

"Dia de Los Muertos vigil in San Diego to honor those who died in ICE custody."

November 1, 2026

All Saints Sunday

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

During the prelude, we invite you to quiet your heart,
meditating on God's presence as we prepare for worship.

For those in the sanctuary, we invite you to place a photograph of a departed loved one on the worship table. If you are joining us from home, please set your table with the photograph of a departed loved one, a votive candle, and some form of bread and cup which we will bless together during communion.

PRELUDE *Elevation* Dom Paul Benoit

WELCOME Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*OPENING HYMN "For All the Saints" page 5
Robin Olson, brass

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Lucille Dickinson
God of remembrance, we confess that, at times, we forget your mercies of old, how you made a way out of no way for our ancestors. Sometimes we feel the burdens of the world fall entirely on our shoulders. We have been slow to put our trust in you and in the power of your beloved community. Return us, today, to your great cloud of witnesses. Remind us of our purpose and your faithfulness. Forgive what we have left undone, and draw us into your mercy once more. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Beloved Community, trusting in God's promise to wipe away every tear, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Please greet those around you with words such as "The peace of God be with you." For those joining us online, please unmute to pass the peace. Let us bless one another with deep peace across time and space.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Nora Marsh

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after sitting down, the disciples came to him. And Jesus began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

READING FROM THE SECOND TESTAMENT Peter Byrne

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I replied, "You are the one who knows." and that one said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship God day and night within the temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and the Lamb will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

SERMON Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*MUSICAL OFFERING *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?* (A Tribute to Dolly Parton)

Diane Brenneman, guitar & vocals; Nora Marsh, guitar & vocals, Robin Olson, vocals & brass

OFFERING Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

As we worship virtually and in person, we invite you to give in a variety of ways. Place your offering in the plate, send your check to the office, or give online via PayPal or Vanco. Consider signing up for auto-giving.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Sam McFerran

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss & Rev. Sam McFerran

At First Church, all are welcome to God's table to celebrate the sacrament of communion, including children. We receive communion in the round, gluten free bread is available and all the cups are filled with grape juice. For those joining us online, please set your table with a form of bread and cup, which we will bless and break together. Taste and see that God is good!

Communion Prayer of Remembrance

Prayer of our Savior (wide shot)

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup "Let Us Break Bread Together" #330

Prayer after Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*CLOSING HYMN "When the Saints Go Marching In" page 5

BENEDICTION Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE Reprise of "When the Saints Go Marching In" Traditional

The congregation is invited to join in the postlude reprise.

