



**April 30, 2022**

Installation of the Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss  
as Senior Minister

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 VOLUNTARY	Elevation	Dom Paul Benoit
WELCOME		Rev. Sam McFerran
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN	"Holy, Holy, Holy"	(see page 11-12)
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Hannah Long Higgins & Rev. Jason Carson Wilson	

- ONE: Spirit of the Living God, we welcome you into this place. Creator and Maker of all things, we welcome you.
- TWO: Elohim, Adonai, Jehovah, we welcome you.
- ALL: **Mother of every living thing; Father of all that has breath, we welcome you.**
- ONE: The Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we welcome you. Ancient of Days, we welcome you.
- TWO: The true and wise God, Sophia, we welcome you. The Rose of Sharon, the Rock who gave us birth, we welcome you.
- ALL: **The Great "I AM," we welcome you.**
- ONE: Jesus! We welcome you.
- ALL: **Emmanuel, God with us, we welcome you.**
- TWO: Holy Spirit! We welcome you. Midwife, so capably birthing the new, we welcome you.
- ALL: **Breath of God, who blows over creation, we welcome you.**
- ONE: God of all, welcome into this place!
- ALL: **We welcome you.**
- TWO: Come, let us bless this installation. Welcome.

INVOCATION Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth  
**Merciful and compassionate God, join us together today in living out your call to seek justice and walk in the ways of Jesus. May we covenant in holy bond to love each other even in disagreement, to enact patience and loving kindness, and to rejoice in the truth. Bless our labor and grant us the joy of living together in unity. May we witness your gifts in one another, grow together in wisdom, and serve as your living testimony in the heart of our nation's capital through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE "Gathered Here"  
*Gathered here in the mystery of this hour,  
Gathered here in one strong body,  
Gathered here in the struggle and the power,  
Spirit, draw near.*

OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Ellen Bushmiller

ONE: Rev. Amanda, Outreach and Membership welcomes visitors and cultivates the growth of this body of Christ while nurturing our relationships with neighbors and presence in the city. Partner with us to offer extravagant hospitality to all. We share this light as a sign of God's vitality among us.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. We will grow this congregation together.

CARE OF PARISH COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Rose Berman

ONE: Rev. Amanda, Care of Parish cares for our faith community through fellowship and shared meals. Enjoy meals around the table with us, join us in laughter and tears. Partner with us to care for the heart and wellbeing of this community. We share this light as a sign of God's warmth to all who walk through our doors.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. We will care for this congregation together. community.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Anna Kiss

ONE: Rev. Amanda, as we listen to the scripture proclaimed in worship we listen for God's living Word. No matter our age, we desire to learn and grow spiritually. Join us to offer your insights and questions. We share this light as a sign of God's wisdom growing in us.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. Together we will listen for the Still Speaking God in scripture and our lives.

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN & YOUTH

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF GOD

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.)*

SOCIAL ACTION & AWARENESS COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

ONE: Rev. Amanda, Social Action & Awareness collaborates with our dynamic partner organizations to seek justice and liberation, especially with those at the margins. We seek sanctuary for immigrants and commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism. Conspire with us to do justice and love mercy. We share this light as a sign of God's flame of justice always burning here.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. We will conspire to create a more just world.

WORSHIP COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Rev. David Lindsey

ONE: Rev. Amanda, Worship Commission plans our seasons of worship, setting the worship table and reflecting on how we can expand our worship to meet the hunger in the hearts of those seeking God. Collaborate with us to inspire people to draw nearer to God. We share this light as a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit, who always attends us in worship.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. We will collaborate to create meaningful worship experiences that draw us closer to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Dr. Vivian Jackson

*Isaiah 58:6-14*

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the shadow and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob [of the line of Rebekah], for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

SCRIPTURE READING

Sandy Sorenson

*2 Corinthians 4:7-15*

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"--we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into the presence of Jesus. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Meg Maguire

SERMON

"Treasure in Jars of Clay"

Rev. Aubra Love

FIRST CHURCH CHOIR SHARES THE LIGHT

Polly Gordon

ONE: Rev. Amanda, we give our ministry of music to the worship of God as an offering of beauty and unity. Lend your voice to ours as we express something deeper than words. We share this light as a sign of the unity we share in God.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. Together, we will enrich worship and blend voices together in harmony.

Choral Anthem

“The Storm Is Passing Over”

Charles Albert/Barbara W. Baker

FACILITIES COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Kim Darling

ONE: Rev. Amanda, Facilities stewards the use of our beautiful building by partner organizations, performance arts groups, and our Drop-In Center. Partner with us to love this building and make it your home as it is ours. We share this light as a reminder that this sanctuary was built to carry light beyond our doors and to receive the light of the world.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. Together we will care for this sacred space.

FINANCE COMMISSION SHARES THE LIGHT

Anne Mascolino

ONE: Rev. Amanda, Finance calls forth, channels and safeguards the resources of this community of faith in the service of ministry, mission, and justice. Join us in this labor of love that invites our community to give generously to fulfill our mission. We share this light as a sign of the ways that sharing by all means poverty for none.

