

GABRIEL'S HORN

First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 2022



Beloved Community,

In stewardship season, I am compelled by God's economy, a total reversal from the economic chatter all around us. In God's economy, the last are first and we are commanded to rest on the Sabbath. In God's economy, debts are forgiven and the day laborer who shows up to work the final hour of the day receives a full wage. In God's economy, a little yeast makes the whole loaf rise, and provision in the wilderness is assured. In God's economy, we become agents of generosity, because all that we have belongs to God. When the early church became filled with the Spirit, and awe fell over them, scripture tells us that they shared all things in common, sold their possessions and distributed the proceeds to any who had need. In God's economy, there is enough, and we can acknowledge that—truly—our needs are met.

First Church is rooted in our covenant together, and we rely on one another to each bring what we can, trusting each gift will enrich the whole. Some find it easier to give financially; others may give more generously of their gifts of time, talent, and testimony. Yet part of our covenant is inviting you to discern how God is calling you to give. We invite you into the spiritual practice of aligning your values with how you spend your money and time. Here are four possibilities for your discernment.

Pledge your commitment: If you have never pledged your financial gifts to this congregation, it may be difficult to know where to start. Think about your past history of giving and what might be possible for you in the year ahead. Your commitment helps us know that we will have what we need to live out our mission in the year ahead. We ask all members to make a commitment; the amount is up to you.

Increase your commitment: How much is God calling you to give? Are you wishing to stretch yourself to live more generously? My family will be increasing our commitment this year, working toward the goal of giving a significant percentage of our income.

Sign up for Auto-Giving: You may not be able to increase your commitment this year, yet still wish to make a meaningful gift to the church. Sign up for auto-giving by contacting your financial institution. Auto-giving means that even if you step away from in-person worship for a time due to vacation or travel, your commitment continues with regularity. With

auto-giving, you help us avoid fees that come with online giving. And once it's set, you don't have to think about it.

Give of your time, talent, & testimony: This year, commitment cards will include gifts of time, talent, and testimony in addition to financial commitments. We want to learn about your interests and areas of curiosity, and how you wish to serve.

I am truly overwhelmed with gratitude by the gifts given as part of your covenant with us to accomplish the mission to which God has called us. Your gifts make possible all that we do—working with the Potomac Association to forward housing justice in DC, hosting an Afghan refugee family, the soaring beauty of our music in worship, Christmas pageants with our children, and service trips with our youth. You have made it all possible, and with my whole heart I say, *thank you*. What gift will you bring in 2023?

In Gratitude,
Rev. Amanda

Council Capsule

October 11, 2022

Last weekend Rev. Amanda virtually attended the Central Atlantic Conference Annual Meeting. A resolution passed overwhelmingly to affirm Congress's support of HR40 (Reparations Legislation). Our Conference joined another Conference to take this resolution to the General Synod next summer to be supported by the entire United Church of Christ.

We are undergoing a staffing transition due to the administrative assistant vacancy. Dorothy has filled in a number of times as a temp for us and will do so again. There is no movement yet to fill the position.

Worship Commission has affirmed the recommendation of our pastors that we have one Christmas eve service at 5:30. This will allow Table Church to have an evening service after us.

Amanda shared a peek behind the scenes of the efforts of our Sanctuary Committee and lift up the work of Susan Saudek with Congregation Action Network advocating and pushing the Mayor to revise the bill for an Office of Migrant Services. We have collected shoes; next warm weather items. Amanda will participate in a clergy press conference saying it is wrong to use people as political pawns. This is a substantive issue that requires comprehensive Immigration reform. She is grateful for the Sanctuary Committee.

Welcome to Stewardship season. Extraordinary guest preacher and mentor of Amanda, Dr. Veronice Miles will be with us this Sunday. Leadership in this moment means we ask you to make your commitment quickly and thoughtfully and encourage others to do so as well.

Rev. Sam reported that Susan will also share with our youth her work with immigrant families. Youth will continue with three more Zooms and then see a play at Arena Stage centering on immigration and serve breakfast to those who arrived here and are moving to the next step of their journeys.

