

# 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 and in person



## **Worship with us this Sunday**

Join us in the sanctuary or [click here](#) to join us by Zoom this Sunday as we continue our fall theme, "Gathered from the Four Corners of the Earth." Rev. Amanda will call us to worship and Meg Maguire will lead us in a prayer of confession and words of assurance. Polly Gordon and Susan Anderson will serve as our scripture readers with focus texts from 2 Samuel 11 (David & Bathsheba) and Mark 5:21-26. The Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson will serve as our preacher with a sermon entitled, "Against Monarchy." Eric Olson will offer special music with Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." We will also lift up the prayers of the people.



## **September 25 Sermon & Talk-Back with Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson**

On Sunday, September 25th, we look forward to warmly welcoming the Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson back into our pulpit. He will serve as preacher and also lead a talk-back after worship to discuss his sermon. Dr. Hopson holds a joint appointment at Howard University on the faculty of the Department of Psychology and the School of Divinity. He is an ordained clergy in the United Church of Christ and has served UCC churches as Adjunct Pastor, Interim Minister, and Designated Senior Minister. He is also a licensed Clinical Psychologist in the District of Columbia. Dr. Hopson teaches courses in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, psychopathology, addiction, sexuality and the Black church, and the psychology of religion and pastoral care. His most recent work is on progressive preaching within Black church tradition, and the psychological implications of mainline Christian theological ideas such as atonement. He is an associate member of First Church and previously served on our pastoral staff.



## **Progressive Theology Series with Rev. Amanda: Oct. 2-16**

Join Rev. Amanda for an education series on progressive theology following worship on October 2, 9, and 16. On October 2nd we will focus on deconstructing the theologies of our childhood--how and why they may have fallen apart and what happens when our carefully constructed theologies meet the challenges of lived

experience. On October 9 we will look to liberation theologies such as womanist and feminist theology, queer theology, and Black liberation theology as examples of progressive theology that honor the lived realities of people experiencing oppression. On October 16 we will explore reconstructing our theologies; the movement from certainty to provocative questions, and how we can remain open to change in our understandings of God and the meaning of the human experience.



### **World Communion Sunday: Bread from Around the Globe**

Join us next Sunday for a special worship service as we mark World Communion Sunday with bread from around the globe. The Worship Commission welcomes your gifts of time and talent in bringing breads that represent the wider world. For example, tortillas (Honduras), naan (India), banana bread (Jamaica), etc. While we will partake of our usual gluten free bread during

communion, we invite those bringing bread to divide it into two portions; one to adorn the worship table during the communion liturgy, and the other half to share during our outdoor coffee hour so folks can take their time to sample breads from around the world. Please [click here](#) to sign up to bring a bread from around the world, perhaps a place you have lived, a place that holds your origins, or a place that is meaningful to you. Scroll on down to October 2nd and type in your name and the kind of bread you will bring as well as the area it represents. Or, email Rev. Amanda to sign up to bring bread.



### **Join the Movie Group**

By Anne Masconlino

Building on the discussion by Mark and Rose about the church's small groups, our small group would like to update you on our activities. We meet monthly on the third Tuesday. We begin with a short check-in, then discuss a movie we've watched ahead of time. We have a couple of movie buffs but suggestions have come from

everyone. We discuss mostly features but have watched some documentaries. What I love about the group (other than the people involved!) is being exposed to movies I wouldn't have watched on my own that have been pretty consistently terrific--good stories, interesting themes and subjects which promote great discussions. After Andrew Hamilton guided us since the start of the pandemic, Karen Byrne and I now serve as the organizers. Some of the movies we've watched are The Last Metro, Of Gods and Men, Summer of Soul, West Side Story and several others. We meet next Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 7 to 8:30 pm to discuss The Searchers which can be streamed on Apple TV, Amazon Prime and from other sites. If you're interested, please join us that evening. Email me at [annemascolino@gmail.com](mailto:annemascolino@gmail.com) and I will ensure that Karen sends you a Zoom invitation for the meeting (all the way from England!).



## **Second Sunday Special Offering: Street Sense**

Journalism can transform lives. [Street Sense](#) is documented evidence of that reality. September's Second Sunday offering benefits the D.C.-based media outlet. Street Sense lives into its commitment to end homelessness in the District by raising awareness, spotlighting solutions, and empowering people in our neighborhoods through storytelling. The unique media organization challenges "perceptions of homelessness and those it affects while creating common ground upon which we can build a stronger community" via film, theater, photography, audio, illustration, and other projects—in addition to journalism. Let us give generously.



## **Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist This Fall**

[Click here](#) to sign up to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship this fall as we launch a new worship theme, "Gathered from the Four Corners of the Earth." 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.



