

**The First Churches of Northampton,  
First Baptist Church, ABC  
First Church of Christ, UCC**  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
An Environmental Covenant Congregation

**~ STATEMENT OF WELCOME ~**

*APPROVED BY CONGREGATIONAL VOTE IN 1996*

We, the members of The First Baptist Church of Northampton and The First Church of Christ in Northampton, together known as “The First Churches”, invite into our fellowship and membership all persons who love God and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, without regard to such differences as race, ethnicity, age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, economic status, marital status, level of education, or any other difference that may be misunderstood as a barrier to Christian fellowship. We further welcome all who seek God, and we express our sincerest hope that in fellowship with the community of faith they may find the answers for which they search.

**~ ENVIRONMENTAL COVENANT ~**

We are an Environmentally Covenanted Church and promise to lift up and care for God’s earth through what we do in worship, education, individual and congregational lifestyle choices and in our church’s community, national and global involvement.



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Welcome to  
**PRIDE SUNDAY**

**Annual Ecumenical  
Service**

Hosted by First Churches of Northampton,  
St. John’s Episcopal Church, Edwards Church,  
and Haydenville Congregational Church

**June 7, 2026**

**Welcome! If you have any questions, ask one of the ushers.**

- **Visitors** — We are glad to host you at First Churches today! If you have any questions, please ask one of the ushers. Childcare for children 5 and under is available in our Rainbow Room. Kids 10 and may join the children's program in Lyman Hall and will come to worship in time for communion. For the men's room please use the door to the right of the organ and go down two flights of stairs. For the all gender accessible restroom, please go through the left hand side door, down the stairs or elevator to Lyman Hall. Head straight ahead to the parlor and you'll find them through the door to your left.
- **Wherever you see the \* know that you are invited to rise in body or spirit. Please take whatever posture is right for your body.**

### **Order of Morning Worship**

**PRELUDE** "Come Just As You Are" words and music by Crystal Lewis

**WORDS OF WELCOME** Rev. Sarah Buteux

**INTROIT** "Whoever You Are" Adam Podd

Whoever you are, whomever you love;  
Wherever you are on your life's journey...  
you are welcome here!

**GATHERING PRAYER** written by Elliot Davey

In 1978, San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk and other local activists asked an artist named Gilbert Baker to create a new symbol for the LGBTQ community, to be unveiled at their "Gay Freedom Day" event that June. Using color to establish meaning, Baker conceived of a flag with a "rainbow of humanity" motif to represent the diversity of the queer community. He assigned symbolic meaning to each of the flag's eight colored stripes... ~Adapted from the GLBT History Center, San Francisco, CA

Leader: I invite you into a spirit of prayer...Beloved divine, we thank you for this beautiful and holy day. As we light this candle of sex and sexuality, remind us of Your call to take delight in who we are, and take delight in one another.

**As we light this candle of life, help us to honor the abundant life You wish upon us, and remember all those lost too soon. May their spirits live on in all of us gathered here today.**

### **1946 Film Screening**

Thursday June 18th, 7pm in the First Churches Chapel

*1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.

It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film's creators, 1946 is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring.

**On Thursday, June 18th, First Churches will be hosting a film screening of 1946 in our small chapel at 7pm.** To RSVP, please email Elliot Davey, [communitycoordinator@firstchurches.org](mailto:communitycoordinator@firstchurches.org).

### **Juneteenth Prayer Vigil**

Friday June 19th, 12pm in the First Churches Sanctuary

Save the date! Drop in between 12-3pm on 6/19 for a Prayer Vigil for Freedom, in honor of Juneteenth. More details to come next week.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Praise and Worship SpeakEasy

Thursday June 25, 7pm  
Garden Chapel behind First Churches

**Missing evangelical worship, but not the toxic theology?  
Loving progressive church but feel like something is missing?  
Ready to get out of your head and into your heart?**

If so, come to our Praise and Worship Speakeasy. We will experiment together with creating an immersive music experience that, for some of us, harkens back to the evangelical worship services of our past, while recognizing that many of us were harmed in these spaces. But despite this harm, some of us still miss the feelings of unity and transcendence that the worship music cultivated. So, we're going to experiment and see if we can create a safe and affirming praise and worship experience with theologies that affirm our humanity?

We will create music together to cultivate a shared connection and a feeling of an effervescent, loving, and non-judgmental God that radically welcomes all people, as we see modeled in the life and works of Jesus. Join us in our musical experiment, as a singer, musician, or someone just curious, as we wade into this type of worship experience, bringing songs we want to sing along with our fears, hesitations, and even our hopes as we praise God together.

As we light this candle of healing, bless our siblings who suffer on account of human misinterpretation of Your gospel. May all of Your children be healed of the malady that is hatred and fear of the unknown. May we understand that Your love defies all bounds.

**As we light this candle of sunlight, let warmth radiate down on us gathered here today. Remind us of the ever-turning cycle of night and day, and that in times of darkness, light always comes again.**

As we light this candle of nature, ground us in our place as one small part of Your beloved creation. May we be good stewards of our earth and all that grows, walks, flies, crawls, and swims here.

**As we light this candle of art and magic, let us delight in Your invitation to participate in the mystery of creation. Let us see miracles in every person, painting, poem, song, and story we encounter.**

As we light this candle of serenity, we pray for You to shower Your world in peace. Bless us all with the strength to see the dignity and divinity in each person that we meet. Bless our leaders with humility and discernment, such that none of Your children would live under the threat of violence.