On November 6th, the Young Adults will lead worship. They had a nice Zoom last week with great enthusiasm as they planned the service and music. In January–February, two high

school youths who are currently sophomores at St. John's HS in DC, as part of their service commitment requirement at school, will spend Sundays with us as we reimagine ways to provide hospitality. We will also extend that opportunity to our youth to be a part of this service.

Sam will bring before the Council a proposal for hiring two full-time child care workers for 2023: have four, but budget them two at a time every other Sunday. Sunday school has been incredible fun. Thanks to teachers.

Lucille explained the detailed estimates of an asking budget. Finance suggested an increase of the COLA amount to 6% based on some comparative research in *Christianity Today* that tracked the average range of COLA increase to be 4% to 6%. Also included is an ambitious pledge increase of 5%. The transfer from the endowment would not increase. The overall result is the budget would yield a \$76,000.00 deficit. Kristy raised the question of whether Finance and Council consider this a systemic deficit at this point that needs to be addressed differently. At this time Council was asked to affirm this as the basis for an asking budget for the stewardship campaign. The Council unanimously affirmed the proposed budget be presented to the congregation as the asking budget at the Fall Meeting on October 23, 2022.

Allison reported that the Finance Commission recommends that our Senior Minister be given access to the Church's giving records as a best practice by the UCC. Not only is Amanda our spiritual leader, but she is also similar to an executive director of a non-profit organization. The Council unanimously approved this recommendation with the amendment that the pledge cards will provide a check box for members who wish to opt out of this process.

Susan thanked Amanda and John Smeltzer for doing the heavy lifting on the Safe Church Policy draft. She sent a draft to CE, Facilities, and Byron to review and provide comments by the end of November. Susan brought a motion from the Regathering Task Force and Outreach & Membership to approve the discontinuation of the sign-up sheets for Church attendance. The Council approved the motion unanimously. The Regathering Task Force continues to require coffee hour to stay outside. In addition the Task Force reminds people that there be no eating or drinking in the building. The Regathering Task Force, given the discontinuation of previous public metrics, asks Council for permission to redo the Covid safety plan as standing but flexible guidelines rather than the phases currently used. The Council approved the request unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:10 pm and the next meeting is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Finance Commission

Stewardship Campaign

"What Gift Can We Bring" is the theme of our upcoming fall reflection on what gifts and giving mean to us as we prepare to think about how we will support our church in the coming year. The theme comes from a hymn in our hymnal that calls us to celebrate the gifts we have been given. This time for reflection began on October 16th and will culminate on November 20th when we will make our financial commitments and describe the many other ways we will bring gifts of our time, talents, and resources to our church for the coming year. During

this time, members of the church will reflect with us on gifts they have been given that have shaped their lives and why giving to the church is important to them.

Jean Alexander:

I started to think about the gifts that First Church has given me and it became a rather long list, but first and maybe most importantly is the following:

When I came to work at the church back in 1976, after a grueling year of chaplaincy at Saint Elizabeths back when it was still a federal hospital, I was still gun-shy from the trauma of working at the church I served right out of seminary. I was the youngest minister in a multiple staff church in Philadelphia, and found myself swept up in a staff conflict that roiled the congregation and left all the ministers battered and bruised.

Working at First Church with Bill Moremen, the minister, and John Shepherd, our music director, was the best thing that could have happened. There was an atmosphere of trust and sheer enjoyment working with these two guys that healed my soul and helped me reclaim my love of ministry. Bill knew how to give permission to people to do what they felt called to do. First Church wasn't perfect by any means, but its commitments and encouragement helped me grow into the minister I became. By the affirmation I received not only from my colleagues but from the congregation, I grew in many different ways.

I took that growth and affirmation into the subsequent ministries I had in Bethesda, the Maine Conference of the UCC, and finally in Newton MA. They were the gifts that kept on giving.

My children were baptized at First Church, and relationships with some parishioners stood the test of time. Bruce and I met through our connection at First Church, and years later the church supported us through his dying. It was a very precious gift.

All of these were priceless gifts.

As you begin to think about how you can support First Church in the coming year not only financially but with your commitments to its ministries, I hope you will do as I have, and think about the ways the church has gifted you and then through you to others.



