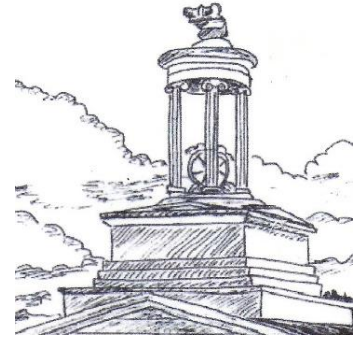


**2019**  
**CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY AT**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF BURLINGTON**



**WORSHIP:**

**Sunday Morning Worship:** 8:00am & 10am, *except Sundays 12/15 and 12/29, when there will be one service at 10am. Children's and youth programs through high school available at 10am.*

**Youth Advent Worship & Dinner:** *Thursday, December 5 at 6pm.* A treasured time, as our high school youth lead worship focused on the spiritual preparation time of Advent. Stay for a delicious soup and salad dinner (by donation) created by the families of our youth for all to enjoy.

**Christmas Pageant!** *Sunday, December 15 at 10am.* Young musicians, a timeless story of hope with costumes and carols aplenty. Followed by a reception and our Annual Christmas Wrap.

**Blue Christmas:** *Sunday, December 22 at 8am.* The holidays aren't always joyful. This service, with Simon Jorgenson on Blues guitar, is a sacred space for people living through challenging times, seeking healing and hope.

**Christmas Sunday:** *Sunday, December 22 at 10am.* Celebrate with love and joy the coming birth of the Christ-child. Followed by a Christmas Reception!

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** *Tuesday, December 24. Childcare available at 4 and 7:30.*

**4:00pm Family Service of Lessons and Carols**

*with the Children's & Youth Choirs, the Austin Chimers & the Hobbs Family brass*

**7:30pm Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols**

*with the Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir & Strings*

**10:00pm Intimate Service of Lessons and Carols** *with the Sanctuary Choir & Harp*

**12 days of Christmas! Sunday December 29 at 10am:** Did you know Christmas lasts 12 days? Come celebrate with favorite stories and carols during this multi-generational worship. Our Worship Team is gathering "favorite Christmas stories" to compile and share. To participate, email Wendy Scully, wendy.whaples@gmail.com, by Dec. 26 and in a few sentences describe a favorite Christmas memory.

**Star Service:** Sunday, January 12. Get your star for next year—where will it lead you? Don't know what this is all about? You're in for a treat! Vermont folk artist and singer songwriter Patti Casey will be our special guest, leading music during the January 12 "Star Worship Service."

**GIVING:**

**End of Year/Christmas Offering:** An important special offering that is needed to provide support to all of the ministries, programs and missions of First Church. Donate online or by check to First Congregational Church, MEMO: End of Year Gift; or use the "Christmas Envelope" that will be mailed to your home and will be available in church on December 22 and 24. Online giving at [firstchurchburlington.org](http://firstchurchburlington.org).

**Share Christmas:** Donate gifts or financial resources to help families in need and organizations in our community, such as Dismas House, COTS, the Howard Center, King St Youth and more. Questions? Contact Louise Brewster at [lrbrewster@gmail.com](mailto:lrbrewster@gmail.com).

**Christmas Poinsettia Offering:** Donate the funds to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church during Advent and Christmas, in "honor of" or "in memory" of someone special to you. Dedications listed in the 12/22 bulletin.

**Christmas Mission Offering for VIA:** Our Outreach Team is inviting a Christmas Mission Offering to support the social justice advocacy mission of Vermont Interfaith Action. Make a gift in "honor of" or "in memory" of someone special to you. Donation dedications will be listed in the 12/22 bulletin.

**Support Our Youth – Buy a Wreath:** Beautiful balsam wreaths will be delivered to the church on Saturday December 7; pick up is between 10am and noon. There is still time to order, we'll have a few extra for sale on December 7 & 8. Contact Karen Bushey, [kbushey9@gmail.com](mailto:kbushey9@gmail.com).

**Pledges & Gifts of Self:** Stewardship pledges—of money and "Gifts of Self" – are invited and needed year-round! Pledge materials are available in the Church Office and on the stewardship bulletin board in the midway.

**SERVING:**

**Choirs:** Did you know that singing is good for your health? It's true! Come find out at 7pm Thursday nights and 9am Sunday, all are welcome. On Sundays, all children and youth are invited to: Children's Choir at 9:15am (Director, Laura Elder-Connors, [lelderconnors@gmail.com](mailto:lelderconnors@gmail.com)) and Youth Choir (Director, Ana Ruesink, [anaruesink@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:anaruesink@burlingtontelecom.net)) at 9:10am.

