

# 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

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## **Worship With Us This Commitment Sunday:**

Join us at 10:30 in the sanctuary on Sunday morning or [click here](#) to join us by Zoom as we mark Commitment Sunday and conclude our stewardship theme, "What Gift Can We Bring" and welcome new members Austen Beaird, Mylo Caluza, and Robin Olson. Stewardship co-chair Nick McConnell will lead our call to worship and offer words of assurance. Polly Gordon will lead a responsive reading adapted from Psalm 89. Andrew Hamilton will serve as our scripture reader with a focus text from John 2 (water into wine). Rev. Amanda will preach a sermon entitled, "The Giving Tree: Revised." The First Church choir will sing the anthem, "Psalm 150" under the direction of Leela Koilpillai. Rev. Amanda will invite us to bring forward our offerings, commitment cards, and handwritten prayers for our ministries as we bless the gifts of time, talent and treasure that make possible all that we do. We will also join in prayers of the people. Join us!

Rev. Sam will offer an outdoor gathering for our families with children and youth (bundle up!) at Garfield Park (2nd & F) from 9:30 - 11:00 am to enjoy pageant rehearsing and games. For families planning to join who wish to submit your Commitment Card online, please [click here](#) to do so. You can also mail your card into the office.

Following worship, join us outdoors or online for coffee and fellowship, then all who wish to help with the "greening of the sanctuary" are invited to help. Questions? Contact Alisa Tanaka-Dodge, chair of the Worship Commission.

## **Covenant With Us: Complete Your 2023 Commitment Card**



As we consider the stewardship theme, "What Gift Can We Bring," we invite you to prayerfully discern how you will give of your gifts of time, talent, testimony, and treasure to support our ministries in 2023. Perhaps you have heard or read some of the stewardship testimonies that have been shared both in worship and through email. To learn more about how our budget will empower us to accomplish our shared mission and respond to God's call for this community in 2023, please take the time to read our Narrative Budget and stewardship co-chair Nick McConnell's stewardship letter. Then, complete your commitment card by [clicking here](#) or placing your hard

copy of the card in the offering plate.

This year, the commitment card contains the opportunity to make a financial pledge but also to indicate how you wish to give of your time, talents, and testimony. Please complete both sides and submit it online, or by mail (Church Office, First Congregational UCC, 945 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001), or by email to the Church Office ([churchoffice@firstuccdc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstuccdc.org)) or to Assistant Treasurer Lucille Dickinson ([lucilledickinson@aol.com](mailto:lucilledickinson@aol.com)) on or before Commitment Sunday, THIS WEEK – November 20. We hope that as many Members and Friends as possible will **join us live for worship this Sunday** in our beautiful sanctuary to give thanks for First Church, to rejoice in and celebrate our community, and to place their Commitment Card in the offering plate during our worship service.

### **Greening the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas: November 20**

The Worship Commission invites you to help decorate the sanctuary and narthex on Sunday, November 20th, following worship. We'll begin about 15 minutes after worship ends. Join us! Please let Alisa Tanaka-Dodge know if you plan to help: [alisa@tanakadodge.com](mailto:alisa@tanakadodge.com).

### **Order Your Poinsettia for Christmas Eve: Orders due November 27**

As we plan for our Christmas Eve services, we will order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. We invite you to order a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one whose name will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship folder. Please fill out either the digital form ([click here](#)) or the paper form enclosed in worship folders. You may pay online via Vanco or PayPal (indicate poinsettias) or mail a check (with Poinsettias on the memo line) to the church at 945 G Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001. The cost per plant is \$20. All orders must be received in the church office by November 27th.



### **Winter Clothing Request for Newly Arrived Migrants**

Hundreds of migrants are still being bused to Washington, D.C. six days a week from Texas and Arizona. First Church is collecting winter clothing through November 20, 2022. For adults and children, we would appreciate coats, scarves, gloves, hats, socks and shoes. For children and youth aged 3–18, we also need hoodies and sweatshirts. Items can be new or gently used and in dignity condition. You can drop your donations in the Narthex on Sunday or have them shipped to the church c/o Jamey Moore. Susan Saudek will be making regular deliveries to Luther Place, our neighbor church.