Stewardship and Pledging - A Rebranding for 2023

Nan McConnell, Chair, Finance Commission

2023 Church financial planning is underway focusing on our theme, What Gift Can We Bring? The financial commitments of members account for 40% of our budget and are essential to fulfilling our mission and ministry. This is a critical time of year in the life of our church.

We want to share a couple changes this year to our financial planning. Finance Commission believes these changes rebrand our commitments to better reflect how and why we give gifts of time, treasure and talent to the Church.

1. We are changing the name of Pledge Sunday to Commitment Sunday (November 20) to incorporate a sense of a sustained and broader commitment of gifts.
2. Pledge forms will be called Commitment cards and will offer an opportunity for people to indicate how they would like to contribute, in addition to a financial commitment.
3. We have added a line to the Commitment card that supports best practices and provides the senior minister access to pledge information unless members choose to opt out. According to our denomination and strongly supported by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy as a best practice, this approach strengthens pastoral ministry and leadership in the following way: "Pastors need to know about the giving behavior of the members of the congregation in order to be effective leaders. In any other nonprofit organization, we would not accept the refusal of a senior leader to take responsibility for the financial well-being of the organization they lead, and yet we willingly perpetuate the idea that clergy should not know. This does a disservice to both pastors and their congregations, because it reinforces a taboo that prevents leaders and organizations from thriving."

Thank you for your prayerful support of First Congregational Church.

Social Action & Awareness

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!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice

We Can and Must Get Out the Vote

In recent decades, about 40% of the eligible voting population votes during midterm elections, and about 60% during presidential elections.

There are many reasons why people don't get out and vote—their job schedule does not allow it, they are away and didn't apply for an absentee ballot, disillusionment with the political atmosphere, among others. With the rise of suppressive voting legislation, we may see an even lower turnout in upcoming elections.

Our vote is our voice, and our democracy can only truly represent us when we are all able to participate. So we ask, what can we do to get out the vote?

The UCC Office for Justice and Witness, Our Faith Our Vote program has an answer. It is Vote Tripling. We can each use the form at this link (<https://p2a.co/XUQweR1>) to [Pledge to Vote and Help Three Friends!](#)

Many voters are pledging to increase civic engagement in 2022 by committing to encouraging three friends to vote on or before Election Day (**midterm elections are on November 8th**). Because of the changing rules and [wave of voter suppression laws passed at the state level](#)*, it is more important than ever that we know our voting rights and that we have a plan to vote.

* <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/ensure-every-american-can-vote/voting-reform/state-voting-laws>

Once you have made a plan to have your own vote counted, check in with friends and family. Are they registered? [Find out here](https://p2a.co/zv3KyiE) (https://p2a.co/zv3KyiE) Are they planning to vote in person or by mail? Do they know their polling location? Do they know what they need to have their vote counted? Commit today to making sure that you, and three others, have your votes count!

You will receive an email reminding you of your pledge as Election Day gets closer.

Thanks for being a voter, and for committing to increasing civic engagement in 2022!



Drop-In Center Thanksgiving Meal: 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 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 shift you can help with: tinyurl.com/SashaBruceDinner

We will be serving dinner from 6 to 8 but will need volunteers starting at 4 p.m. to 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 cleanup and label each dish with the item name and any reheating/serving instructions.

Feel free to contact Kim Darling, kdarling@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Sanctuary Committee

First Church Testifies re: Migrants Bused to DC

What would you consider a just welcome by our Sanctuary City? Mayor Bowser stepped up to declare it a crisis, announcing the creation of the Office of Migrant Services. Under the leadership of Human Services Committee Council Chairperson Nadeau, an emergency bill was offered outlining the services the immigrants would be eligible for. *BUT...* as generous as the bill seemed on the surface, it was flawed.

Nadeau asked for a public hearing. Last week, both Reverend Amanda and Susan Saudek testified before the Committee. Here are excerpts from our testimony.



Reverend Amanda: “At First Church, we have provided homelessness services ever since the 1980s, when the deinstitutionalization of patients from Saint Elizabeths Hospital and major cuts in mental health spending drastically increased homelessness. Today, our Drop-In Center with Sasha Bruce Youthwork serves homeless young adults by providing a safe space, a warm meal, and the joy of fellowship.

