



Photograph by Quang Nguyen Vinh

July 18, 2021
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 G Street NW, Washington, DC

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please prepare your heart and space for worship.)

OPENING CHIMES

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude

William H. Hariss

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

(see page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Karen Byrne

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Sam McFerran

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Sam McFerran

*(Please unmute yourself and greet those around you with words such as "The peace of God be with you."
Let us bless one another with deep peace across time and space.)*

CENTERING MOMENT

Meditation

Michael Gore

SCRIPTURE READING

Garnell Yarbrough

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

SERMON

Felicia Zamora, M.Div.

MUSICAL SELECTION

Sarabanda

Guiseppe Tartini

Hannah Long-Higgins, cello
Dennis Turner, piano

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

As we worship virtually, we invite you to give in new ways. Send your check to the office, [give online](#) through our website at www.firstuccdc.org, which includes options to give through PayPal or Vanco. Consider signing up for auto-giving in this time of physical distancing.

DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfruen

Praise God from whom all bless- ings flow. Praise God all crea- tures here be -
 4 low. Al- le - lu - ia! Al- le - lu - ia! Praise God for all that love has done; Cre -
 9 a - tor, Christ and Spir - it, One. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 13 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER, PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
 Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
 thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
 for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *May the God of Hope Go with Us* (see page 8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

BENEDICTION Felicia Zamora, M.Div.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *You'll Never Walk Alone* Richard Rodgers

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Connect with us!

Connect with us! If you are worshiping from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please [click here](http://www.firstuccdc.org) to fill out a Visitor's Card and check out our newsletters on our website www.firstuccdc.org.

We are so grateful to be extending our reach beyond the DC region and welcome you warmly!

With gratitude we thank Alyx Cheng and Allison Truhlar for serving as our Zoom moderators each week.

Their work makes our worship possible!

We also thank Tom Sowers and Graham Marsh, our sound designers.

Participating in Worship

Dennis Turner, Guest Musician

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Hannah Long-Higgins, cello

Pre-recorded hymns and anthems were created under the direction of John Horman.



Welcome Felicia Zamora: Guest Preacher

Felicia Zamora was born and raised in Managua, Nicaragua, where she is a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church. Her parents, Manuel and Lidya Zamora, and her older brother, Felipe, all currently reside in Nicaragua. Felicia served as delegations coordinator for public health non-profit organizations PROVADENIC and AMOS Health and Hope for 14 years. In her role, she connected American pastors and congregations with communities throughout Nicaragua and learned skills to resolve conflicts between different cultural groups. Felicia is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University (1998-2002), and she recently graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree on May 28, 2021.

Sermon Talk-back Following Worship

Following worship, please join us for a sermon talk-back and conversation with Felicia Zamora. Peter Tracey will serve as the discussion facilitator and you will have the opportunity to hear more of Felicia's story, ask questions, or share reflections on her sermon. This discussion will take the place of our usual Zoom coffee hour on the same Zoom link as worship and will begin five minutes following the end of worship. Join us!

Summer Fun at Yard's Park on August 21

Join us on August 21 for summer fun at Yard's Park. Come meet Rev. Amanda in person from 10:00 AM through noon on Saturday, August 21, at Yards Park. Yards Park is located at 355 Water Street SE, Washington DC. We will meet on the west bank of the water feature. Consider packing swim clothes if you want to splash around and walking shoes to go for a stroll on the boardwalk. For more information about Yards Park, including parking options, please check out their website: <https://www.capitolriverfront.org/yards-park/faqs>. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Kristy Goodfellow Mills with questions at kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com or 563.580.5558.

Regathering Update

The Regathering Task Force recommended the following changes to our Regathering Plan (for return to live worship), which were approved by Council. These changes are based on observations made during the first several weeks of Phase 3 and the rapidly improving COVID metrics in the Washington, DC area.

Phase 3 Changes

1. We welcome brief visiting (with masking) in the sanctuary after the service.
2. We plan open sign-ups, of up to 50 worshippers, for services on August 22, August 29, and September 6. To sign up, contact Kim Darling at kdarling@gmail.com.
3. In the online (pre-worship) signup form, we are now asking an optional question about household vaccination status. This is strictly to provide congregation-wide statistics for the Regathering Task Force to inform their recommendation as the church moves into Phase 4.

Phase 4 Changes

1. On September 12, we will begin using open sign-ups with no attendance limit (instead of dividing congregation into in-person groups). We will continue to ask worshippers to sign up in advance to attend in-person services, so that we have necessary information for contact tracing.
2. We welcome brief visiting (with masking) in the sanctuary and narthex after the service.
3. We will need four ushers each Sunday during Phase 4.
4. We will continue to track community case numbers. If case rates begin to rise steadily, we will step back to Phase 3.

