

September 12 - 19, 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.*

Worshipping Sundays at 10:30 AM via Zoom



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## September Second Sunday Offering:

The September Second Sunday Offering is addressing two international humanitarian crises and we are asking you to give generously. We will be supporting the UCC's relief efforts in Haiti and Lutheran Social Services' efforts to help Afghani refugees being resettled locally.

A UCC Haiti Appeal seeks to raise \$100,000 for immediate relief and longer-term recovery for the thousands of people in Haiti who are reeling from sequential disasters. These include the deadly, destructive 7.2 earthquake on August 14 in western Haiti, Tropical Depression Grace, and COVID-19. Vaccination of health care workers and people over 65 only got started in early August. There's also the political and social disruption following the assassination of the country's president in July. For more information go to [www.ucc.org/ucc-haiti-appeal](http://www.ucc.org/ucc-haiti-appeal).

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) welcomes an influx of Afghan Allies as a result of the Biden Administration's evacuation of 2,500 individuals by September 11. Afghan allies and their families began arriving at Fort Lee, located outside of Richmond, VA, on July 30. It is expected that the majority will be resettled in the D.C. metro area. LSSNCA has set up an Operation Welcome Afghan Allies web page to respond to those interested in providing temporary housing, transportation, in-kind donations, storage space, and financial contributions. For more information go to [www.lssnca.org](http://www.lssnca.org)

Your timely and generous donation will be split equally between these two organizations who are doing such important work.

## Worship with Us This Sunday

[Click here](#) to join us this Sunday by Zoom at 10:30 AM as we continue our fall worship theme "Journey with Me." Polly Gordon will lead us in the Call to Worship, Meg Maguire will serve as our reader with a focus text from Mark 9:30-37, and Rev. Amanda will preach on "The Great Subversion," in which Jesus says that "whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." We will enjoy a musical offering from the General Synod Children's Choir, and Dr. Karen Bartman will serve as our guest musician.

Rev. Sam will also offer an Outdoor Family Worship Service at Fort Reno Park (near the stage) at 10:00 AM. Please bring school supplies for Jubilee Housing. The service, centered around our children, will include a gathering, dramatic reading of the story, sharing the message, offering, prayers, and sending. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends with children to experience our community in a safe, outdoor setting with a meaningful message. Please invite friends, and let Rev. Sam know if you plan to attend.

Following worship, we invite you to join us for a Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one

another. The optional discussion question is: What is the best thing that happened to you this week?

## Sign Up for In-Person Worship

Just a reminder that we welcome all who feel comfortable to sign up to attend Worship in-person in our sanctuary. In-person worship is still be limited to 25 people per Sunday given our area's current case rates, and we continue to require masking and physical distancing.

[Click here](#) to sign up to worship in-person in the sanctuary any of the next 4 Sundays. This link will always take you to the sign-up sheet and will always contain the next 4 Sundays. If you have trouble signing up with this link, please contact Kim Darling directly ([kdarling@gmail.com](mailto:kdarling@gmail.com)).

## From the Moderator

Dear Members & Friends,

Please note the following important news about staff transitions.

### Call to Permanent Ministry

As previously announced, this fall we are engaging in a process for calling the Reverend Amanda Hendler-Voss to be our permanent senior minister. Since March 2020, Amanda has served as our designated senior minister, a position that is limited by covenant to a term of three years. In the past year and a half—a time of extraordinary challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic—we have witnessed and greatly benefited from Amanda's leadership, we have seen her immense talent and passion for social justice, and we have shared a deep and growing friendship. We are prepared now for a sacred conversation in anticipation of a call to permanent ministry.

The conversation will take place in three parts. *First*, the Designated Minister Relations Team (DMRT) will meet with Amanda to evaluate her ministry in light of the goals established in the Designated Ministry Covenant—(1) to continue walking on the path to become a multiracial and multicultural church; (2) to strengthen our church community; and (3) to develop consensus about the social justice issues to prioritize within the mission of the church—mindful of the many obstacles that disrupted Amanda's ministry from the start. If you would like to share your thoughts on any aspect of this evaluation, please contact any member of the DMRT by September 29, 2021. The DMRT members are Kim Darling, Katherine Antos, Hannah Higgins-Long, David Greer, Priscilla Waters, Susan Anderson and John Smeltzer.

