

First Church September/Early October Save the Date Info!



WORSHIP & MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS - First Church is offering both in-person and remote ([YouTube](#) - live-stream and recorded) worship opportunities at 10am on Sunday mornings. Masks are required at all times in the church building by all over age two. We are offering a remote (9:30am) Church School program on Sundays. Childcare will continue to be offered in-person during the 10am worship service.

- [CLICK HERE](#) for an update about First Church programs for children and youth – including a link to our Youth Program Calendar and news about in-person and virtual Sunday – Church School!



**gathering
sunday**

**September 12
worship @10am**
at First Congregational Church UCC/BTV

GATHERING SUNDAY – September 12: The Rev. Elissa Johnk will lead worship and music will be highlighted by *Eclectica*, a string trio with Laura Markowitz (violin), Ana Ruesink (viola) and John Dunlop (cello). Our September 12 vocalists are Laura Elder-Connors and Kristin Elder-Connors! *Eclectica* will also play outside on the First Church portico after worship during a festive ice cream social (individually wrapped novelties!) time of fellowship for all!

This is a great day to extend an invitation to your neighbors, friends and family to join you in worship in person at First Church or remotely as the worship will be live-streamed on our [YouTube Channel](#) at 10am with a recording available anytime after the service.

LIVING WELL SERMON SERIES:

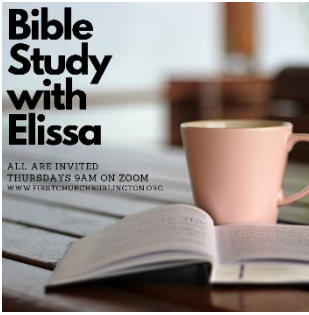
The Rev. Elissa Johnk will introduce our fall sermon series “Living Well” on Gathering Sunday September 12. The series, based in the Rev. Scott Stoner’s book: *Your Living Compass*, explores discernment in themes related to living well in significant arenas in our lives.

All are invited to sign on to participate in a discussion group exploring these themes and Stoner’s book using this [LINK: www.tiny.cc/livingwell](http://www.tiny.cc/livingwell)

The discussion groups will meet on Zoom – a variety of times are available.

To purchase (optional) a copy of *Your Living Compass* through the First Church Office, please contact us at: info@firstchurchburlington.org and we will reserve a copy for you.



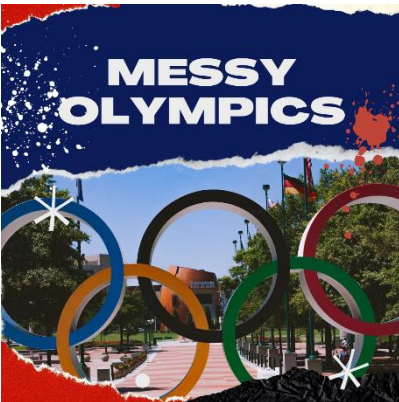


Zoom Bible Study – Thursdays this fall at 9am:

The Rev. Elissa Johnk’s Thursday morning, 9am, Bible Study is open to all! Elissa grounds this weekly conversation (on Zoom) in the scripture reading for the upcoming Sunday. Use this link: <https://bit.ly/BibleStudywithElissa>.

NEW FOLKS MIXER on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19:

Are you interested in meeting our lead minister, the Rev. Elissa Johnk and learning more about the mission and ministries of First Church? We are hosting a “New Folks Mixer” at First Church on the 19th following the 10am worship. All are welcome to join in this casual introduction designed for visitors who want to know more!



MESSY OLYMPICS YOUTH EVENT on SEPTEMBER 19: We are collaborating with College Street Church to bring UCC youth together for some fun events this fall. Check out our fall youth program calendar [HERE](https://bit.ly/fall21youthcalendar): <https://bit.ly/fall21youthcalendar> and learn more about the “Messy Olympics” at Oakledge Park – our opening middle and high school youth event on Sunday September 19. We are also offering Confirmation for high school youth - contact Hannah Sachs at: hsachs@firstchurchburlington.org for details.



FALL SUNDAY VISION MEETINGS: Our Vision Team invites your participation in a Sunday 11:30am VISION MEETING – in person at First Church – or virtually on Zoom. We need every First Church member and friend to participate!

Sign up for an 11:30 Sunday Vision Meeting on September 19 or 26; October 17, 24 or 31 with the Vision Team representative at Fellowship Time on Sunday after worship or contact Susan Saunders at susansaunders@comcast.net any time. Thank you!