Here’s the good news I recently learned: due to increased services, what was once a year-long process to be placed in permanent housing has decreased to closer to three months. I thank our city leadership for your good work. Yet we are here this morning because this same city leadership has proposed a two-track model that would exclude immigrants from accessing homeless services. This two-track system fails to include long-term housing support or wrap-around services, like childcare and supplies for infants.

From the moment buses of migrants began arriving in Union Station, mutual aid organizers and faith communities have welcomed them, provided safe pop-up spaces, fed, and even clothed them. We are grateful the city is now stepping up to create an office of migrant services to sustainably meet this moment, but if we do a quick gut-check, we know that separate is never equal. Bumping an entire class of people out of our social services is wrong and will be ineffective in solving the crisis confronting us now. I strongly urge you to stand with migrants, knowing that ultimately what we do for them is what we do for God.”



Susan: “For more than 30 years I have been working in El Salvador and have seen the driving forces of—no jobs—wars—and gang threats—send waves of desperate people north to our country looking for safety and a decent life.

My friend Elena, who sold tamales in El Salvador, was threatened repeatedly by the MS13 gang with demands for payment to be allowed to maintain her little sales stand or face the death of a family member. To save her life, she journeyed north. She is here in DC awaiting her asylum court date, but for the moment is undocumented. She works and pays taxes and earns enough to cover her own housing, food, and healthcare. The bill, as it stands now, would exclude her from accessing services should she need them. As a DC resident, I want my tax dollars to cover the most vulnerable. As an undocumented migrant, Elena is certainly vulnerable and afraid.

I have heard it said that the Council is worried that if migrants are included under the bill, they would be siphoning off monies from the homeless in our city. In my mind, to think that way hurts both populations. We should not be faced with an either/or choice.

Put yourselves in Elena’s shoes. She is already anxious about being undocumented and with the bill as it stands would be further worried that she could not access housing or health care if she suddenly needed it. Will you stand with her?”

Worship Commission

Join Leela on November 6: All-Church Sing-Along

All of us have gotten accustomed to the reduced experience of life through Zoom, & while it can feel good not to have to get dressed up & leave the confines of one's safe spaces, what are we depriving ourselves of? Have we gotten comfortable living life as spectators, on the periphery, not truly engaging?

The other day someone said to me, "I don't need to go into the Met, I can hear it on NPR." My thought was, *there's nothing like being there, live!!* When sound and light envelope you, vibration shifts energy and change occurs! I've had the experience of being so uplifted by the sheer beauty of sound that the transformation brought about a shift in consciousness and a sense of malaise disappeared. A healing resulted.

The joy of singing is at the core of my life and these past few years of not singing in person with others has been a time of extreme withdrawal from an interaction that has fed my soul and has provided opportunities to come out myself and unite my voice with others in joy that only singing with one another gives.

We at First Church would like to provide opportunities for all to participate in the joyous act of singing together and to that end will provide an after-church sing-along, **Nov 6th**, which will have children singing with adults and all generations learn a piece we can sing on November 13th.

Please think of expressing yourself in song! We're all meant to sing, dance & express ourselves through the arts... it's what humanizes us, and there's nothing like embracing one another in the act of singing & moving together to bring about peace and living out in person our universality. See you there! Please invite any child, friends and neighbors who might enjoy participating!!!

Guest Preacher on Nov. 13: Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock

Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock is a feminist scholar and theologian who serves as the Senior Vice President and Director of the Shay Moral Injury Center at Volunteers of America. She leads the organization's efforts to deepen understanding about moral injury.

A noted theologian, Dr. Brock was the Founding Director of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, where she also served as Research Professor of Theology and Culture. She is co-author of *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War* and *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering and the Search for What Saves Us*. She is a leading national expert on moral injury in combat veterans and has offered trainings for VA mental health providers, chaplains, veterans and their families.