**SASHA  
BRUCE**

## **Drop-In Center Thanksgiving Dinner: November 22**

First Church, along with Table Church and Sasha Bruce, will be hosting a home-cooked, fall-themed dinner for Drop-In Center clients on Tuesday, November 22nd from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. You are invited to sign up to help in two ways:

- Provide a side dish, bread, dessert, or some drinks.
- Volunteer to help set-up, serve, and/or clean-up.

Please use this link to indicate what dish you can bring, or which volunteer shift you can help with:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FAAA72AA1FF2-dicthanksgiving>

We will be serving dinner from 6pm-8pm but will need volunteers starting at 4pm to both help set up the narthex and to heat up and otherwise ready dishes for serving. Food and drink contributions can be left in the church kitchen Sunday, or you can drop them off on Tuesday. We ask that you use single-use dishes for easier clean-up and label each dish with the item name and any reheating/serving instructions. Feel free to contact Kim Darling, [kdarling@gmail.com](mailto:kdarling@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

## **Hope and Fears — Advent Nurture: November 27 and December 11, 2022 — Coordinated by Barbara Gerlach**

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light,  
"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Phillips Brooks



Hope and fear mix and mingle in the Christmas stories of Jesus' birth. "Fear not", the angel says to Mary. "Be not afraid, I bring you good news of great joy," the angels say to the shepherds. We will be sharing the hopes and fears we carry into this Advent season. Each Sunday, four people in the congregation will share the reasons for their fear, the sources of their hope and how they move through fear to hope again. We will share experiences when hope has risen out our fear, broken through our despair, depression or doubt, rekindled our courage and conviction, given us a new sense of life's possibility, a deeper experience of connection and community, and increased our joy and peace.

**Sharing on November 28: Dwan Reese, Laura Johnson, Kemmesha Thomas, Robin Olson**  
**Sharing on December 11: Sandy Sorensen, Thaddeus Elliott, David Lindsey, Leela Koilpillai**



## **Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist This Advent to Epiphany**

Sign up at [tinyurl.com/FirstAdvent](https://tinyurl.com/FirstAdvent) to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship this holy season of Advent and Christmas through Epiphany.

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.

## **Second Sunday Offering: Faith UCC Mobile Market**

In November, First Church will take up a Second Sunday offering again for the Faith United Church of Christ Mobile Food Market, a ministry offering food to the community every third Thursday, from 9 a.m. until the food is gone.

Each month, more than 20 volunteers distribute free diapers and groceries to anyone in the community. To date, Faith UCC at 4900 Tenth St. NE has served over 1000 families in Ward 5 through the food market program.

In June 2022 alone, it served 374 households.

Faith UCC depends on donations from the National Capital Area Food Bank and from individuals and organizations like First Church and Ward 5 Mutual Aid. Let's give generously to help Faith UCC nourish our DC neighbors!

**Faith Mobile Market**

**3rd Thursday of the Month**  
**9 AM Until all food is gone**

**4900 10th St., NE**  
**Washington, DC 20017**

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Bishop Dwayne Royster,  
Senior Pastor

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss,  
Designated Senior Minister

## **Downtown DC Chamber Series — November 18th at noon.**

Beethoven, *Violin Sonata No. 8 in G Major, Op. 30, no. 3*; Mower, *Deviations on The Carnival of Venice*; Bach-D'Albert, *Passacaglia in C minor, BWV 582*. Free. Repeats on December 16.  
[fmnc.org](https://fmnc.org)



## This Week

### Saturday, November 19

10:30 am Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, November 20

9:30 am Bible Workbench

10:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Greening the Sanctuary

### Tuesday, November 22

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

6:00 pm Drop-In Center Thanksgiving  
Dinner

### Wednesday, November 23

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation

### Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day: Church office closed

### Friday, November 25

Church office closed

### Sunday, November 27

9:30 am Bible Workbench

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Advent Nurture Series with Rev. Barbara  
Gerlach

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

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.

Prayers of healing for Paul Pelosi and his family.

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



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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.

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 – Ms. Leela Koilpillai  
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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