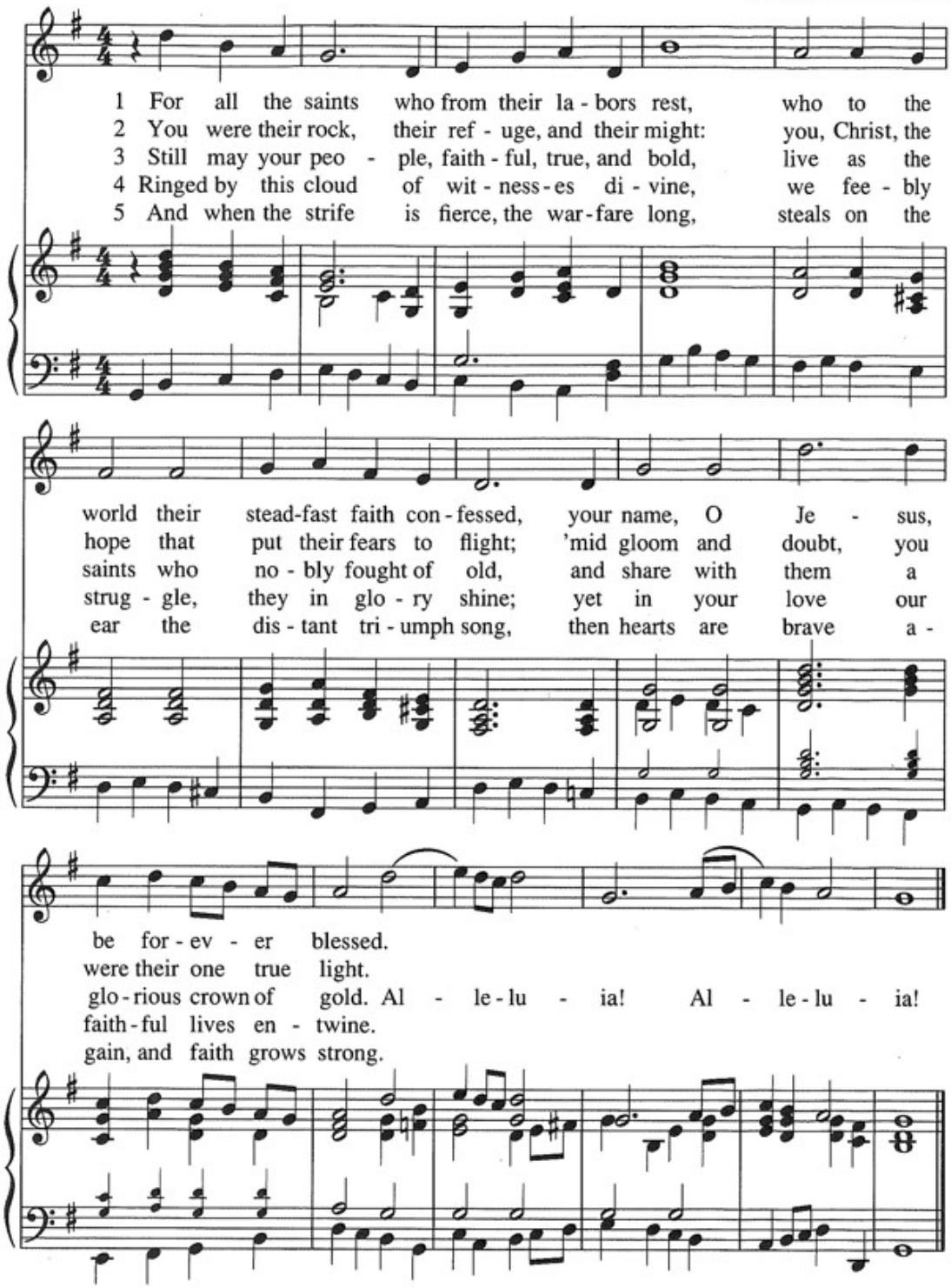
Music reprinted with permission by One License A-720443.

