

The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational
United Church of Christ
June 14, 2026



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
at the Intersection of Faith & Life



WELCOME!

Special greetings to you who are
Join us in person or online via Zoom
at 10am Sunday:

worshipping with us for the first time.
or at our Facebook live video stream

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchSwampscott/>

ABOUT US

We are a community of Christians seeking meaning, purpose, and mission through our participation in the life of this beautiful local church. We believe that God is Still Speaking and has something new and essential to say to us as we live in this ever more complex and challenging world. We don't have all the answers, but we have some great questions. Together, we rely on the rich resources of the tradition of our Christian faith, the Bible, the revelation of God's love in the person of Jesus Christ, and the God given gifts of each person here, to lead us in our daily lives.

The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational is so named because it was the first church established in the town in 1846 as Swampscott was developing into an independent town, separating from nearby Lynn.

If you would like to be added to our weekly newsletter, please send your name and email address to office@thefirstchurch.org

GATHERING

* An asterisk is an invitation for the congregation to stand.

OPENING VIDEO

Gathering

Janet Fischer

PRELUDE

"Engelberg Musings" Charles Villiers Stanford/Arr. Paul Leddington Wright

Patricia Clark

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Lectionary Liturgies, Thom M Shuman)

Anne Potts

ONE: On an ordinary Sunday, we come to worship God:

ALL: we come, trusting God will speak to us; we come, hoping God will surprise us.

ONE: On this day, like every other day, we seek to follow Jesus:

ALL: we follow, believing Jesus will be with us; we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.

ONE: On this day, we lift our souls to God's Spirit:

ALL: we open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us; we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.

ONE: On this day, let us sing as one body, sharing the joy of God's glory.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #7 "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" (ENGELBERG)

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Choir with Congregation

ALL: When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

HIGH: How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound: Alleluia!

ALL: So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue: Alleluia!

LOW: And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night
When utmost evil strove again the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight: Alleluia!

ALL: Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia

INVITATION TO PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*** PEACE PASSING SONG** *"'Rain Down' with 'As the Deer'"* Jamie Cortez/James Koerts

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Choir with Congregation

REFRAIN (1st time: SOLOIST/then: ALL): Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love, God of life.

CHOIR: Faithful and true is the word of our God.
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right;
full of God's love is the earth.

CHOIR: God of creation, we long for your truth;
you are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,
all of our hope lies in you. **REFRAIN**

CHOIR: As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after You.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my Strength, my Shield,
To You alone my spirit yield. **REFRAIN**

PROCLAMATION

Matthew 9:37-10:15

Anne Potts

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go,

proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

SERMON

"Sois los amigos que quise escojer ..."

Rev. Holly Brauner

HYMN #478 *"Sois la Semilla/You Are the Seed."* (ID Y ENSEÑAD) Cesario Gabarain

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Choir with Congregation

SOLO: Sois la semilla que ha de crecer, sois estrella que ha de brillar.
Sois levadura sois grano de sal, antorcha que ha de alumbrar.
Sois la mañana que vuelve a nacer, sois espiga que empieza a granar.
Sois aguijón y caricia a la vez, testigos que voy a enviar.

(You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.
Be my friends a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world.")

ESTRIBILLO/ALL: Id, amigos, por el mundo, anunciando el amor,
Mensajeros de la vida, de la paz y el perdón.
Sed, amigos, mis testigos de mi resurrección.
Id llevando mi presencia; con vosotros estoy.

(REFRAIN/ALL: Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world.")

HIGH VOICES: You are the flame that will lighten the dark, sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
You are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures of peace.

LOW VOICES: You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock where justice and truth always reign. **ESTRIBILLO/REFRAIN**

HIGH VOICES: You are the life that will nurture the plant; you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield.

LOW VOICES: There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God. **ESTRIBILLO/REFRAIN**

TIME OF PRAYER

One: Let us prepare ourselves for a time of prayer.

Amanda Grant Rose

If you are online, you are invited to add your prayers using the Chat function in the Zoom application.

CALL TO PRAYER:

May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: Holy One, through the Prophet Hosea, you declared, "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." We confess that, at times, we offer the ritual and routine of religious practices rather than a discerning heart that breaks with compassion and beats for justice. Strengthen us to the tenderness of knowing you, O God, more deeply, loving our neighbors more justly, and embracing our lives more fully.

A TIME FOR PRAYERS FROM THE CONGREGATION (CHAT FUNCTION).

Janet Fischer

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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

PRAYER HYMN #111 "Santo, Santo, Santo/Holy, Holy, Holy" Latin American Tune.

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#112 "Holy Ground" Geron Davis

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Santo, santo, santo, Mi corazon te adora!
Mi corazon te sabe decir: Santo eres Senor!

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now, we are standing in his presence on holy ground

GOING FORTH

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

PARTING ANTHEM "Praise His Holy Name" Keith Hampton

Janet Fischer

Rev. Holly Brauner

First Church Choir

CLOSING

Janet Fischer

PARTING SONG

"We Walk in Love" Deanna Witkowski

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Deannawitkowski.com

HIGH VOICES: We walk in love united in purpose.
We join our hands and lift up one voice.
We speak the truth with strength and compassion
Resounding with hope, with courage and joy.

LOW VOICES: We cry for peace and rights for all people.
We welcome friends from far and from near,
We fight for those whose voices are silenced,
Resisting in faith until all are free.

ALL: We dream a world of justice and kindness,
We build a bridge creating new paths.
We march with joy as all walk together,
Embracing each one, we boldly stand.

Facebook stream ends, Zoom greetings Breakout Rooms

MUSICIANS: First Church Choir and Patricia Clark

USHERS: Susan Buchanan and Sharon Scofield

COFFEE HOSTS: Annual Meeting lunch from Periwinkles

Carole Bannister, Cindy Fogarty, and Sharon Thomas (desserts)

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

We, The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming church. We are called by God through Jesus Christ to follow the Great Commandment "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10: 27)

We joyfully welcome everyone of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, ages, races, and ethnicities, economic and social statuses, physical, mental and emotional abilities, faith backgrounds, marital standings and family structures into our community, to share in the full life, leadership and ministry of First Church.

We celebrate the wonderfully rich and diverse world God has created and embrace the joy and growth this diversity inspires. All who seek to know God are encouraged to join with us as we work to live out our mission in faith and love.



Follow this QR code to provide an offering or gift to the church to support our ministry.

THE FIRST CHURCH IN SWAMPSCOTT, CONGREGATIONAL 40 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 9 am to 1 pm
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First Church Council: Clerk: Melissa Foye. Treasurer: David Foye. Members: Janet Fischer, Susan Hamilton, Clarke Orzalli (chair), Heidi Whear, Stephen Rose, Julia Wistran, Betty McNeil