VERMONT'S COVID-19 MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 at 3pm:

To honor Vermonters lost to COVID-19, Vermont Interfaith Action is hosting a memorial service on the Vermont Statehouse lawn in Montpelier at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 19. The heart of the event will be a ceremonial reading of the names so that each individual who has died of COVID-19 is recognized. In addition, various clergy will offer brief interfaith prayers and readings. Governor Phil Scott and Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine have also been invited to participate. This in-person event will also be shared live on the [VIA Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/VermontInterfaithAction): <https://www.facebook.com/VermontInterfaithAction>

If you are a family member or are otherwise closely connected to a Vermonter who has died of COVID-19, and you would like to take part in the service, please contact Debbie Ingram at Vermont Interfaith Action, debbie@viavt.org or 802-651-8889.



Remembering the victims of COVID-19

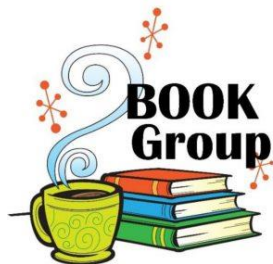
Sunday, Sept 19th, 3:00 p.m.
Vermont Statehouse Lawn, Montpelier

MEN'S BREAKFAST at WATERFRONT PARK Wednesdays Sept. 22

Our Men's Breakfast group is gathering for two outdoor events in September on Wednesday the 8th, and again on the 22nd, from 8 to 10am at Burlington's Waterfront Park. Bring your own food and beverage, plus a lawn chair, or a blanket to sit on the grass. There will be social distancing and Covid safety measures in place. To learn more or to be added to the email list to be notified of future events - please contact Baki Nelson at: fn.info@icloud.co



PRO-BONO LEGAL CLINICS: The Outreach Team is pleased to announce the fall dates for our call-in FREE LEGAL CLINICS: September 26, October 17 and November 21 from 1 to 3pm. This service is available to any in our church and in the wider community. [Please share this invitation.](#)



THE WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP READING LIST for 21-22: The Women's Book Group met in June to share ideas for books to discuss this year. Their selections are linked [HERE](#). Book discussions are scheduled for the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm – on Zoom – starting September 27.



First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington

38 S. Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT –
the host site for *JUMP* and *Small Potatoes* is offering a:

PHONE IN FREE LEGAL CLINIC
on Sundays Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21, 2021
Phone in from 1 to 3 pm

Volunteer Vermont attorneys will offer pro-bono **FREE** legal counsel
to anyone in the community by phone – call: 802-862-5010

A Legal Clinic volunteer will check you in by phone and will arrange for one
of our lawyers to call you back that afternoon.

*We will be ready for your calls at 1:00pm - if you don't get thru –
leave a message – we will call you back.*

All LEGAL CONCERNS including Family Law.

All are welcome to access this service with any legal questions.

Confidentiality is (of course) guaranteed.

Questions? Want to learn more? Contact Communications Coordinator,
Lucy Samara at the First Congregational Church UCC of BT:V:
Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org



Neighbors in Need UCC Special Offering – SEPT 26: Our Outreach Team invites your donations to the UCC’s annual special mission offering – Neighbors In Need (NIN) supporting ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. To donate – send a check to First Church, MEMO: Neighbors In Need – or give online through our website – selecting NIN - using this [LINK](#).

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 3: The congregation of College Street Church will join us for worship at First Church on October 3 at 10am to celebrate **World Communion Sunday**. What a joyous representation of the UCC!



**World
Communion
Sunday
October 3**

A collaborative worship with College Street Church UCC in person @First Church UCC/BTV & live-streaming on YouTube: FirstChurchBTV at 10am



“SERVICE SERVICE” – on Sunday October 10: Our collaboration continues the next Sunday when we’ll meet at the College Street Church for **Service Sunday** when our *“service will be service”!* Following time in prayer and song – all will be invited to participate in service projects responding to real needs in our community. The service projects will be available to suit every ability and age – and together – our two UCC congregations will make a difference. Save this date!

VEGGIE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS - What week works for you?

Use this [LINK](#) to sign on to water, weed and harvest veggies from the First Church “Veggie Garden Boxes” – for one week in September - and we’ll send you all you need to know to support this important effort. Harvest produce is donated to “Feeding Chittenden” – the regional Food Shelf in Burlington. [Sign up today, and we'll email any necessary details!](#)