*** Indicates "Please Rise in Body or in Spirit"**

299 For All the Saints

Heb. 12:1

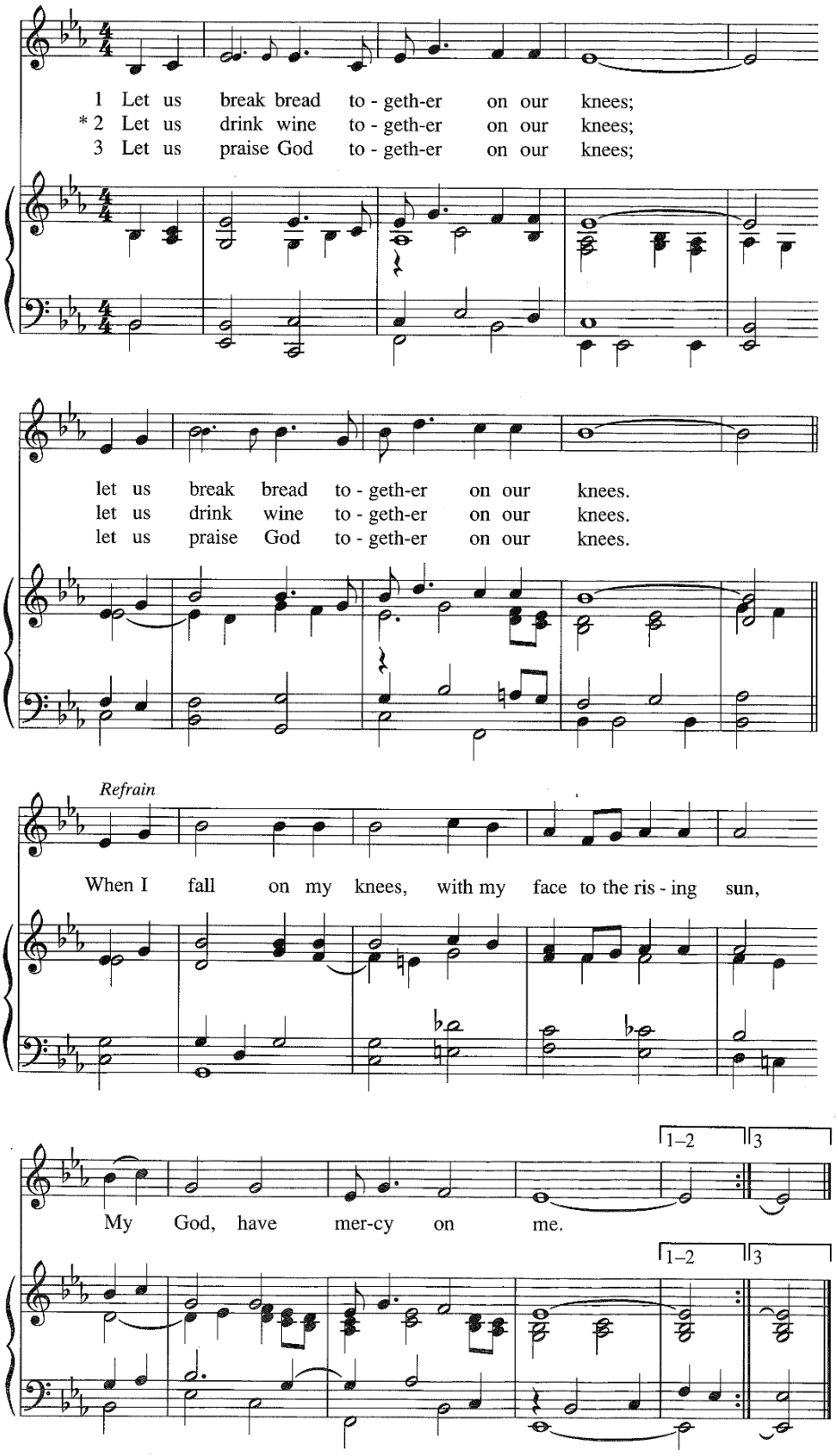
William W. How, 1864; alt.



