

**126th Anniversary of the  
First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
August 21-22, 2021**

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**August 21, 2021**  
**Afternoon Worship**  
**3:00 pm**

## **Welcome**

Greetings to all who have come in person and online to help us celebrate the 126th anniversary of First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge. Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Dr. Jonathan M. Watt**

The Cambridge Congregation welcomes Dr. Jonathan Watt who will be preaching Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Dr Watt was the pastor of this church from 1986 to 1992. He is currently the chair of the Biblical Studies Department at Geneva College and serves as an adjunct professor at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary. We are very glad to have Dr. Watt with us again and look forward to his ministry among us during this time of celebration.

## **Order of Worship**

Welcome and Greeting  
*Pastor Noah Bailey*

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Opening Prayer  
*Elder Tom Fisher*

Scripture Reading: Acts 19:1-20

Sermon: "The Meaning of Ephesus"  
*Dr. Jonathan Watt*  
[Outline](#)

Praise: 125

Prayer of Thanksgiving  
*Elder Tim Montgomery*

Praise: 48C

Benediction

Doxology: 106H

## **Dinner**

All are invited to stay for dinner immediately following the service. Individually packaged meals can be picked up in the back room and taken to Sennott Park to eat.

**August 21, 2021**  
**Evening Program**  
**5:30pm**

Welcome

**History Presentation**

126 years of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, MA

By: Patrick Mangan

**Buildings Update Presentation**

An overview of the work that has been completed and future work on the church building and the parsonage

Presented by Kyle Finley

**Janet Millican Interview**

An interview of our oldest member

Completed by Jay & Ellen Burkhardt

**Greetings Video**

Greetings and memories from past and current members

Compiled by Patrick Mangan

**Growing up on Antrim Street**

Memories of the daughter of late pastor Paul McCracken (1960-1970)

By Cheryl Hemphill

**A Gift to the Body**

A call to the pastorate

By Brian Wright (son of the congregation, pastor of Sterling KS, RPC)

**Open Mic**

First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge welcomes you to share your memories and thoughts

**August 22, 2021**  
**Morning Worship**  
**11:00am**

## **Order of Worship**

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

Prayer for Our Time of Worship

Reading of the Law: Isaiah 44:9-28

Prayer for the Needs of Our Congregation

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:16-34

Sermon: "The Opportunity of Athens"

*Dr. Jonathan Watt*

[Outline](#)

Psalm: 24A

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Psalm: 125

Benediction

Doxology: 106H

## **Fellowship Meal**

All are invited to join us for a fellowship picnic lunch following the service. The meal will take place at Sennott Park. Members of the congregation have extra food for out of town guests.

## **Additional Information**

### **125/126th Anniversary**

Our congregation was organized on July 9th, 1895, so our 125th anniversary was in 2020, but we were unable to have a suitable celebration last year due to COVID-19. Our building was completed a year later, and September 4, 2021 will mark 125 years since we began holding public worship in this location.

### **Biography of Dr. Jonathan M. Watt**

By Chris Wright

Jonathan Watt was born in Sydney, Australia and immigrated to the U.S. when he was ten years old. He came to faith in Jesus Christ through the ministry of a high school teacher. He attended Syracuse University and there met his future wife, June Hamel. They were married in 1977 and have been blessed with four children: Nathan, Johanna, Benjamin and Zachary, and several grandchildren.

While at SU, Jonathan and June attended the Syracuse RPC and there grew in grace and faith through the ministry of Pastor Ed Robson. They then moved to Pittsburgh, where Jonathan attended the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, graduating in 1982. He was licensed by the St. Lawrence Presbytery of the RPCNA to receive a pastoral call in 1981 and was ordained and installed as pastor of the Manchester PA RPC in 1982, serving there until 1986. He then pastored in our congregation in Cambridge, MA (1986-1992), followed by the College Hill (Beaver Falls) PA RPC (1992-2000). While pastoring he also obtained MA and PhD degrees in Linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh.

In 2000, he left College Hill congregation to take up a teaching position in the Department of Biblical Studies at Geneva College. He has served in that department since then and presently chairs it. In 2005, Geneva awarded him with its "Excellence in Scholarship Award." That same year, he was elected Moderator of the 2005 Synod. He has also served as Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at the R.P. Seminary in

Pittsburgh. Although not a formally installed pastor, Jonathan continued to preach and shepherd where there was need and opportunity, and he was ultimately called by the Tusca Area PA congregation and installed there as pastor in 2012. He continues to serve as pastor there along with his teaching and administrative responsibilities at Geneva College. Jonathan also served as executive secretary of the RPCNA Board of Foreign Missions (now Board of Global Missions) from 1996 to 2017. Jonathan is the author of *Code-Switching in Luke and Acts*, editor of *Pro Gloria Christi: A Festschrift in Honor of Edward A. Robson*, and author of many published articles.

## **History of First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, MA**

By Thomas Fisher

In May, 1894, a few members of the First Boston Reformed Presbyterian Church, along with some members of First United Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, petitioned the New York Presbytery of the RPCNA to organize a mission church in Cambridge. Instead of granting the petition, the presbytery formed a commission of elders to urge the group to unite with one of the Boston congregations. But the group insisted that a congregation was needed in Cambridge itself, and they convinced the commission to provide them with preaching, commencing with a worship service on July 15th in the hall of the YWCA in Central Square.

The group slowly grew, and at each of the next two meetings of the presbytery, a petition was presented for the organization of a congregation. The presbytery twice declined to do this, so the group appealed to the Synod. On June 12, 1895, the Synod granted the appeal by a nearly unanimous vote.