**Bell Choir:** Our Austin Chimers Bell Choir welcomes new ringers and rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:45; please visit and give ringing a try! Want to learn more? Contact Bell Choir Director, Jennie Coleman, [jenc@ebpabenefits.com](mailto:jenc@ebpabenefits.com)

## **SERVING, CONT.:**

**Share Christmas:** Work with our Outreach team to help with shopping for the many families and organizations supported by Share Christmas. Questions? Contact Louise Brewster at lrbrewster@gmail.com.

**Annual Christmas Wrap, Sunday, December 15 at 11am:** After the pageant, stay for cookies and punch and quickly wrap hundreds of simple gifts for local children and adults!

**Dismas House:** Feeling thankful this season? Volunteer to prepare and share meals during the year at Dismas House, a transitional home for parolees. Want to learn more? Contact Donal Dugan, donal.dugan@gmail.com.

**Meals On Wheels:** Al Weldon, alweldon@aol.com, leads this community mission for us, contact him to learn more about helping to deliver meals on the second Wednesday of the month.

**Small Potatoes:** First Church hosts this weekly, community, free Saturday breakfast and bag lunch. Want to help make sandwiches? Contact Outreach Team Member, Reid Willis, frwillis@gmail.com, to learn more.

**JUMP:** A year-round Drop-In Center based at First Church, JUMP assists hundreds in our community annually. Contact First Church - and JUMP Board - member, Anne Tewksbury Frye, actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net, to learn more about getting involved.

**Friends at First:** "Friends at First" work with our "Partners in Pastoral Care" Team to provide rides, meals and other services as needed. Let us know if you are interested in helping or if someone you know could use some care! Email, "Pastoral Care Team" at info@firstchurchburlington.org to learn more.

**Baptism Blankets:** We need baptism blankets! There is a (simple) pattern available in the Church Office, or contact Jan Jackson, at organjan@comcast.net. Thank you for helping wrap our community in love and warmth!

## **LEARNING AND CONNECTING:**

**Prayer during Advent:** The UCC's 2019 Advent Devotional *A New Earth*, includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day. The themes of the devotions involve the promise that God's presence and restoration is for all creation. Copies are available in the Church Office by donation.

**Advent Wreath Making Workshop:** *Sunday December 1 after worship* - for all ages.

**Annual Holiday Carol Sing:** *Sunday, December 1 at 7 pm* at the First Baptist Church of Burlington. Many area Church Choirs, including our own, lead the caroling in this great community event. All are welcome!

**Women's Book Group: A Holiday Gathering for Women - Christmas Poetry & Short Story Reading:** Our Women's Book Group invites all women to gather on *Monday December 16 at 7 pm* at First Church for this annual event. Bring a favorite Advent or Christmas poem or story to read, or simply come to enjoy Christmas treats, stories and poems for all!

**Men's Breakfast:** All men are invited to gather on the third Tuesday, at 7am, (Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> in December) at church for good company and a great breakfast, made by the cooks of the month! Please RSVP by the preceding Sunday to Baki Nelson at: fn.info@icloud.com

**Men's Affinity Groups to start in January:** Contact Steve Hyde, stephenhyde@yahoo.com, to learn more about this 2020 men's fellowship initiative.

**New Year's Eve Highlight Event:** The extraordinary members of Scrag Mountain Music will perform the music of John Cage at First Church at 8:30pm. Learn more & ticket information at:

<https://highlight.community/>. Volunteers are needed to host event, please contact Communications Coordinator, Lucy Samara, Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org, to learn more.

## **WELCOMING:**

**Fellowship Hour:** Every Sunday, after worship. Come chat with others about worship and life and enjoy coffee, tea and bagels and cream cheese... and some weeks - special treats! Contact Jennie Coleman at jenc@ebpabenefits.com if you are interested in helping or donating treats during this festive season.

**Sunday Morning:** Interested in helping out on Sundays? Friendly faces are always needed to greet or usher. Contact Al Weldon at alweldon@aol.com.

**New to First Church?:** Fill in your contact information on the connection cards provided in the pews. We'd love to know you're here, and say hello!

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

**Christmas Office Information:** Office Hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 10 to 3 pm. The Church Office will be closed on December 25, 26, 31 and January 1.

**I & Thou - Creating Sacred Relationships:** *January 26- February 23*. A sermon and discussion series on how to build and support meaningful relationships in all areas of our lives.

# **Installation!**

*Saturday, February 8 at 2pm* at First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington  
**Help us celebrate our new ministry with the Rev. Elissa C. Johnk!**