

January 14, 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 and in person



Worship with Us this Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom this Sunday at 10:30 as we mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday. Lucille Dickinson will lead us in the prayer of confession and words of assurance, Welling Hall and Joe Mills will serve as our scripture readers with texts from Zephaniah 3:17-19 and Psalm 17:6-8, and Nora Marsh and the Rev. Jason Carson Wilson will read the words of Dr. King excerpted from a sermon as well as a Letter from a Birmingham Jail. For our message, Alisa Tanaka-Dodge and Meg Maguire will share personal testimonies about the work of anti-racism in these

times. We will enjoy musical medleys from our guest musician Dennis Turner, a musical offering of Lift Every Voice and Sing from the HBCU Concert Choir, and a choral benediction from our choir, "This Little Light of Mine." Rev. Amanda will lead us in prayers of the people. Please join us for what promises to be a very rich and timely service of worship.

Following worship, join us for our Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one another. Our optional discussion question will be: What aspect of today's service moved you?



Note Regarding Translation

Today's gender-expansive translation of the biblical texts comes from the Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney, a Hebrew biblical scholar and Episcopal priest, a former Army chaplain, and a congregational pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. This translation hails from her new lectionary *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*, published by Church World Publishing Incorporated in 2021.



Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist this Winter

[Click here](#) to sign up to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship this winter. We welcome members and friends, local and far flung, adults, youth and children to participate. Your voice helps make us who we are, so please take a moment to sign up. Our worship is enriched by your active participation. We are currently in Phase 2, which allows for scripture

readers and liturgists to choose to lead by Zoom or in person in the sanctuary.



First Church to Sponsor Afghan Refugee Family

The Sanctuary Committee is thrilled to inform you that we are partnering with the Sikh Gurdwara community in Rockville, Maryland to sponsor an Afghan family through the Lutheran Social Services' [Good Neighbor Program](#) (GNP). Through the GNP, we will be paired with an Afghan family and will set up an apartment with all of the necessary furnishings and household supplies. We will also provide adjustment support to the family, including transportation to and from necessary appointments.

We've let Lutheran Social Services know that we're ready to be paired with a family ASAP and are just waiting for our match. If you have furniture or other household items that you would like to donate to the effort, please email Lindsay Swisher (Lindsay.swisher@gmail.com) as she is keeping a spreadsheet of donations to compare it to the list of what we need to provide.

Byron has graciously given us use of one of the cages in the parking garage where we can store items. We will announce specific drop-off dates via email soon! If you're unable to drop off donations during the announced windows of time, please let Lindsay know and she'll work with you to find another time.

This will be a longer term relationship where we help support a family in resettling over the next 6 months to 1 year, so rest assured there will be other opportunities to get involved. In the meantime, we thank God for this loving, caring community, and pray for the continued health and safety of not only the Afghan refugees, but of those still in Afghanistan.

**Introducing Leela Koilpillai, Unanimous Selection
to be our New Director of Music Ministry**

The Church Council is thrilled to report that we have reached an agreement with Leela Koilpillai to be our new Director of Music Ministry. Leela is a classically trained pianist, organist, and vocalist. She is an experienced choral director in both church and school settings, and has led groups of different musical styles, including jazz and gospel. She has served as director of music at several churches in northern Virginia and Maine, directed choirs in the Fairfax County School system, and taught voice lessons in her own studio. In the 1990s, she sang in the Washington Opera chorus. Most recently, she served as the artistic director for a small choir in Portland, Maine while also serving as a music director at a nearby UCC church.

At our January meeting, Council voted unanimously, upon a unanimous recommendation from the search committee, to hire Leela as our new Director of Music Ministry. We have since agreed to contract terms. In accordance with our Bylaws, the agreement to hire Leela is subject to ratification by the congregation at our Annual Meeting on January 23, 2022. Leela's projected start date is February 1, 2022. Thank you to the members of the search committee for their dedicated service: Marian Drake (chair), Kristy Goodfellow Mills, Andrew Hamilton, Michael Hopkins, Emily Laing, and the Rev. Jason Carson Wilson. Thanks also to Priscilla Waters and to Jo-Anne Henry for their assistance earlier in the search process. We look forward with great anticipation to the vote and to the opportunity to begin our music program anew under Leela's leadership.

Call to Annual Meeting of the Congregation (January 23, 2022)

The Church will convene its Annual Meeting – via zoom – after worship service on Sunday January 23, 2022. The items on the agenda include:

- a vote on a unanimous motion by Council to hire Leela Koilpillai as our new Director of Music Ministry;
- a vote to approve the 2022 budget;
- a vote to elect Officers, Council, and Commission Members for 2022.

Please join us in conducting the important business of the church. We need full participation to ensure a quorum for the votes!

Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Peg Lorenz, following her death.
Prayers of strength for LaTayna Purnell as she provides care for her ailing parents.
Prayers of healing for Hugh Bushmiller.
Prayers of support for Andre, the mother of Scott Prentice, as she battles leukemia.
Prayers of healing for Liz and Lance Warren, as Liz recovers from a fall and Lance recovers from surgery.
Prayers of healing for Diane Brenneman's daughter Sara as she recovers from surgery.
Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.
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 peace and liberation for Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.
Prayers of healing for Dwan Reece as she recovers from surgery.
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.
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.

Upcoming Events

January Calendar

Sunday, January 2

Communion Sunday
10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, January 4

6:00 pm Drop-In Center for
Homeless Youth

Sunday, January 9

Guest Preacher Fredrick Robinson
10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, January 11

6:00 pm Drop-In Center for
Homeless Youth

Sunday, January 16

10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, January 18

6:00 pm Drop-In Center for
Homeless Youth

Sunday, January 23

Congregational Meeting
10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, January 25

6:00 pm Drop-In Center for
Homeless Youth

Sunday, January 30

10:30 am Worship



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church

Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran

Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Trista Dunlap

Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment –Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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