*Second*, Council will meet October 5, 2021 to receive a report from DMRT. Council will then invite Amanda into conversation about her hopes and goals for permanent ministry and what she and we perceive to be the mission and role of First Church into the future. On October 17, 2021, we will convene a nurture after worship to continue this conversation about First Church today and First Church reimagined. The nurture will provide an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to share their hopes and dreams for the future of the church and to engage in conversation with Amanda about a shared vision for worship and mission in the coming years.

*Third*, we will convene for our Fall Congregational Meeting on October 24, 2021. We will then hold a discussion and vote on a nomination to call the Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss to be our Senior

Minister. We anticipate holding the meeting in a hybrid manner (from the sanctuary and on zoom) to allow full participation. *Please* mark these dates on your calendar and plan to join us in these vital conversations about the ministry of the church.

#### Search for Director of Music Ministry

Our search for a new Director of Music Ministry (to replace John Horman, who retired at the end of June) is also well underway. The search committee recently posted an announcement and position description on the church's website and on selected job forums. The committee will be receiving applications through October 1, 2021. If you know any prospective candidates or persons who might be able to share the position announcement with prospective candidates, please direct them to our website ([here](#)).

Our goal is to select a new director of music ministry by Thanksgiving. But Council has asked the search committee 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 select and bring a candidate to the congregation for the congregation's approval. If we do not have a candidate by the fall congregational meeting, Council may hire a candidate on a temporary basis to fill the vacancy, subject to ratification at our next congregational meeting (which would be our annual meeting in January). Until a new director of music is hired, we will continue to call on a talented pool of substitute musicians.

The search committee members are Marian Drake (chair), Kristy Goodfellow Mills, Andrew Hamilton, Michael Hopkins, Emily Laing, Priscilla Waters, and Jason Carson Wilson. If you have questions for the committee, please feel free to contact Marian at [mariandrake@yahoo.com](mailto:mariandrake@yahoo.com). We are very grateful to the committee for taking on this important task.

#### Administrative Assistant

Finally, we regret to note that we remain in search of an administrative assistant to replace Cindy Dobbs, who retired from the position at the end of August. We were excited to welcome a new hire to the position. But she faced some unexpected challenges and determined that that the job was not the right fit for her and tendered an apologetic resignation. We have retained temporary office support and are working to hire a permanent administrative assistant as soon as possible. Please have patience with us in the short term as we work to maintain continuity of office coverage.

And please let us know if you have any questions!

John Smeltzer, Moderator

[johnsmeltzer@gmail.com](mailto:johnsmeltzer@gmail.com)

Susan Anderson, Assistant Moderator

[ssba92@gmail.com](mailto:ssba92@gmail.com)

#### Finance Ministry Conversation: September 26 following worship

All are invited to join the Finance Commission for a coffee hour conversation on Sunday, Sept 26. Come with comments and questions as David Greer, Lucille Dickinson, Karen Pence and John Smeltzer explain the budget process, FCC's endowment, when and how the racial justice audit may affect church planning and budgeting and answer questions. This conversation is scheduled prior to our 2022 budget

development process and stewardship campaign. We look forward to your participation.

### Drop-In Center Training: September 26 at 12:30 PM

Join us for a training with Sasha Bruce Youthworks entitled, "Making Community with Our Neighbors" led by Pam Lieber, Program Manager of the Drop-In Center. This session is an important opportunity to learn about DC youth and young adults who are homeless or precariously housed, the work of Sasha Bruce, and our Tuesday evening Drop-In Center. Participation will also qualify you to volunteer in the future, and we need new volunteers! Table Church members will also join us, along with our new Drop-In Center Coordinator, Mr. Jarred Bowman. The training will last one hour. Stay tuned for a link.

### Theology Book Group: October 5

The Theology Book Group will meet on Tuesday, October 5, at 7 p.m. to discuss *Borders and Belonging*, a study of contemporary migration issues in light of the Book of Ruth. One co-author, Pádraig Ó Tuama, is a well-known Irish poet who has recited on the NPR program *On Being*.

All are welcome. The Zoom link is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/95345721768> .

## Prayer List

Prayers for Priscilla Waters upon the loss of her sister, Pat  
Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan  
and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.  
Prayers of strength for the people of Haiti as they mourn  
those lost in the earthquake and begin to rebuild.  
Prayers of comfort for the family of Joan King, following her death,  
and for this community who loved her.  
Prayers for Monte Hillis and her husband Bert, as she faces the rapid onset of dementia.  
Prayers of healing for Lance Warren.  
Prayers of peace and liberation for Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.  
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 year-long process.  
All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.  
Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.  
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.  
Prayers of recovery for Rev. Sam's mother after surgery.



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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