On July 9th, 1895, the commission met and Rev. S. R. Wallace of Brooklyn, N.Y. preached a sermon on Psalm 48:2 entitled "The Incomparable Beauty of the Church." Following the sermon, seventeen communicants were enrolled and officers were elected, examined, and ordained. The new congregation continued to meet in the YWCA hall and on December 10th, they unanimously called Rev. Samuel Gormley

Shaw, then pastor at Walton, N.Y., to be their first pastor at a salary of \$100 per month. He was installed in February, 1896. The congregation continued to grow, and in May 1896 land for a building was donated on Antrim Street. On September 24th, the congregation met for the first time in its present location.

In addition to its own ministry, the congregation has supported denominational ministries throughout its history. These have included missions in Syria, China, Cyprus, India, Japan, Pakistan, and South Sudan, and home missions across the U.S. and Canada, as well as the Reformed Presbyterian Home for aged persons, the R.P. Seminary (both in Pittsburgh, PA), and Geneva College (Beaver Falls, PA). Over the years, the congregation has also helped support the ministries of The Center for Urban Theological Studies in Philadelphia, PA, White Lake Covenant Camp in the Catskill Mountains, and various ministries in the Greater Boston area.

The present congregation maintains Sabbath School classes for all ages and midweek fellowship groups, in addition to regular worship on the Lord's Day. The congregation has a long history of active involvement in the annual presbytery summer camps held at White Lake, NY. From 2001 – 2008, the congregation hosted an annual spring reformed theology conference, and in 2006 we began the work of “daughtering” a new congregation, now fully organized as Christ RP Church of Providence, Rhode Island.

In 2017, Pastor Noah Bailey began serving the congregation as our 17<sup>th</sup> pastor.

At the end of 2020, the congregation consisted of 101 baptized and communicant members. The members and adherents of our church have included persons born on all of the six inhabited continents of the earth, making us a visible witness that the grace of God in Jesus Christ has been extended to people of "every nation and kindred and tongue." Our desire is that God will be pleased to continue to use us to proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ until He returns. We're praying that the Lord would guide us to an opportunity to plant a new congregation in the Greater Boston area in the coming years.

## Pastors

Samuel Shaw	1896-1904
George Benn	1905-1908
Robert Reed	1909-1916
John Gault	1919-1925
George Coleman	1926-1936
George Robb	1937-1939
Ernest Hemphill	1941-1946
Bruce Stewart	1948-1954
Donald Robb	1954-1959
John McCracken	1960-1970
Horace Mitchel	1972-1977
William Cornell	1979-1985
Jonathan Watt	1986-1992
James Kern	1993-1997
Christian Adjemian	2000-2009
Stephen Michaud	2011-2014
Noah Bailey	2017-present

# Sermon Outlines

## Saturday, August 21 – The Meaning of Ephesus – Acts 19:1-20

- 1.0 Introduction - On two gateway cities, albeit with somewhat different legacies
- 2.0 Why Choose Ephesus in the First Place?
  - 1.1 End of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> journey (Ac.18:19-21) and first two years of 3<sup>rd</sup> (Ac.19:1-10, etc.)
  - 1.2 Reasons: open-minded Jews asked for him (18:20), Apollos there (18:24-28), later Timothy (I Tim.1:3f), urban center of Asia Minor (Rev.2-3), strong civic/cultural activity
  - 1.3 On periphery of Paul's 'Macedonian call' (Ac.16:6-10)
- 3.0 What Happened in Ephesus?
  - 2.1 Disciples of John the Baptist receive the Holy Spirit (Ac.19:1-7)
  - 2.2 Three months of synagogue dialogue (Ac.19:8-9)
  - 2.3 Fruitful dialogue at School of Tyrannus (Ac.19:9-10)
  - 2.4 Miraculous healings (Ac.19:11-12)
  - 2.5 Sons of Sceva displaced (Ac.19:13-17)
  - 2.6 Broad conversion (Ac.19:17-19) □ divestiture of books & amulets
  - 2.7 Civic disarray (Ac.19:21-41 – cf. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XX\\_P3vZXWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XX_P3vZXWU))
  - 2.8 Legacy of this city: strong Christian presence and ecumenical council
- 4.0 Insights from Ephesus for Us Today
  - 3.1 An exercise in knowledge and understanding...*and* Spirit-ual power
  - 3.2 Relational ministry: people face-to-face, embodying Christ's love & truth

## The Lord's Day, August 22 – The Opportunity of Athens – Acts 17:16-34

- 1.0 Introduction – Crossing westward from Ephesus, over Aegean
  - 0.1 Not a 'strategic target' but surely a convenient one (Ac.17:15-16)
  - 0.2 Workability of marketplace and synagogue (Ac.17:17)
- 2.0 From Market to Synagogue (Ac.17:17-21)
  - 1.1 The opportunities of the market
  - 1.2 The opportunities of the synagogue
  - 1.3 The opportunity of the Areopagus
- 3.0 From Acropolis to Areopagus (Ac.17:22-32)
  - 2.1 The famous Athenian Acropolis (incl. Parthenon – Temple of Athena)
  - 2.2 The not-so-famous Areopagus – political discussion center in Athens' glory days
  - 2.3 Opportunities can be mixed – some curious, some cynical (vv.18-21)
  - 2.4 The message – vv.22-31 – incl. reference to Jesus (vv.30-32)
- 3.0 Wisdom from the Areopagus Today
  - 3.1 Opportunities to know, relate, speak, and love may come unexpectedly
  - 3.2 Conversions may be like fruit that ripens gradually
  - 3.3 Truth anchors while love sails the boat (Jn.13:34-35)