REV. AMANDA: I accept this light with joy. Together, we will cultivate generous hearts.

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

*Today's special offering supports the United Church of Christ's Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB), an historic social justice retreat center where justice advocates, leaders, and truth seekers co-labor to transform the world. FCAB sits on a former slave plantation that was transformed into one of the first accredited schools for African Americans in the south and now houses the Afro-Christian convention's archives. Their programs include sustainable farming, community recreation, hiking trails, health clinics, educational training, and voter engagement, to name a few.*

\*DOXOLOGY

“Old Hundredth”

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore:*

*One Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. AMANDA HENDLER-VOSS

GREETING

REV. HOLLY JACKSON: The Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

PEOPLE: **Let us look to Jesus, crucified and risen, who came to us to share our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to God.**

#### PRESENTATION

SUSAN ANDERSON: First Congregational United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called the Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss as senior pastor and teacher and joyfully requests that the Potomac Association install her in this ministry among us.

REV. DREW NETTINGA: The Potomac Association has reviewed the request of First Congregational United Church of Christ and we are pleased to install her as pastor and teacher. Rev. Hendler-Voss, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

REV. HOLLY JACKSON: Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. It is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

#### EXHORTATION

REV. MARVIN SILVER: Hear these words from the apostle Paul, "We beg you, our siblings, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves." We urge you, our sister-care for the vulnerable, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all. See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful, pray without ceasing, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life as the body of Christ. Amen.

#### COVENANT

REV. DREW NETTINGA: Dear friends, First Congregational United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called the Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office. Rev. Hendler-Voss, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that First Congregational United Church of Christ has been led to call you as a pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Potomac Association?

REV. AMANDA HENDLER-VOSS: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and caring for God's people, according to the faith of the United Church of Christ.

REV. DREW NETTINGA: Members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION: **We, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, receive the Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss as pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

REV. HOLLY JACKSON: Members of the Potomac Association, will you rise in body or in spirit to affirm your covenant with First Congregational United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

ASSOCIATION AFFIRMATION: **We, the members of the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the pastor and teacher of First Congregational United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

INSTALLATION PRAYER

Rev. Marvin Silver

DECLARATION

REV. HOLLY JACKSON: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as senior minister and teacher of First Congregational United Church of Christ.  
All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHARGE TO THE PASTOR

Rev. Sara Wilcox

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Dr. Renee Harrison

PASTORAL REMARKS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Be Now My Vision"

(see page 13)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Aubra Love

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Morning Has Broken  
Total Praise

arr. Renee H. McKee  
Richard Smallwood

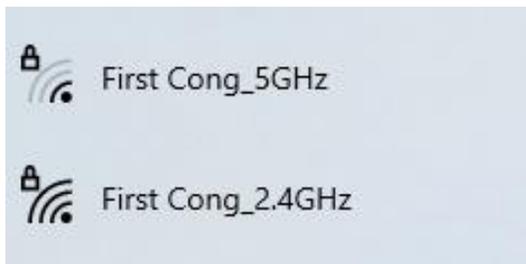
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**(\*) Indicates "Please rise in body or in Spirit"**

### **Participating in Worship**

First Church Choir under the direction of Polly Gordon  
Michael Hopkins, Percussionist  
Susan Anderson, Moderator, First Church  
Dr. Renee Harrison, Associate Professor, Howard University  
Rev. Holly Jackson, Moderator of the Potomac Association  
Dr. Vivian Jackson, Peoples Congregational UCC  
Hannah Long-Higgins, First Church  
Rev. Aubra Love, Pastor, The United Church of Christ of Annapolis  
Meg Maguire, First Church  
Rev. Sam McFerran, Associate Pastor, First Church  
Rev. Drew Nettinga, Chair of Committee on Ministry  
Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, Pastor, Hope UCC  
Rev. Marvin Silver, Associate Conference Minister  
Sandy Sorensen, Director of Justice & Witness Ministries, UCC  
Dennis Turner, Musician, First Church  
Rev. Sara Wilcox, Pastor, Land of the Sky UCC  
Rev. Jason Carson Wilson, First Church  
Alyx Cheng, Zoom Moderator  
Graham Marsh, AV Technician



First Church Wi-Fi password:

**first1865**

To avoid echo/feedback,  
please mute your device when  
taking part in group discussions.

## **Rev. Amanda Hendler Voss: Senior Minister**



The Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss joyfully serves the community of First Church as the Senior Minister. Raised in a suburb of Detroit, working for the Appalachia Service Project cultivated a love for the mountains that compelled her to move south. There, she initially worked with those living with HIV/AIDS and fell in love with the United Church of Christ, an open and affirming denomination. As a Woodruff scholar at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Amanda earned her Masters of Divinity with certificates in Black Church Studies and Church and Community programs. In Atlanta she coordinated the Georgia chapter of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), organizing

anti-war protests and educational programs, as well as authoring a new curriculum, *Faith Seeking Peace*, on redirecting federal budget priorities to meet human and environmental needs.