Dr. Brock previously served as a chaplain, Professor of World Religions, Philosophy of Religion, Spiritual Biography, Psychology of Religion, Theology and Women's Studies, and Director of the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College, a research fellowship program for distinguished scientists, scholars, humanitarians, and artists. An experienced non-profit program and institution builder, she was a member of the strategic planning team for the Radcliffe-Harvard merger that led to the creation of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and later served as a fellow at the Harvard Divinity School Center for Values in Public Life. She also served as senior editor in religion for The New Press in New York City. She has edited or contributed to three manuals for navigating careers in religion for the American Academy of Religion. She was born in Fukuoka Japan, raised in the U.S. military, and lives in Alexandria, VA.

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.

Worship in Advent: Begins November 28

Advent ushers in the holy season of anticipation as we prepare our hearts to receive the mystery of incarnation made real in the birth of Jesus Christ into the world. It also marks the start of a new year in the Christian calendar. Advent is a season marked by longing, waiting and expectancy, powerful antidotes in a season fraught with consumerism and holiday rush. Advent begins on Sunday, November 28th. Please join us in worship during this holy season!



Share Your Advent Wreaths!

During Advent, each week we light a candle in our Advent candle wreath representing hope, peace, joy, and love. While we do this in worship, we encourage you to also create your own Advent wreath with candles at home and to light the candles week by week over meals or in your meditative time.

We'd love to see photos of the Advent wreaths you make at home (and let us know if we can share them in a future newsletter!) – send jpegs to churchoffice@firstuccdc.org.

Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist This Advent to Epiphany

Sign up at 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.



Outreach and Membership



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 10th 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: tinyurl.com/FirstUsher

Christian Education

Youth Explore Immigration Justice This Fall

This fall, seven First Church youth have been exploring how God calls us to welcome the stranger and how this call relates to justice issues around immigration. Over four Zoom sessions, they have learned about how the immigration system works, the root causes of why people seek asylum in the US, the challenges immigrants face upon arriving, and ways we can offer assistance and stand in solidarity with our immigrant siblings.



We've been very grateful to have special guests: Rev. Noel Anderson of World Church service, Kathy Doan of CAIR Coalition, Susan Saudek of First Church, and Mario Miranda.

On November 19th, we will be seeing a dramatic production about this issue at Arena Stage called Sanctuary City.

In December, we will offer hospitality and welcome to immigrants who have been bused here from Texas.

We are grateful for the youth who care deeply about learning how to follow God and do justice for our immigrant siblings.

Christmas Pageant: December 4

First Church rejoices to celebrate Christ's birth with our wonderful pageant on Sunday, December 4th. While the pageant will be in the Sanctuary, we will also provide virtual and pre-recorded options. The theme will be "Emmanuel: God With Us."

We encourage all children and youth to let us know how they can participate by filling out this brief survey:

tinyurl.com/1stUCCpageantpoll.

We will have an outdoor gathering at Garfield Park on November 20th for fun, festivities, and the filming of any outdoor scenes. We so hope your child or youth can join us!

Please email Rev. Sam if you have any questions, at mcferran.sam@gmail.com.



Adult Education & Formation Plan for Fall

Save the dates for the exciting education and formation programming taking place at First Church through year's end:

Nov. 6: Intergenerational Music with Leela

Nov. 27 & Dec. 11: Advent Nurture Series with Rev. Barbara Gerlach

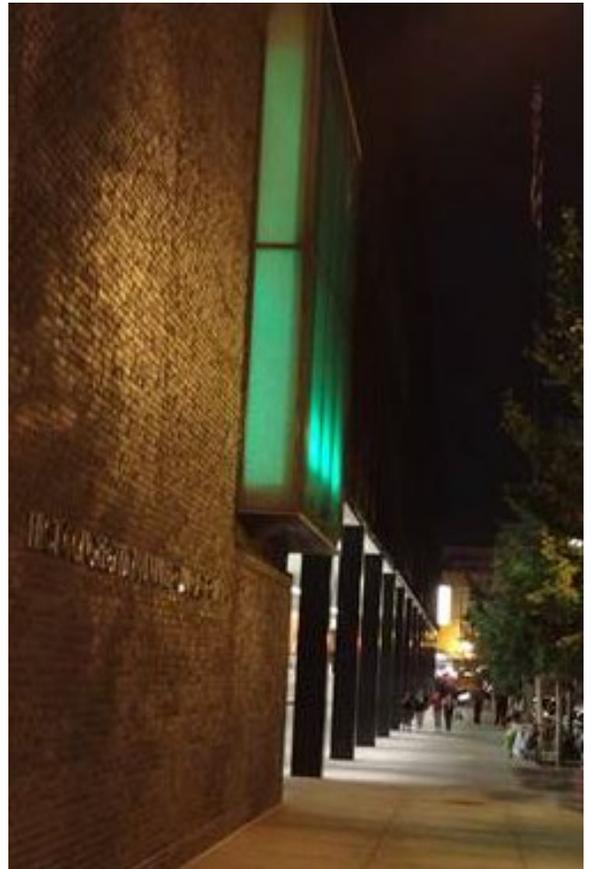
Facilities

Byron Adams, Building Manager:

When we worked with the architects (twbta.com) who designed our building here at 10th & G more than 15 years ago, many folks expressed a desire for more natural light in the sanctuary. And we also expressed the desire for our building and congregation to be a beacon of hope in the heart of downtown Washington.

To achieve these goals, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien designed the lightbox which brings an abundance of natural light into the sanctuary during the day. At the time, the project's lighting consultant was going to install a collection of lights, mirrors, prisms, mylar, etc. in the lightbox that would create an always-changing light show that could be seen from inside and outside. Unfortunately, during the value engineering phase of design, that installation was postponed.

Several times over the years, I have tried to come up with a way to make the lightbox work in this way, but without success. Three or four years ago, our theatrical lighting consultant, Brittany Shemuga, suggested inexpensive LED light tapes. It was a good idea, but they weren't bright enough to show up. So when Brittany was scheduled to come to DC to design and run the lighting for The Capital Hearings concert this October, I asked her if there was something else we could try.



Brittany, being the creative person she is, had another idea. This time she suggested three 4-foot long LED lighting bars. On October 10th, she set them up, and that week I came by the church after dark to see if they worked. **THEY DO!**

On one hand, it could be argued that this was a vanity project that just makes the building look pretty at night. But I encourage you to think about this from the perspective of the hope and challenge it could provide to:

✚ A homeless trans teenager falling asleep beneath the library arcade and facing the lightbox glowing with the light blue, pink, and white of the trans flag.



✚ The LGBTQ youth who come to the Drop-In Center on Tuesday evenings and see the rainbow colors of the [Philadelphia Pride Flag](#) as they approach the building.

✚ Capitol Hill staffers as they pass the lightbox glowing amber/brown and blue for [immigrant respect](#) or the yellow of [Black Lives Matter](#).

✚ A woman struggling with breast cancer and wearily walking to the Metro after a long day of work (which she needs for her health insurance) and she looks up to see the lightbox glowing pink during breast cancer awareness month.

✚ HIV/AIDS survivors when the lightbox is glowing red on AIDS Awareness Day.

What hopes do different colors evoke for you?

Update! At its October meeting the Facilities Commission authorized the expenditure of additional funds to install several more light bars and bring Brittany back to do programming that will enhance and expand what we can do to make the lightbox a beacon of hope for downtown. She's scheduled for November 15th and 16th. I look forward to sharing more pictures with you soon!

Rehearsal For Change: Youth and Police Interaction — November 3

Using theatre as a tool, join [Voices Unbarred](#) and [DC Justice Lab](#) to explore the realities of police and youth interactions in the District, work collaboratively to imagine possibilities, and create policies that address the issue. This Legislative Theatre event is a mixture of powerful performances by our Community Advocates, interactive exhibits, and small group discussions. Learn more at [VoicesUnbarred.org/events](#) and [watch a video](#) about the previous two events.

Come prepared to engage with the community and create change! **Thursday, November 3rd, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at First Church.** Tickets are \$15 with a Pay-What-You-Can option if that's a hardship. All Voices Unbarred events are free for people who have experienced incarceration. Purchase tickets here: <https://donorbox.org/events/373028>

Voices Unbarred centers the voices of people impacted by incarceration, and collaborates with theatre practitioners and policy organizations, to creatively reimagine the prison system and advocate for change. Through theatre and justice workshops, script writing, and interactive performances, participants affected by incarceration in the DC area are given a platform to share their stories, tackle complex issues, and lead the criminal justice reform movement.