330 Let Us Break Bread Together

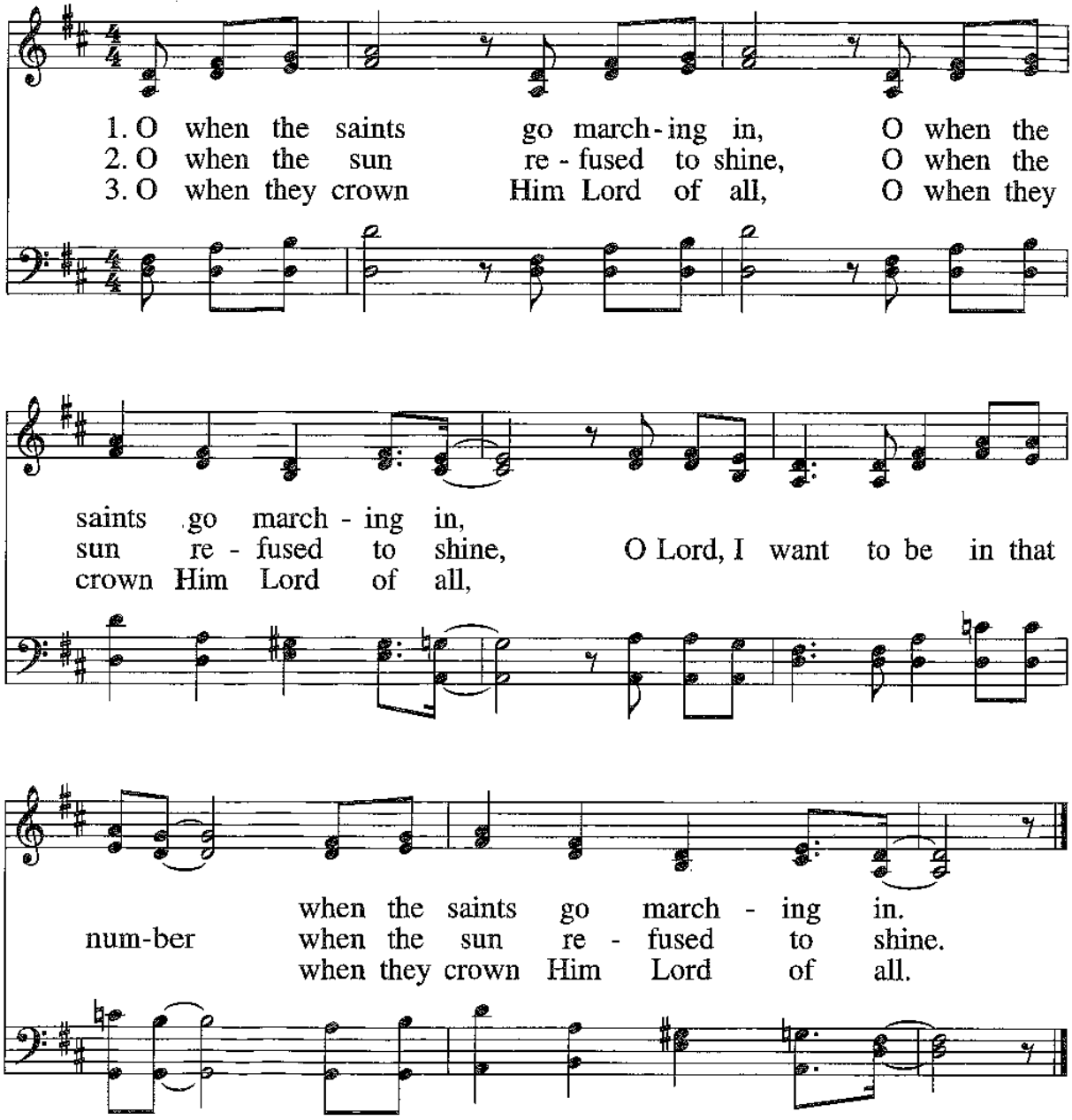
Acts 2:42

African-American spiritual



595 When the Saints Go Marching In

See, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment on all...
Jude 14-15



Text: Negro spiritual
Tune: WHEN THE SAINTS, 88 10 7; Negro spiritual; arr. by Stephen Key, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Welcome to First Congregational UCC in Washington DC!

Connect with us!

If you are worshiping from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please click here to fill out an online Visitor's Card and check out our newsletters at our website, www.firstuccdc.org. We welcome you warmly!

Families with Children

Children, complete with their wiggles and noises, are welcome in worship! At First Church, we provide Sunday school during the academic school year for preschool - 6th Grade and nursery care for infants and toddlers in our Christian Education (CE) suite on the second floor. If you would like to be added to our listserv for First Church families, please contact Rev. Sam at mcferran.sam@gmail.com. We are so grateful to welcome your children into our life together at First Church!

Assisted Listening Devices

We offer assisted listening devices with either headphones or loops to connect directly to hearing aids. Please see an usher if you would like to use an assisted listening device.

Coffee Hour Following Worship

All are invited to join us for coffee, light refreshments, and fellowship in the lobby immediately following worship. Upcoming Coffee Hour Hosts:

November 8: Nick & Nan McConnell
November 15: Sophie Jones, Moira Jones, Michael Enseki-Frank
November 22 : Meg Maguire, Ellen Bushmiller

Invitation Cards

Stop by the Usher's Table to pick up one or more of the invitation cards. We invite members to use them to invite someone in your circle to come to First Church with you.

