



YOUTH SUNDAY

"Light Up the Darkness"

February 15, 2015

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Burlington, Vermont

www.firstchurchburlington.org

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Cover Painting by: Maya Homziak

Youth Sunday ~ February 15, 2015

Order of Service
“Light Up the Darkness”

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Pastorale* J.S. Bach

WELCOME and CALL TO COMMUNITY Jake Bucci

CALL TO COMMUNITY

One: Gathered in this sacred place together we are seekers of light, seekers of faith.

All: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, the Holy Spirit is present.

One: Open our eyes to witness the love and joy that is waiting to be revealed, this day, in this place.

All: Let us linger in this sanctuary and share in this worship. When we leave today may our hearts be open to all of the wonders of God’s beautiful world.

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION Jake Bucci

CHORAL INTROIT (10:00am)

You Are the Seed that will Grow

Cesareo Gabarain

*HYMN *Bring Many Names* #11 New Century

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Sarah VonDoepp

One: O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love.

All: We call out to God, whose being is mystery.

One: Come, Holy One, sit among your people.

All: Bless us with your presence, help us grow in love.

One: Teach us your ways, comfort those in need.

All: May we walk among our brothers and sisters as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are human. We make mistakes. Let us pray together seeking release from our guilt through the grace of God’s love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) Carl Crawford

Gracious God, forgive us when we fail to notice the light of sunrises and sunsets, the healing sounds of flowing water, and the beauty that surrounds us. Stay with us, God, when we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us. May your grace encompass us when we fail to love as you would have us love. **Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be assured that God loves you, always has and always will. In that assurance may you find peace.

****Gloria Patri***

“Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.”

ANTHEM (10:00am)

The Whole People of God (verse 1)

Children’s and Youth Choirs

WORD OF GOD FOR ALL AGES (10:00am) *“And God Created Squash”*

Hymn

This Little Light

#524 New Century

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine... (x3)

Let it shine... let it shine... let it shine...

Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine... (x3)

Let it shine... let it shine... let it shine...

All-through the night, I’m gonna let it shine... (x3)

Let it shine... let it shine... let it shine...

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 50:1-6 (p.491)

Toby Young

Psalm 50:1-6 from the Message

The God of gods—it’s GOD!—speaks out, shouts, “Earth!”

welcomes the sun in the east,

farewells the disappearing sun in the west.

From the dazzle of Zion,

God blazes into view.

Our God makes an entrance
and is not shy in coming.
Starbursts of fireworks precede God.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 From the Jubilee Bible Beth Moore

But if our gospel is hid, it is hid to those who are lost,

⁴ In whom the god of this age has blinded the understanding of those who do not believe, that the light of the gospel of the glory of the Christ, who is the image of God, should not shine in them.

⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your slaves for Jesus’ sake.

We Beseech Thee (from “Godspell”)

Paige Hauke

SERMONS, MUSIC and READINGS

SENIOR SERMON

Blair Bean

Violin Concerto no 2 in G Major

Marisa Kono, *Violin*

Seitz

SENIOR SERMON

Paige Hauke

“The Goldfinch:” Adagio

Beth Moore, *flute*

Antonio Vivaldi

SENIOR SERMON

Libby Connors

*HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness

#286 New Century

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

A PRAYER OF CELEBRATION

One: I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ, where two or three - or thousands - can gather together in the Lord’s name and touch this world with the amazing good news that

somebody cares, that God joins us in community so that someday this world will be loved to wholeness.

All: I celebrate this community, where the people say Yes in the face of No, where they light candles in the darkest night, where healing and compassion leave no time for self-righteousness, and the life-sustaining love of Christ is evident in the life of the believers.

One: I celebrate the church, where we dare to stand up, where we are called upon to follow. I celebrate the church, where we are called from half-heartedness to commitment to a God who calls us to change, to change our direction, to a way of life where others are significant.

All: I celebrate the church, where every child of God is hailed as unique and valuable, where arms are opened to the world's outcast, where the tired, beaten, disillusioned world is invited in and surprised by the life-giving word that Christ accepts all the children of the world.

One: I celebrate the injustices righted, the protests made on behalf of the battered. I celebrate the awareness and awaking to humanity's suffering, the pain alleviated, the scars erased.

All: I celebrate the mercy and forgiveness the tears wiped away, the hands held, the gifts given, the children treasured and nurtured, the races won, the failures met.