## **Support Migrants Arriving in DC: Donate Shoes**

First Church's Sanctuary Committee invites you to help our newest neighbors. Since April, the governors of Texas and Arizona have been sending hundreds of buses to DC carrying thousands of migrants, including families with children and infants. These individuals and families are entering the U.S. legally, seeking asylum from countries like Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba. The DMV community has shown up to receive every single bus to support our new neighbors. This grassroots effort by community organizations, mutual aid groups, and individuals is a huge undertaking and an expensive one, involving meals, intake assessments, showers and hygiene opportunities, help with lodging or a ticket to their final destination for a hearing. Due to changing circumstances, the Sanctuary Committee has changed our donation request to shoes for adults. Many migrants arrive shoeless, or with one over-worn pair on their feet. Many seek day labor jobs in construction, landscaping, commercial kitchens and cleaning which require work shoes to be hired. Shoe sizes tend to run small (e.g. men need size 6-9, women need size 6-8). Work shoes must be closed-toe with sturdy, non-slip soles. From September 4th to 25th, please drop off new or gently used shoes in a labeled box in the Narthex or have shoes shipped to the office. [Click here](#) to learn more

about what's happening in our city around migrant busing. Questions? Contact Jamey Moore or Lindsay Swisher. Thank you for your generous support!



### **Be Part of Our Extravagant Welcome – Sign Up to Be an Usher**

Whether it's welcoming members back to in-person worship or greeting strangers when they wander in wondering just what goes on in here at 10<sup>th</sup> and G, you can be on the front lines on Sunday mornings. You don't have to have any experience: Veterans or new recruits, it doesn't matter. We need two to three usher/greeters each Sunday. If interested, please sign up using [this link](#).



### **Volunteer to Serve at our Drop-In Center**

First Church hosts dinner, fellowship, and access to services for downtown DC's homeless youth and adults, every Tuesday from 6 to 8 pm, in partnership with [Sasha Bruce Youthwork](#). We began serving youth and young adults, then the pandemic led us to adapt. A small committed group of volunteers staffed a table on the street each week, a reminder that we were still here for those who felt abandoned as the city shut down. We reopened in phases, moving to take out box dinners, and now we're back to pizza and considering opening the living room. Each Tuesday we have around 25-30 people of all ages. Besides food and a comfy place to rest and talk, folks can engage with our incredible coordinator, [Jarred Bowman](#), the Sasha Bruce representative Josh Blum, volunteers from Standup For Kids, and occasional extras like yoga and meditation, MLK library staff, fun games of Uno, and necessities like clothes and toiletries. With all this momentum, we need church members to engage and be part of the community and ministry. Jarred has asked for volunteers to return and help (we require temp checks for entry and masks when not seated).

Want to get involved?

- Sign up to volunteer, or to be trained to volunteer, by contacting Janneke Ratcliffe (info below)
- Share an interest on occasion, anything from leading meditation to knitting, let me know, and we'll offer it to the coordinators.
- Help with Thanksgiving meal - We are beginning to plan the traditional favorite Thanksgiving feast (November 22). If you would like to help organize it...

Then .... contact [janneke1018@gmail.com](mailto:janneke1018@gmail.com), or call/text 919-618-1018, or let Amanda know.



### **Coffee Hour is Back: Check Your Hosting Date**

Care of Parish has taken the liberty of signing folks up for coffee hour through the end of the year, using emails in the church directory. This is a return to our pre-COVID system of scheduling coffee hour hosts and has worked well in the past. You should get an email reminder for the date when you are signed up to host, but [click here](#) to take a look at the calendar now. If you can't make your date, please try to trade with someone or find a substitute. No one should be signed up more than once for the rest of 2022 unless you volunteered for a dual sign-up, but

if you find that you are signed up more than once, feel free to either find a substitute or let Mark Jensen, Chair of Care of Parish, know. [Click here](#) to view instructions for hosting coffee hour. Thank you for helping bring coffee hour back!



### **Reclaim our Vote Postcard Campaign: Volunteers Needed**

Reclaim our Vote is a non-partisan voter outreach campaign from the Center for Common Ground that aims to empower underrepresented voters and combat voter suppression, one voter at a time. First Church is participating in conjunction with the Potomac Association Justice & Witness Action Network. Volunteers are needed to handwrite postcards to mostly rural, elderly voters of color that have been unknowingly deregistered in voter-suppressed states to assist them in re-registering. Active voters of color also need to be contacted via hand-written postcards to request pledges to vote and to stimulate community organizing. 9 million postcards were distributed in 2020. First Church has 1,000 postcards for the upcoming 2022 elections - please email Michael Hopkins at [michael.hopkins.129@gmail.com](mailto:michael.hopkins.129@gmail.com) if you'd like to be involved.

## Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for David Greer, following the death of his beloved father.

Prayers for Rose Berman as she continues to heal  
from her knee surgery and hospitalization.

Prayers of strength for Monica, daughter-in-law to Diane Brenneman  
and wife of Sara, after a recurrence of cancer.

Prayers of healing and peace for Bonnie Rickert, Courtney McCaffrey's mother.

Prayers of healing for James Ross.

Prayers of comfort for the communities of Buffalo and Uvalde as we mourn  
lives lost to white supremacy and gun violence.

Prayers of joy as we celebrate LGBTQ + Pride!

Prayers of support for Andre, the mother of Scott Prentice, as she battles leukemia.

Prayers of healing for Liz and Lance Warren.

Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan  
and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.

Prayers for Monte Hillis and her husband Bert, as she faces  
the rapid onset of dementia.

Prayers of peace and liberation for Ukraine, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.

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

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.

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), Multiracial/Multicultural Church (2003), and an Anti-Racist Church (2021). 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.



**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  
Director of Music Ministry – Leela Koilpillai  
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Trista Dunlap  
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez  
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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