Voices Unbarred does a good job of teaching people how to not just make their experiences engaging through theatre, but to then use it to help change that system." —Community Advocate



**Homesong —
November 12 at 7:30 pm.**

A tapestry of music and culture with works by US immigrant and first-generation composers who draw inspiration from their homeland. Featuring the world premiere of a newly commissioned piece by Gaayatri Kaundinya. \$20-45.

www.congressionalchorus.org



**A Musical Odyssey — The Goldberg Variations,
November 18 at 7:00 pm.**

The renowned Goldberg Variations have been admired for generations and comprise Bach's most popular work for the keyboard. Winner of the American Bach Soloists' Goldberg Prize, harpsichordist Leon Schelhase brings this work to life with virtuosity. \$10-35. www.bachconsort.org

**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. fmmc.org

**fmmc Friday Morning
Music Club**

REQUIEM

NOVEMBER 4 - 20

Music by

MOZART, VIVIER, BOULANGER

Scored by **D. Chavez**

40 years
IN SERIES

IN Series presents a profound and spiritual embodying of Mozart's masterpiece, the Requiem Mass, left unfinished when he died. In this unique staging of the work, set in a DC Metro car, Mozart's transcendent music will be interpolated with that of two other brilliant yet lesser known 20th century composers, Lili Boulanger and Claude Vivier, who also died before their 36th birthdays and left unfinished works behind.

This unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience will be staged across Washington, DC in multiple different sacred urban spaces, as well as in Baltimore.

Imagined and directed by **Timothy Nelson**

Music direction by **Emily Baltzer**

Musical arrangement by **Dave Chavez**

Design by **Lawrence Molten III, Abigail Hoke-Brady, and Donna Breslin**

FEATURING: Teresa Ferrara, Noelle McMurty, Aryssa Leigh Burrs, Gayssie Lugo, Oliver Mercer, Jarrod Lee, Daniel J. Smith, and choral ensemble.

Fri., Nov., 4 at 7:30p.m.; Sun., Nov., 13 at 2:30p.m.
Hand Chapel | 2100 Foxhall Rd NW, WDC 20007 (non ADA-accessible)

Sat., Nov., 5 at 7:30p.m.
First Congregational UCC | 945 G St NW, WDC 20001

Sun., Nov., 6 at 2:30p.m. & 5:30p.m.
Dupont Underground | 19 Dupont Cir NW, WDC 20036 (non ADA-accessible)

Fri., Nov., 11 & Sat., Nov., 12 at 7:30p.m.
St. Mark's Capitol Hill | 301 A St SE, WDC 20007

Fri., Nov., 18 & Sat., Nov., 19 at 7:30p.m.; Sun., Nov., 20 at 4:30p.m.
2640 Space | 2640 St Paul St, Baltimore MD 21218

TICKETS: \$35 - Use Code: REQUIEM35

WWW.INSERIES.ORG / 202 204-7763

Special discount for our First Church community: Use code "**FCUCC**" to access tickets to the **Nov. 5th performance** for only \$10 apiece.

November 2022

Tuesday, November 1

1:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Drop-In Center

Wednesday, November 2

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation

Thursday, November 3

6:00 pm "Rehearsal For Change:
Youth and Police Interaction"

Saturday, November 5

7:30 pm "Requiem"

Sunday, November 6

9:30 am Bible Workbench
10:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
After-Church Singalong with Leela

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day
1:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Drop-In Center

Wednesday, November 9

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation

Saturday, November 12

7:30 pm "Homesong"

Sunday, November 13

9:30 am Bible Workbench
10:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship (Guest
Preacher Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock)
11:30 am Coffee Hour

Tuesday, November 15

1:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Drop-In Center

Wednesday, November 16

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation

Friday, November 18

12 noon Friday Morning Music Club
7:00 pm "A Musical Odyssey—The
Goldberg Variations"

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
10:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
Advent Nurture Series with Rev. Barbara
Gerlach

Tuesday, November 29

1:00 pm Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Drop-In Center

Wednesday, November 30

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation

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



**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
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment –Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001 Phone: 202.628.4317 • www.firstuccdc.org