

June 13-20, 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 join us this Sunday by Zoom at 10:30 AM as we celebrate the baptism of Jesse Thayer and continue our summer worship theme, "Wade in the Water." Rev. Lorain Giles will offer the call to worship, and we will share in the joy of welcoming Jesse into our family of faith. Susan Goodman will serve as our scripture reader with a focus text from the opening chapter of Genesis and Rev. Amanda will preach. The choir will sing an anthem, "Hear My Prayer," and Rev. Amanda will lead prayers of the people and invite us to speak the prayer of St. Francis. Join us!

Following worship, please join us for Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one another.



Second Sunday Offering This Sunday: Shaw Community Center

This month's Second Sunday Offering is Shaw Community Center or SCC. Dale Ostrander and Meg Maguire are the First Church caring ambassadors to Shaw. They both volunteer as after-school tutors and help with the Christmas gift drive. Dale is also on the Board of Trustees. They were kind enough to share this information. SCC has services available to all age groups and has been a positive impact for 30 years.

Recognizing the critical need in the Shaw neighborhood for educational and social services to benefit low-income residents, leaders of Lincoln Temple and Westmoreland UCC churches founded Shaw Community Ministry in 1991 with support from the Potomac Association.

While First Church supports Shaw through our June Second Sunday Offering, and while the organization has been successful in receiving grants, the Center needs many additional gifts and talents:

- Donors to help expand day-to-day operations and address the serious structural problems with the building the Center must now manage;
- Donors to the scholarship fund; and
- Volunteers who can help students with their homework during the school year or activities during the summer.

Your contribution will directly enrich the lives of children in our city who live on the margins. Please give generously. For more information, please see the June issue of [Gabriel's Horn](#).



Guest Preacher for Pride Sunday, June 20:

LaTayna Purnell, Member in Discernment

LaTayna Purnell lives in Houston, Texas with her wife and two sons. Before moving to Houston six years ago, they called Massachusetts home. After over 25 years of working in education and nonprofits, LaTayna is following the call to ministry. She earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership Policy studies with concentrations in Gender Studies and African American Studies. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Divinity with United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. LaTayna is passionate about addressing racial injustice and systemic racism, and subsequently serves on FCUCC’s Anti-Racism Task Force. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, is an avid baseball fan, and fitness enthusiast.

Racial Justice Audit Survey Closes June 30, 2021

Please take the time to complete the congregational survey for our ongoing racial justice audit. Your participation is vital for providing the feedback we need to examine our programs and to live into our commitment to becoming an anti-racist church. Click [here](#) to open the survey link. The survey closes on June 30, 2021.



Phase 3 Schedule (for Limited In-Person Worship)

We begin “Phase 3” of our Regathering Plan this Sunday, June 13, 2021. During Phase 3, small groups (up to 25 persons) will be invited to attend worship in person to test our protocols and to begin the process of returning to regular worship at 10th and G. Members of the following groups (and family unless noted otherwise) are invited to attend on the designated Sundays. The Regathering Task Force may invite additional persons during Phase 3 on an ad hoc basis. Questions? Contact Kim Darling (kdarling@gmail.com), chair of the Regathering Task Force, or Moderator John Smeltzer (john.smeltzer@gmail.com). For a copy of the regathering plan, click [here](#). For a copy of regathering FAQs, click [here](#).

| Phase 3 Schedule | |
|------------------|--|
| June 13 | Church Council |
| June 20 | Worship Commission |
| June 27 | Choir (members only) |
| July 4 | TBD |
| July 11 | Outreach & Membership Commission |
| July 18 | Care of Parish & Facilities Commissions |
| July 25 | Social Action Commission & Sanctuary Group |
| Aug. .1 | Finance & CE Commissions |
| Aug. 8 | Anti-Racism Task Force |
| Aug. 15 | Young Adults |
| Aug. 22 | TBD |
| Aug. 29 | TBD |



All-Church Summer Book Read: *See No Stranger* by Valerie Kaur

This year's selection is *See No Stranger* by Valerie Kaur. Valerie is a Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer. In this memoir/manifesto, Valerie shares her personal experiences confronting racism, sexual assault, and police violence and her vision for a revolutionary love that can transform and heal our personal relationships, our communities, and nation.

Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family of Pat Ashbrook following her death.

Prayers of gratitude and grace as we celebrate the music ministry of John Horman and bless his retirement.

Prayers of joy as we celebrate Gay Pride

Prayers of healing for Dwan Reece's daughter, Maya, with long haul COVID

Prayers of comfort for the family of Suzanne Snyder, following her death.

Prayers of comfort for Grace Bassler following Don's death.

Byron Adams' niece, Valerie, undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Prayers of hope for our Racial Justice Audit yearlong process.

All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.

Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.

Garnell Yarbrough, for continued healing

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.



**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 –Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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