The completed updated Regathering Plan [Regathering Plan Update](#) and updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [FAQs Update](#) can be found on our website. We acknowledge that we are taking a cautious approach, relative to other institutions. This approach is informed by our desire to prioritize the health and safety of the whole congregation and to ensure that all feel welcome and comfortable at live services. We are encouraged by the improving metrics and optimistic that we will be able to further relax our protocols in the future. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Phase 3 Schedule	
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

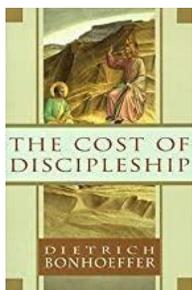
Search for New Music Director

Council is pleased to announce that we have appointed a search committee to help select a new director of music in the wake of John Horman’s retirement. Marian Drake has agreed to chair the committee. She will be joined by Kristy Goodfellow Mills, Andrew Hamilton, Michael Hopkins, Emily Laing, Priscilla Waters, and Jason Carson Wilson. Jo-Anne Henry has agreed to assist the committee with its initial work of implicit bias training and preparation of a position description and announcement.

The committee hopes to begin reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates in September, with a goal of selecting a new music director by Thanksgiving. But we intend to be deliberate, to maximize our chances of attracting high-quality candidates and securing the best person for the position. In accordance with our bylaws, the committee will bring a candidate to the congregation for the congregation’s approval. Upon the committee’s recommendation, Council may hire the selected candidate on a temporary basis to fill the vacancy prior to the next scheduled congregational meeting. Until a new director of music is hired, we will rely on a quality pool of substitute musicians.

Council is very grateful to each of the committee members for agreeing to undertake this important task for the church. If you have ideas or suggestions for the committee, please feel free to contact Marian at mariandrake@yahoo.com.

If you have any questions about the search process, etc., please feel free to contact Moderator John Smeltzer at johnsmeltzer@gmail.com or Assistant Moderator Susan Anderson at ssba92@gmail.com.



Theology Book Group: September 7

The Theology Book Group meets next on September 7, at 7:00 PM, to discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s classic and ever relevant, *The Cost of Discipleship*. The meeting will be held on Zoom: <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/93643277834>. All are welcome.

Develop a Spiritual Practice: Come Meditate with Us!

From Nora Marsh: for the past few years, I have had a regular spiritual (non-religious) practice of participating in our Wednesday 12:15-12:45 PM meditation group. We previously met in the chapel but have been meeting remotely via Zoom since September during COVID. We do a mix of silent and guided meditations with time on either end for checking in with each other. Taking even ½-hour a week in a regular practice has been very grounding for me especially during the stress of COVID.

We welcome newcomers and drop-ins, so please give it a try. And it's free! You can contact me, Nora Marsh, at knoramash@icloud.com or Amanda Hendler-Voss at ahendlervoss@gmail.com to receive an invitation on Wednesday mornings. We hope to resume in the chapel in the near future.



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 Ron Hopson after the death of his nephew.

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

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

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.

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

May the God of Hope Go with Us



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, —
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! —



fill - ing all our lives with love and joy and peace. — May the God of
Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. — Dios de la jus -



jus - tice speed us on our way, — bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery
ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz, — luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os -

Refrain



land and race. — Pray - ing, let us work for peace; —
cu - ri - dad. — O - re - mos por la paz, —



sing - ing, share our joy with all; — work - ing for a
can - te - mos de tu a - mor. — Lu - che - mos



world that's new, — faith - ful when we hear Christ's call. —
por la paz, — fie - les a ti, Se - ñor. —

Phase 3 Protocol for In-Person Worship:

- Please keep your mask on at all times
- Observe physical distance from those outside your family group
- Please refrain from singing
- Place your completed survey in the basket as you exit
- One family group at a time in the elevator
- Remain in the sanctuary for an optional time of fellowship with one another



Welcome to First Congregational UCC. We were founded in 1865 by abolitionists as the first racially integrated church in Washington, D.C. In 1867 our mission committee played a prominent role in the founding of Howard University. The church has been located at its present site at 10th and G Streets NW since 1868. In more recent years, the church affirmed its vision as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church (1987), a Just Peace Church (1985), and a Multiracial/Multicultural Church (2003). Our new building, constructed according to Gold LEED standards, was dedicated in 2012.

First Church continues to follow its faith journey into the future, and to be a prophetic voice for the Spirit in the nation's capital. If you would like to know more about First Church or would like to make it your spiritual home and community, please contact churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org or 202.628.4317.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Designated Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran
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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