One: I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ, whose supportive community holds me when I'm tempted to give up, enfolds me when I'm hurting, affirms me, reaches out to me, gives to me, receives from me.

All: Let's celebrate the church of Jesus Christ where the wonderful wildness of God breaks through common clay pots and fills us with a holy spirit that overflows; and we see rainbows, many-splendored colors, light in pitch darkness— and every day is a festival of faith!

Adapted from: I Celebrate the Church of Jesus Christ by Ann Weems

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Creating God, thank you for separating the light from the darkness, for the light of the stars in the sky, and the light of love revealed in and through Jesus. .

God of hope, we hope for your healing presence in a world suffering from physical and mental illness, loneliness, fear and grief. Strengthen us to be beacons of hope in the midst of hopelessness.

We bring to you now, God of light, our personal prayers of joy and concern, both silent and spoken.....

To you God, we offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, the Christ, who taught us to pray:

THE 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 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 RESPONSE (10:00am) *Spirit of the Living God*

Daniel Iverson

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"The Goldfinch": Allegro

Beth Moore, *Flute*

Vivaldi

*SONG OF PRAISE

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: O God, you give us the morning sun and the evening star:

All: We have gathered to thank you.

One: O God, in you we live and move and have our being:

All: We have gathered to praise you.

One: You bring us out of darkness and into light.

All: O God, we praise your name.

One: God of Grace, Giver of Gifts, Bless us we pray, as we seek to respond to your gift of Jesus Christ.

All: In Christ's name we thank you. Amen

THE SENDING FORTH

*HYMN

I am the Light of the World

#584 New Century

*BENEDICTION

Blair Bean

*POSTLUDE

March in G

G.F. Handel

THANK YOU to our YOUTH SUNDAY WORSHIP AND MUSIC LEADERS:
Kathleen Kono *Director of Children's and Youth Choirs*; members of the Sanctuary Choir;
David Neiweem, *Director of Music Ministries and Sanctuary Choir*;
Brian Lynam, *Pianist; High School Youth*.

THANK YOU also to Lucy Samara, Director of High School Youth, Laura Elders-Connors, Director of Children and Youth Ministries; the Rev. Peter Cook, Pastor Sally May, and all the youth who helped plan and prepare today's worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 15, 2015

FLOWERS The flowers today are given by the Women of the Church in honor of the Youth and their Leaders.

DEDICATIONS AND DELIVERY The flower committee has several spaces open for Sunday flower dedications in upcoming months. Additionally, the committee is in need of volunteers who are available to deliver flowers on Sunday, after worship. Check the sign-up board on Sundays for dedications, and contact Barbara Carter (863-5212) for more information about deliveries.

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION SERIES: Discover Islam In response to an expressed interest in world religions, the Adult Education Committee is sponsoring a six part video series on Islam. The videos will be shown during the hour between the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services for six consecutive Sundays **starting TODAY**. The videos are approximately 30 minutes in length and will be followed by a short discussion with leadership from our own Steve Hyde and Linda Elrick. Our Adult Education Committee plans to offer similar series in the future, covering all of the major world religions.

MEN'S BREAKFAST A gentle reminder that the next Men's Breakfast will be held **Tuesday, February 17th** at 7:00 a.m. in the Cake Room at church. All are most welcome; feel free to bring along a guest! Chefs extraordinaire this month will be Doug Viehmann and Charlie Church. To sign up, or if you would like more information about the monthly Men's Breakfast, please contact Charlie (655-2949). Please indicate any special dietary needs.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Please join us at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 18th** for an Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Chapel. The worship will be in the round and will include communion. All are invited and welcome. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will follow the worship service.

Please Note: There will be no choir rehearsal on Thursday, February 19.

PRETZEL SUNDAY! In the Christian tradition, the pretzel has come to symbolize prayer. For the last several years, our Church School students have devoted a Sunday in Lent to learning about the tradition of soft pretzels, and then making and sharing these delicious treats. As we enter the season of Lent, with its emphasis on prayer and penitence, we are looking forward to this activity as yet another way to think about prayer and our relationship to God. We hope our students will be able to join us for this special and delicious activity on **Sunday, February 22**. Please contact Laura Elder-Connors (862-5010, option 2, ext. 103) with questions.

