

January 20, 2023, at

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, & Annual Meeting



Join us at 10:30 in the sanctuary or by Zoom (tinyurl.com/1stChurchZoom) for worship this Sunday. Moderator Susan Anderson will lead the Call to Worship and renewal of our covenant. Rev. Sam will offer a time with children. Our scripture readings will come from Matthew 4:12-23 (fishers of people) and 1 Corinthians 1:10-18. The First Church choir will sing the anthem "Prayer of Saint Francis." Rev. Amanda will preach. We will also offer the prayers of the people. Join us!

Children will begin the morning in worship and, following Rev. Sam's

children's moment and the passing of the peace, will move up to the Christian Education suite for Sunday school.

Following worship, join us for a brief fellowship time over coffee up in the Community Hall, then return to the sanctuary for our Annual Meeting led by Moderator Susan Anderson and Assistant Moderator Andrew Hamilton, where we will vote on the budget for 2023, report on the follow-up to our Racial Justice Audit, and bless our new slate of leaders.

Seeking Usher Volunteers

As the number of people attending worship in person increases to include newcomers interested in learning about First Church, the Outreach & Membership Commission is seeking volunteers to usher. In cold weather, we also welcome more of our neighbors living on the streets who are cold and hungry. Ushers welcome members, friends, and newcomers who arrive for worship and, along with our Sunday Morning Coordinator Kemmesha Thomas, also welcome those seeking warmth and resources. Go to TinyURL.com/FirstUsher to sign up to serve as an usher and become a face of welcome at First Church. We need 2-3 ushers per Sunday and have a written list of instructions to orient you.



Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist this Winter

Go to [Tinyurl.com/1stChurchLiturgist](https://tinyurl.com/1stChurchLiturgist) to sign up to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship this winter. Liturgists are invited to offer a time of personal sharing reflecting on a worship theme or to lead the prayer of confession and words of assurance. 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.



If you prefer not to use the Google document to sign up, simply email Rev. Amanda at ahendlervoss@gmail.com with the date you wish to participate and she will sign you up.

Warm Clothes Still Needed for Drop-In Center

First Church is continuing its drive to keep our neighbors warm. Whatever you can donate is welcome; socks and gloves are especially needed. Look for the big orange box at church.

Suggested items (like-new or gently used):

- Men's and women's winter coats
- Warm sweatshirts, fleeces and sweaters
- Warm trousers, sweatpants, jeans
- Winter hats, scarves, neck and face-warmers
- Winter gloves
- Winter shoes/boots
- Socks
- Hand- and foot-warmers



Folks are mostly adults, of all ages and sizes; large/XL items are especially needed. If you have any questions, contact Janneke at janneke1018@gmail.com. Thank you!



Adult Education & Faith Formation Opportunities this Spring

Feb 5 & 12: Bible Workbench "Taste & See" after worship, led by Andrew Hamilton

Bible Workbench is our weekly Bible study which takes place at 9:30 AM in the chapel and on Zoom. For two weeks in February, we will bump it to the after-worship time so more can participate, to "taste and see" what this Bible study offers. All are welcome!

Lenten Book Circles

Our Lenten book circles offer an opportunity to focus on racial justice in a cohort (small group) with rotating facilitation. Book selections will be announced with a link to sign up for the book of your choice. These circles will meet weekly during the six weeks of Lent, on a date/time determined by the group. Each book circle will include members of our Antiracism Committee who will convene the first gathering and participate throughout.

March 5: Community Organizing Session with [Washington Interfaith Network \(WIN\)](#) & Neighboring Congregations

Join First Church and other local congregations, such as Table Church, for a one-hour "taste and see" session with WIN about multi-racial community organizing among faith communities to build power for social justice.

March 12-26: "Radical Rest" series with Rev. Amanda on the spiritual practice of Sabbath

This after-worship series will explore Sabbath rest as an antidote to a world preoccupied with striving and grasping. We will explore Sabbath as an invitation to wonder, delight and gratitude that renews our connection to the rhythm of life through tangible spiritual practices.

April 23:

❖ **Inquirer's Gathering**

Our pastoral staff and Outreach & Membership Commission will host this after-worship gathering in the chapel and on Zoom as a time for newcomers to learn more about First Church, including how to join, and share what is bringing them through our doors. All newcomers are welcome to attend.

❖ **Eco-Theology Nurture with Rev. Kaeley McEvoy**

As we mark Earth Sunday, following worship Rev. Kaeley will lead a conversation about eco-theology, open to all.

Late Spring–Early Summer: White Privilege Discussion Series with Rev. Karen Byrne

This will be a six-week evening series to help white people deepen their analysis of white privilege, the many ways whiteness is rewarded at the expense of people of color. This series will likely take place in the Byrne home, the schedule is to be determined. To inquire or express interest, please contact Karen at revkarenbyrne@gmail.com.

Sermon Talk-Back

Join Rev. Amanda or a guest preacher after worship to dive into a deeper theological discussion about Sunday's sermon facilitated by a member of our Adult Education & Formation team; dates to be determined.

Stay tuned for this exciting possibility:

- ❖ **Book Talk with Dwan Reece** (her new book is *Musical Crossroads: Stories Behind the Objects of African American Music*)

Our Whole Lives Faith & Sexuality Class for 1st-2nd Graders

First Church will launch the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for 1st–2nd graders on January 29th, a six-week class that provides accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education. Rev. Amanda, a trained instructor who has taught OWL in three other congregations, will lead the teaching team, which includes the Rev. Barbara Gerlach and Anna Kiss. Rev. Sam will also offer material support for this series. The OWL curriculum is a joint project of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Through OWL, we will nurture the worth of each child, encouraging them to value themselves and act on their values throughout their lives. In 2024, we hope to offer OWL to our first 5th–6th grade cohort. Questions? [Contact Rev. Amanda.](#)



Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family of John Smeltzer following the death of his father, the Rev. John Philip Smeltzer, who served as a minister in the United Church of Christ.

Prayers of comfort for Courtney McCaffrey and her family following the death of her mother, Bonnie Rickert.

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 support for Andre, 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 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.

This Week

Saturday, January 21

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
& Fellowship

Sunday, January 22

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Bible Workbench
10:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
11:30 am Coffee Hour & Annual
Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

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

Wednesday, January 25

12:15 pm Break Away Meditation
2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 26

1:00 pm Potomac Association
Anti-Racism Working Group

Sunday, January 29

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Bible Workbench
10:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
11:30 am Coffee Hour

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 or 202.628.4317.



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world
for all
ucc.org

**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 – Ms. Leela Koilpillai
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001
Phone: 202.628.4317 • Fax: 202.347.4911
www.firstuccdc.org