**Unison: As we light this candle of spirit, we invite You to move us, move through us, and remind us that, when we think we know it all, You always have new wisdom to reveal. When we feel alone, make yourself known to us. When we feel hopeless, show us the path towards the light. Bless us with your still speaking voice, so that we might make your love known to all who seek your comfort and love. Amen**

**\*OPENING SONG** #298 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

### PRAYER TO SET OUR INTENTIONS

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Leader: Let us join together in prayer...

**God, who made me in Your image, teach me to love myself as You love me.**

**God, who made me in Your image, allow me to show that image to the world.**

**God, who made me in Your image, help me to see Your image in all those I meet.**

**God, who made me in Your image, teach me to conserve and protect all of Your creation.**

**God, who made me in Your image, bless, protect, and keep me and all of Your children safe. Amen**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** based on Psalm 139

O God, we praise you because we are fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
We know that full well.

Beloved, the One who breathed life into us continues to be present with us.  
God has made us in God's own image, has forgiven us all, and made us new  
creations. Therefore, let us reach out with love and peace, honoring and upholding  
the dignity of one another, knowing we see reflections of God's image all around us.

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**BE THE CHANGE** Mel DeSilva, VP of Development & External Affairs of Trans Health  
Rev. Mark Seifried

**OFFERTORY** "Welcome" words by Laurie Zelman and Mark Miller  
music by Mark Miller

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin.  
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in.  
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,  
singing welcome; welcome to this place,  
you're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome, the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,  
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least.  
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,  
singing welcome; welcome to this place,  
you're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome, the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.

**BENEDICTION**

For those newly out,  
we celebrate you

For those who paved the way  
we thank you!

For those still not ready  
we are here for you!

For those told otherwise  
you were made in God's image!

For those who offer guidance  
we are grateful for your light!

For those whom we have lost  
we remember you!

For all who are LBGTQ+  
you are seen, loved and valued. Amen

**POSTLUDE** Toccata in Seven

John Rutter

**A big THANK YOU for all the help coordinating and performing the music.**

Adam Simon - music director, Edward's Church

Mare Berger - music director, Haydenville UCC

Sarah Kraaz - organist, First Churches

Rebecca Phelps - music director, First Churches

And thank you to all the soloists and singers from Edward's, Haydenville UCC, and  
First Churches who made this such a special event.

**Please join us for coffee hour in Lyman Hall following the service!**

**CLOSING HYMN** "Sending You Light"

by Melanie DeMore, arr. Peter Amidon  
verses solo, congregation on chorus

*slow and very freely*

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-5) has the lyrics: "I am send - ing you light to heal you, to hold you." The second system (measures 6-12) has the lyrics: "I am send - ing you light to hold you in love. I am send - ing you light". The third system (measures 13-18) has the lyrics: "to heal you, to hold you. I am send - ing you light to hold you in love." The score includes a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo/mood is indicated as "slow and very freely".

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,  
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,  
where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts it's voice,  
singing welcome; welcome to this place,  
you're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome, the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Mark Seifried

One: It is a gift to be able to give something away.  
**All: We are called to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.**  
Spirit of Love, look upon us now.  
**Bless these gifts; those we can see and those we cannot.**  
May our hopes come true for the better world we dream of.  
**As we work together to make God's love and justice real. Amen.**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*GOSPEL READING** Matthew 15:21-28

read by Rev. Diane Johnson

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.'<sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'<sup>24</sup>He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'<sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.'<sup>26</sup>He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'<sup>27</sup>She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'<sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

**RESPONSE**

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON** “How Great is Your Faith!”

Rev. Reilly Page

**ANTHEM** “Child of God”

words and music by Mark Miller

No matter what people say,  
say or think about me,  
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what people say,  
say or think about you,  
you are a child, you are a child of God.  
No matter what the world says,  
says or things about me,  
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what the church says,  
decisions, pronouncements on you,  
you are a child, you are a child of God.

And there is nothing, or no one who can separate,  
they can't separate you from the truth  
that you're someone, you are family,  
you are meant to be a child, a child of God.  
You are a child of God, a child of God!

*"Child of God" was written by Mark Miller in response to the 2013 United Methodist Church trials concerning same-sex marriage as a way to assure all people that they are loved by God regardless of what any church might say.*

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Rev. Sarah Buteux

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

Rev. Amy Bradley

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Sarah: When it was evening Jesus sat down with the 12 disciples and while they were eating he took bread, he blessed it, and he broke it and then he gave it to them saying, “Take. Eat. This is my body.”

Amy: And then after supper he took a cup. And after he had given thanks he gave it to them and said, “Drink of it all of you, for this cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

*(Elements are handed to everyone who is distributing)*

Sarah: We are one bread, one body.

Amy: We are one cup, one community.

**People: We will love one another as Christ loves us.**

Amy: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*(Celebrants will move into position)*

Sarah: Jesus said, “do this as often as you do it, in remembrance of me.”

Amy: Ministering to you in Christ's name, we invite you when you are ready, to come and receive the bread and the cup.

**COMMUNION/ANNOINTING**

May the blessing of God who has created you, who calls you by name, who sets you free, abide with you and set your heart aflame with love. Amen.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Rev. Amy Bradley

O Lord, our advocate, fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Seeing your divine light in each we meet and engaging your love in all we do. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, **Amen.**