem" and sung around the nation this weekend.

Following worship we invite you to stay on the call for a nurture about bearing witness during these difficult times. We will hear from Peter Tracey and Shawntia Humpries, Sandy Sorenson, and the Rev. David Lindsey about their experiences on January 6 and how their faith is helping them meet this moment. You don't want to miss it.



From Chaos to Community: Bearing Witness to a Mob Insurrection

11:35 AM, Sunday, January 17, 2021

On January 6, 2021, our city of Washington experienced a mob insurrection in the Capitol Building. The mob spread hatred, including symbols of racism, anti-Semitism, and white supremacy. Their violence led to the deaths of five people, as well as injuring others and spreading COVID to vulnerable people.

As a community of faith, we are still traumatized by this assault on our country. It was an attack upon our values, our sense of peace and security. It was also an attack on our home. The Capitol is located in a residential neighborhood in the city, where over 1/3 of our congregation's families reside.

We wanted to provide a time to process our feelings, to heal, and to come together, by offering a nurture where we can discern ways to support one another and boldly live out our faith. So we've invited members of our community to share how they served as a witness on January 6, 2021: A witness for justice, a witness for beloved community, a witness for caring for and protecting our siblings, a witness against racism and white supremacy. We are grateful to all of them for agreeing to share during such a difficult time.

Participants include:

Peter Tracey and Shawntia Humphreys, aka #GuyOnPorch and #WomanInCar – [Here](#), is an article in the Washington Post about Mr. Tracey's incredible anger at the insurrection, and about the bonds he created with Ms. Humphreys, who observed his yelling from her car.

Sandy Sorenson, Director of Witness and Justice Ministries for the United Church of Christ – Ms. Sorenson was on the National Mall to document the truth of what was happening at the hands of the insurrectionists.

Rev. David Lindsey, Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington
As a Christian leader of an interfaith organization, Rev. Lindsey will share his grief upon seeing symbols of the Christian faith at the insurrection, and articulate a way to share our Gospel of love, justice, and healing and to create healing and trust across faiths.

If you have any questions, please email Rev. Sam at mcferran.sam@gmail.com or 202-294-5437.



Save the Date: Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday January 24, 2021, after Worship via Zoom

Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes from Fall Congregational Meeting
- Moderator's Report
 - Approval of Annual Report
 - Approval of Nominations for 2021
 - Discuss Anti-Racism Audit Plan
- Designated Senior Minister's Report
- Treasurer's Report and 2021 Budget
- Transition to new Council and Commissions
- Closing and breakout commission rooms to determine first meeting date and council rep

Connect with Rev. Amanda this Winter

[Click here](#) to schedule a time to connect with Rev. Amanda on a one-to-one basis by Zoom or phone this winter. This is an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to continue getting to know Rev. Amanda, sharing in a time of conversation and, if desired, pastoral support and prayer for these times. She would love to connect with you.



Theology Book Group: January 26 at 6:00 PM

The Theology Book Group will meet again on January 26 at 6:00 PM to discuss Walter Brueggemann, *Sabbath as Resistance*. The highly regarded UCC theologian argues that "Sabbath is about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society." The Zoom link is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97841224122>. All are welcome.



First Church (virtual) Trivia, Saturday, January 30 at 7-8:30 PM
[Click here](#) to join Care of Parish for a virtual trivia night. Trivia questions will include general questions, in addition to specific questions about the Bible and First Church. Participants will compete as individuals or as a family unit. All are welcome to participate, although this event is primarily intended for adults. No RSVP needed. Please send any questions to Kristy Goodfellow Mills at kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com or 563.580.5558.

Monday Night Meals to Go

We are grateful to renew our partnership with Sasha Bruce Youthwork as together we seek to feed those who may be hungry or living on the streets this season. To-go meals will be distributed outdoors along with PPE and resource cards on Monday evenings in front of the church. Trained volunteers are needed; please complete the doodle poll sent out by Janneke Ratcliffe to sign up if you have previously volunteered at the Drop-in Center. We give thanks for the opportunity to help make food and resource distribution possible in this season.

Breakaway Meditation: Wednesday at 12:15

Join us by Zoom on Wednesday from 12:15- 12:45 for our weekly breakaway meditation. Together we enjoy a time of grounding our bodies, listening to a selected reading, quieting the mind, and entering into a time of silent meditation with one another. All are welcome to attend!

COVID Vaccine Information

Hey DC seniors 65 or older and health care workers: the DC Moderna COVID vaccine rollout has begun smoothly. All eligible will be served whether you have health insurance or not.

Find the latest information at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc> or 855-363-0333.

1) Get an appointment.

- Sign up online at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc> or by phone at 855-363-0333
- Check Friday AM for available appointments; the call line opens at 8 AM.
- Check across the 30 sites for an opening
- If you have Kaiser insurance, set up your appointment through Kaiser.

2) Day of your appointment Hydrate! Bring ID, and health insurance card/ Medicare ID if you have insurance

3) Your second appointment will be 4 weeks later. Plan ahead that you may be sick for a day or two after the second shot.

4) Need help? Call Gail Sonnemann (202-286-0845), Nan McConnell (202-841-7970) or Nick McConnell (202-841-7972).

5) When you figure out the appointment process, help a friend or neighbor set up their appointment online or by phone.

As a result of all that's happening near our building, please know that all worship leaders, including staff, will Zoom from home this Sunday. Additionally, the building is closed and will remain closed through the whole of next week, with staff members working remotely

Prayer List

Prayers of healing for the family of Priscilla Waters, following the sudden death of her grand-niece Bryana, especially for Bryana's children.

All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the coronavirus vaccine.

Families struggling to eat and make ends meet this holiday season.

Prayers for the safe and successful transition of the incoming Biden administration.

Dwan Reece and Peter Parsons

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 and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.

Hospital employees and first responders

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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