FEBRUARY VACATION Y.E.S. (Youth Experience in Service) February 23, 24 and 25! The First Church YES Program for high school students during this coming February vacation is part of our long-term collaboration with the Sara Holbrook Community Center's (SHCC) vacation programs for children. Our winter YES Program will provide support to the SHCC vacation day camp. Students from Randolph's Bethany (UCC) Church are planning to join us this year! For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lucy Samara (LSamara@firstchurchburlington.org).

THE AMAZING YETS AUCTION NEEDS YOU! The 2015 YETS Auction is scheduled for March 15th! *See the last page of today's announcements* for details and a donation form. Thank you for supporting our youth!

THE "WOMEN OF THE CHURCH" BOOK GROUP will meet on **Monday, February 23rd** at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Invention of Wings", by Sue Monk Kidd (author of "The Secret Life of Bees"). Inspired by the true story of early nineteenth-century abolitionist and suffragist Sarah Grimké, Kidd paints a moving portrait of two women inextricably linked by the horrors of slavery... For more information about the Book Group, please contact Janice Clements (862-7464).

LENTEN SERIES – “Re-lent-ing” Join Sally May, Interim Associate Minister, for thoughtful and engaging conversation as we remember, revive, renew, and reflect upon the life, torture, and death of Jesus, and our relationship with God during this Season of Lent. Our discussions will be centered on readings from the UCC 2015 Lenten Devotional “*re-lent.*” Sally will facilitate these faith-filled gatherings on **Thursday mornings from 10 – 11:30 a.m. beginning on February 26th through April 2nd**. Light refreshments will be offered. All are welcome to any or all of the gatherings. RSVP’s are appreciated, but not required. Lent devotional book will be available in the Church office (suggested donation \$5.00). Call the office, or Sally with any questions at 862-5010, option 2, x111.

SMALL POTATOES CALLING! Volunteers are needed on **Friday afternoon, February 27** at 1 p.m.! We will make 200+ sandwiches for Small Potatoes (our Saturday morning community bag lunch and breakfast program). Please contact Becky Winward (862-0183) or Director of Outreach Ministries Lucy Samara (LSamara@firstchurchburlington.org) to sign up, or for more information.

We always need tuna donations for Small Potatoes, as every week requires two of the large cans of tuna (Costco carries them) to make approximately 70 tuna sandwiches. If you can donate a can or two – please do!
Thank you, *The Mission Committee*

CHILI COOK-OFF! Our latest Pick-A-Party addition is the Winter's Last Gasp Chili Cook-off! on **Saturday March 28, 2015**, 5 p.m., here at First Church. Come shake off winter's last gasp, and taste and vote for your favorite Chili! (Chili Contenders: see below**) In addition to chili, cornbread, salad, dessert and beverages (and mac and cheese for kids!) will be served. Bring your family; entertainment will be provided. **Tickets** are \$10 per person / \$25 per family. All Ages are welcome to attend! You may pay online (select "Fundraiser" - "Pick-a-Party payment" and note "Chili Cook-off"), or call the Church Office at (802) 862-5010.

****Calling all cooks!!** Enter your World Famous Chili for a chance to win fabulous prizes (Limit 10 Entries). Your Entry is your ticket to the party. Chili makers must be willing to label entry w/ ingredients (for those with allergies--recipe not necessary), and must make enough for 8-10 servings. When signing up, please indicate what kind of chili you will be making---Vegetarian/ Vegan/ Beef/ Turkey/ Chicken, etc, and the degree of hotness (mild, medium, spicy). **Contact Chrissy in the office for an entry form!**

CALENDAR	
Sunday 2/15	8 a.m. - Worship Service – Chapel 9 a.m. – Fellowship; High Schoolers gather; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. –High Schoolers Gather 10 a.m. – Worship Service – Sanctuary
Mon. 2/16- Wed. 2/18	12 p.m. – A. A. Meeting
Tues. 2/17 - Fri. 2/20	9 a.m. – 12 a.m. – JUMP Program Open
Tuesday 2/17	7:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast 5:15 p.m. – Yoga with Janet 6 p.m. – Youth Ministries Meeting 6:15 – Children’s Ministries Meeting 8:30 p.m. – Mission Meeting

Wednesday 2/18 Ash Wednesday	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Possibility Shop Open 4:30 p.m. – Oriana’s Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. – New Alpha Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service 8 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 2/19	7:30 a.m. – Personnel Meeting 9:30 a.m. – Possibility Shop Board Meeting 12 p.m. – Al-Anon Meeting 4:30 p.m. – Christian Action Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. – Search Committee Meeting
Friday 2/20	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Possibility Shop Open
Saturday 2/21	10 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Possibility Shop Open
Sunday 2/22	8 a.m. - Worship Service – Chapel 9 a.m. – Fellowship; High Schoolers gather; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; Education Series 9:15 a.m. – Children’s Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. –High Schoolers Gather

