

THE 2020 BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

For the "Blessing of the Backpacks" our church community is creating an arch over the driveway in front of the Chapel. The "Arch of Blessings" will be decorated with lots of streaming ribbons that need to be covered with written blessings and prayers from the congregation for our children and youth as they start school this year. Imagine a beautiful arch creating a faithful "wash" of prayers and blessings for families to drive through next week!



Everyone Can Participate!

- **OFFER YOUR BLESSINGS & PRAYERS for our children and youth starting school this fall!**
 - Drop by one of our outside (front porch or yard) **Neighborhood Blessing Stations** on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday (September 13 thru 15) and write your blessings and prayers on one of the wide ribbons that will decorate the "Arch of Blessings" that will greet our families as they participate in the drive through *Blessing of the Backpacks*.
 - See below for details about our ten Neighborhood Blessing Stations - pick the most convenient one.
 - OR
 - [Email your blessing/prayer](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org) - to be added to a ribbon - to: info@firstchurchburlington.org
- **GET YOUR BLESSING – A Family Drive-Through Experience!**
 - On Wednesday September 16, between 3 and 6pm, OR on Thursday September 17, between 4 and 6pm - all families are invited to drive through the "arch of blessings" at First Congregational Church UCC BTV.
 - Drive through the arch in the church parking lot during these hours and -
 - we will photograph &/or video your travel through the arch;
 - each child/youth will receive a special item to carry that blessing with them - in or on - their backpack!
 - Photos and videos of the blessings of the backpacks will be included in worship on September 20th!

NEIGHBORHOOD BLESSING STATIONS

- Drop by between 3 and 5pm this coming Sunday thru Tuesday, September 13 thru 15, to write your blessing/prayer on one of the "Arch of Blessings" ribbons.
- To arrange a different time, please email the Neighborhood Blessing Station host.
- All stations are outside – on the front porch or lawn at the host's home.

Thank you to all of our Neighborhood Hosts!

Colchester

- Rebecca MacDonald and Jerry Browne at 70 Blackberry Circle, rmacdon68@gmail.com

Burlington

- South End: Bob and Cydney Wolf at 41 Caroline Street, bcwolf@burlingtontelecom.net
- City Center/Old North End: Dave and Mandy Grace at 176 Loomis Street, daveandmandygrace@gmail.com
- New North End: Mike and Kathy Knauer at 257 Van Patten Parkway, michael.knauer@hotmail.com

South Burlington

- West Side of S.B.: Linda and Alan Elrick at 65 Brewer Parkway, elrick45@comcast.net
- East Side of S.B.: Caroline Edmunds at 70 Lilac Lane, W_edmunds007@comcast.net

Essex Junction

- North of five corners: Hilah Clarke at 15 Doubleday Lane, hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org
- Burlington side of the Junction: Sherrie and Steve Fuchs, 10 Colbert Street, stevfuchs77@gmail.com

Shelburne

- Susan DeClue at 22 McCabe Circle, okradurham@gmail.com

Williston

- Jennie Coleman and Jackie Comstock at 341 Cedar lane, Pinecrest Village jenc@ebpabenefits.com