Amanda was ordained in the western North Carolina Association of the UCC in 2006 while serving as a Minister of Faith Formation. In 2009, Amanda co-founded the thriving community of Land of the Sky United Church of Christ in Asheville, NC, where she served as Co-Pastor for eight years in an intentional, power-sharing model. Her vocation as a pastor is shaped by Amanda's particular calling to racial justice. At Land of the Sky UCC she launched a racial justice ministry in which she co-led dismantling racism training, engaged in a racial justice audit of ministries, created programming for children and youth to highlight the testimonies of local leaders of color, and launched conversations about reparations. In August of 2017, she engaged in sacred activism in Charlottesville where she served as an on-call chaplain to those impacted by the tragic violence of white supremacy. In 2019, Amanda completed training as part of the inaugural cohort of trained facilitators of the UCC's Sacred Conversations to End Racism. She consistently seeks new opportunities to learn and grow on the lifelong journey of dismantling racism within and without.

In 2017, Amanda relocated to northern Virginia with her spouse, Seth, and boys, Myles (15) and Simon (9) to enter a reflective season of ministry. A lover of words and contemplative spirituality, Amanda has served as a freelance writer, Spiritual Director, and Co-Facilitator of a clergy Community of Practice in the Potomac Association. She enjoys hiking, baking, running, reading, and snuggling her adopted dog, Ginger. Perhaps most importantly, she seeks to honor the sacred in every person she encounters and the well-being of the Earth's family of all living things.



### **Rev. Aubra Love: Great Preacher**

The Rev. Aubra Love currently serves as pastor at the United Church of Christ of Annapolis, MD. She recently completed a term as Acting Associate Conference Minister of the Potomac and Chesapeake Associations in the Central Atlantic Conference. A graduate of Cornell University and the Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center, in Atlanta, Rev. Love was ordained and nurtured in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. Called as the first cross-racial pastorate in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Love served First Congregational Church of Asheville, NC, located in the Blue Ridge mountains. She was called to First Church immediately after seminary.

Rev. Love is in the Pilgrim Press Authors' clergy cohort and has participated in the UCC Stillspeaking Writers groups. She has contributed published works to The African American Lectionary (Vanderbilt University, Divinity School), a resource tool that *"highlights the African American ecclesial traditions and recognizes days on the liturgical calendar that are celebrated across a variety of ecclesial traditions."* Her writing has also been published in several books and professional journals ranging from Women's Studies texts to progressive periodical writing on the politics of gender and sexuality.

A social entrepreneur and retired commercial banker, Rev. Aubra Love is the founder of The Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute, a national educational ministry that brought the voices of the historic Black Church to the public policy arena in partnership with the US Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Office, mainline denominations, and state domestic violence coalitions. She provides culturally competent training to institutions, faith-based organizations, and social movement collectives with a lens toward the politics of gender, spirituality, and sexuality. She is a pastor and preacher, author and gardener, ethicist and grandmother, lifelong movement worker and daughter of Civil Rights Movement foot soldiers dedicated to literacy action and Black voter registration in the southeastern states of North America.

# Holy, Holy, Holy

Rev. 4:8-11; Isa. 6:1-8

Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.

*Descant*

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,  
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,  
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

TRINITY SUNDAY

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "God in three persons, blessed Trinity." The middle staff is a four-part harmony in treble clef, with lyrics: "God in three persons, blessed Trinity! From the beginning, God eternally. Perfect in power, in love and purity. God in three persons, blessed Trinity!" The bottom staff is a bass line in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "God in three persons, blessed Trinity!"

*This hymn by Reginald Heber was published in a book of hymns for Banbury Parish Church in England. Nicaea, one of nearly 300 tunes by John B. Dykes, was named for the famous council that defined the doctrine of the Trinity.*

Tune: NICAEA 11.12.12.10.  
John B. Dykes, 1861  
Descant David McK. Williams, 1948

# Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part -  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
*Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*



### **Special Offering: Franklinton Center at Bricks**

The United Church of Christ's [Franklinton Center at Bricks](#) (FCAB) builds upon the lessons of history by creating forward-looking programs that are relevant to the global struggle for justice and equality. The Center is located on the site of a former plantation that became the first accredited school to educate African Americans in Eastern North Carolina. We honor the rich legacies of that story, including that which relates to the Afro Christian and Black Congregational Churches. FCAB will house the Afro-Christian Convention's archives as the Afro-Christian Preservation

Project. Today it is a 244-acre conference and retreat center where local, regional, national and international justice advocates, leaders and truth seekers continue to learn and do the work needed to transform lives. Our vision is to manifest a world where systemic oppression does not exist; the whole divinity of a person is realized; the memory, contribution and resilience of our ancestors is embraced; and the environment is healed. This world embodies the gifts of learning, outdoor play, teaching, health, safety, love, and connection to beloved community. Your generous contributions support the life of Franklinton Center at Bricks and our community.

We are an Open & Affirming congregation, welcoming all LGBTQ+ individuals and families into the full life and leadership of our church.



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](mailto:churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org) or 202.628.4317.



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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[www.firstuccdc.org](http://www.firstuccdc.org)