THE FIRST CHURCH NEWSLETTER is published online monthly. Copies are available at the back of the Sanctuary and in the Midway. The current issue and past issues are available on our website www.firstchurchburlington.org . If you are interested in receiving the online newsletter, you may sign up on our website, or contact Chrissy in the Church Office (862-5010; cforbes@firstchurchburlington.org)

NAMETAGS are available from ushers – please ask for one. You will also find paper nametags on the tables at the back of the Sanctuary and on the table in the narthex (entry space for sanctuary) where there is also a sign-up sheet for reusable name tag buttons.

AUDIO OF THE SERVICE is available over speakers in the Chapel for those who would like a place to listen with restless children. For **LARGE PRINT** copies of this week’s hymns or a **HEARING ASSISTANCE** device please ask an Usher.

PARKING: On Sundays, the church parking lot is designated for members and visitors with mobility challenges and first time visitors. For these individuals, *blue parking passes* are available to display in their vehicles, giving permission to park in the parking lot. For members and guests without mobility challenges, non-designated parking is available throughout the surrounding area. Street parking and city parking garages are **free** on Sundays! Please contact the church at 862-5010 to request a tag or if you have questions about designated parking. No parking on the grass.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of inclement weather, please call the church office and press “4” during the message to hear our weather and cancellation alerts.

WORSHIP SERVICES: Sundays at 8 a.m. in the Chapel and at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Our 10 a.m. worship service is enhanced by our Sanctuary Choir, the Cherub, Choragic and Youth Choirs, and the Austin Handbell Choir. Many 10 a.m. worship services also include a “Word of God for All Ages.”

COMMUNION is offered to the congregation, during both worship services on the first Sunday of each month and during our “alternative worship services” (see newsletter and weekly announcements for details). Grape juice, various breads, and a gluten-free bread are offered from our “open to all” Communion Service. Communion is most often brought to those in worship by Deacons; periodically it is offered at the front of the worship area by “intinction” (dipping bread into cup). When intinction is used, every effort is made to bring Communion to those with mobility challenges.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Those interested in baptism, for themselves or their children, may contact Rev. Cook at 802-862-5010.

OUR MUSIC PROGRAM: Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, and Sunday morning at 9 a.m. The Sanctuary Choir sings weekly during the 10 a.m. worship, September through early June.

The Austin Handbell Choir rehearses each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. in the Cake Room. This choir plays about once a month from September through June.

The Children's Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. (Kathleen is available at 9:00 a.m. for early arrivals). The Children's Choir sings most Sundays, September through June. The Youth Choir rehearses two Sundays every other month and dates are announced via email. The Youth Choir sings on special occasions through-out the year.

Anyone is welcome to join any of our choirs. Music leadership includes: David Neiweem, Director of Sanctuary Choir, Sylvia Stebbins, Director of Bells, and Kathleen Kono, Director of Children's Choir. To reach the music directors, or for more information, please contact the church office 802-862-5010.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Children are always welcome to stay in the Sanctuary throughout worship, but child care for infants and toddlers is offered at any time during the service. Our church nursery is staffed each week by Darcy Miller and volunteer assistants, and is a welcoming, nurturing place for our youngest worshippers. A comfy rocker is available, and should you require it, a changing table for infants and toddlers is also located here.

Church School: On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month), students in pre-school—grade 8 gather in their Church School classrooms at 10 a.m., joining their families in the Sanctuary for Communion later in the service. On remaining Sundays, these students attend worship at 10 a.m., and then proceed to their classrooms following the Word of God for All Ages. Parents of new or visiting students are welcome to accompany their children to class if they wish, before returning to worship. Classes are dismissed at 11:15 a.m. Students in Nursery – Grade 3 must be met in their classrooms by a parent, designated adult or older sibling. Students in Grades 4 – 8 may join families in the Fellowship gathering. Our church school depends on parent involvement, so if you are wondering how you can help, please contact Director of Children and Youth Ministries Laura Elder-Connors: lelderconnors@firstchurchburlington.org or 802-862-5010 ext. 103.