Thank You to Today's Worship Participants & Volunteers

Worship Leaders: Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss, Rev. Sam McFerran
Music: Dennis Turner, Diane Brenneman, Nora Marsh, Robin Olson (euphonium & alto trombone)
Speakers & Liturgists: Lucille Dickinson, Nora Marsh, Peter Byrne
Sanctuary Setup: Ann Bushmiller, Kim Darling, Chris Byrne
Ushers: Jody & Mike Kenney
Zoom Moderator: Kim Darling
A/V Technician: Gil Elie
Sunday Morning Coordinator: Moe Shorter

Happening at First Church

Today Following Worship: Community Potluck

All are invited to join us upstairs in the Community Hall for a not-so-scary Halloween Community Potluck following worship. Feel free to wear Halloween costumes and bring a dish good for the body and the soul.

Book Talk with Rev. Dr. Jason Carson Wilson: Nov. 8

Following worship on November 8th, join us in the Community Hall at noon for a talk with Jason Carson Wilson to discuss his book *Makeshift Messiahs: Why the American Right Keeps Creating Political Saviors*--a timely look at the pattern of casting strongmen as saviors, and what it will take to resist that pull. You can purchase Jason's book online; some will also be available to borrow from our church library for those interested.

November 15th: America's 250th: Where is the "Forever Path" Leading?



Join artist Jessica Valoris, historian Dr. Antonio Austin, and the Commemorative Artwork Task Force for an engaging conversation about the "Forever in the Path" stained glass panels that hang over the fountain in our narthex, as a reminder of those who lived and labored in bondage on the land on which our church now sits. How do we view this artwork through the lens of America's 250th anniversary of independence? How has the excavation of our history and the process of creating this artwork transformed our understanding of the lives of those who worked this land as enslaved laborers? How do we honor the ancestors who fought for survival and freedom? Join us following worship on November 15th in the Community Hall or on Zoom.

Stewardship Season Theme: There Our Hearts Will Be

Our fall stewardship season is now underway, with the worship theme "There Our Hearts Will Be." In stewardship, we invite you into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts. Rooted in Jesus' teaching from Matthew 6, this theme reframes stewardship not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing everything we have in God's care. Commitment cards are available from the church office or online.



For more information on the life and ministry of First Church, scan the QR code to view our most recent weekly newsletter.

Prayer List

Prayers of joy and blessing for the Rev. Kaeley and Benjamin Wood, following their wedding ceremony.
Prayers of healing for Kristen Wheeler following surgery on her shoulder.
Prayers of love for the family of Eric, Anna, Riley, and Archer Kiss following Eric's diagnosis of metastatic cancer.
Prayers of healing for Susan Hendler, Rev. Amanda's mother-in-law, following a fall and broken hip.
Prayers of comfort for the Pence-Bucks family, following the death of Travis Johnson, Natalie's birth father. May he rest in peace.
Prayers of strength for Daniel Zawada, father of Mike, who was hospitalized following a fall and major head injury.
Prayers of mercy for the people of Colombia following the devastating earthquakes.
Prayers for peace in Iran and for all those impacted by the war.
Prayers of compassion and care for all federal workers facing chaos, cruelty, and uncertainty.
Prayers of courage and strength for our democracy.
Prayers of support for Dale Ostrander, living with memory loss.
Prayers for peace and rebuilding in Gaza.
Prayers of peace and liberation for Sudan, Ukraine, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.
Prayers of mercy for families struggling to eat and make ends meet.
Prayers for Peoples Congregational UCC, our sibling congregation.
Prayers of strength for Rev. Laura Simmons and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, serving as chaplains.

Welcome to First Congregational UCC. We were founded in 1865 by abolitionists as one of 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.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran
Interim Director of Music – Dennis Turner
Building Manager – Byron Adams
Sexton – Ines Marquez
Administrative Assistant – Whitney McColley
Member in Discernment – Lynaya Morris

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