4th & 5th Grade and Middle School Youth programs: Students in 4th & 5th grade and their families meet approximately once a month—usually on Sunday after church—from October through April, to participate in a variety of programs which include, service opportunities, fellowship and worship. Middle School students meet regularly throughout the year—2 -3 times per month on various days—beginning in September, and have opportunities for service, fellowship, and worship. Both groups need parent volunteers, and are coordinated by Director of Children and Youth Ministries Laura Elder-Connors. Please call or email for information: lelderconnors@firstchurchburlington.org or 802-862-5010 ext. 103.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM: All high school students are welcome at First Congregational Church and are invited to take part in our weekly Sunday 9:30am gathering at church and our youth program which includes fellowship and worship opportunities and a variety of local (and travel) service options. Please contact Director of High School Youth Ministries, Lucy Samara (Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org) for more information and to be added to our weekly high school program e-update list.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS: One-time and short-term programs (Forums, education series, etc.) are regularly offered; check the announcements, newsletter, Facebook page and website for updates.

PASTORAL CARE: If you are anticipating a hospital stay, or if you are admitted to a care facility, and you would like a pastoral visit, you or a family member are encouraged to contact Rev. Peter Cook at the church office (862-5010). If you are admitted to a hospital or care facility, those facilities cannot and will not contact First Church on your behalf. In addition, if you know of someone who would like a visit, please contact Rev. Cook.

Our ministers, and volunteers in pastoral care, are here for requests for assistance from church members and others. Please let us know if you need assistance, or would just like to talk. You may call the church office at 862-5010, select 501 for Rev. Cook, or 502 for Pastor May, and leave a confidential message twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, "Celebrations, Concerns and Prayer Request" cards are available in the church pews. A weekly prayer list will be available in the bulletin and the church office.

MINISTERS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF

Peter Cook, *Senior Minister* ♦ Sally May, *Interim Associate Minister*

- ♦ David Neiweem, *Director of Music* ♦ Lucy Samara, *Director of Outreach Ministries and Director of High School Youth Ministries*
- ♦ Laura Elder-Connors, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries* ♦ Kathleen Kono, *Director of Children's Choir* ♦ Sylvia Stebbins, *Director of Austin Handbell Choir* ♦ Sarah Brown, *Director of Operations and Finance* ♦ George LaCasse, *Building Manager* ♦ Louise Brewster, *President* ♦ Bob Wolf, *President-Elect* ♦ Andy Barker, *Past President* ♦ Andy Thomson, *Treasurer* ♦ Tara Gauding, *Chair, Board of Deacons* ♦ Mary Ellen Spencer, *Chair, Prudential* ♦ Janice Clements, *Clerk* ♦ Chrissy Forbes, *Administrative Assistant*

CLERGY CONTACT NUMBERS

Rev. Peter Cook: (802) 862-5010 ext.110

Pastor Sally May: (802) 862-5010 ext.111

Main Office (802) 862-5010

Please visit us online at

www.firstchurchburlington.org,

“Like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/firstchurchburlington,

Find us on Twitter at [FirstChurchBTV](https://twitter.com/FirstChurchBTV), or

Email us at info@firstchurchburlington.org



YETS AUCTION 2015!

Youth Experience in Travel & Service

Please plan to come to our **Sunday, March 15** Live Auction/Bake Sale/White Elephant/Silent Auction event following the 10:00am worship service. (The Silent Auction will open for bidding between the worship services at 9am.) Invite your friends! There will be many great items to bid on and purchase. You can find something for everyone, from gift cards and themed gift baskets to breads, dinners, services and weekend trips! The Silent Auction will have a great variety of items to bid on before and during the live auctioning of about 25 items. There will be a lot of positive energy in one room, all for a worthy cause - our teens!

We are currently accepting donations and we are looking for a wide variety of items including: *services, dinners, weekends at vacation homes, and other items of a wide variety. Consider donating: jewelry, boat rides, gift cards, gourmet dinners, household items – decorative and practical, baskets of items with a special theme, small pieces of furniture, baked goods made to order, services, framed items...* Be creative and know that your donations of auction items are needed and appreciated!

If you have any questions about the Auction, please be in touch with Director of High School Youth Ministries, Lucy Samara (LSamara@firstchurchburlington.org).

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR YETS AUCTION!

You can bring your items into the Church Office to be stored until the auction – please label them “YETS Auction” and include your contact information.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I wish to donate *Please list item(s):*