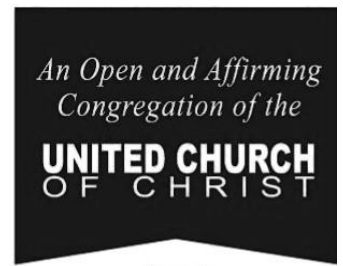




38 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

**July 3, 2022**  
*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Baptism reminds us that there's no ladder to holiness to climb, no self-improvement plan to follow.  
It's just death and resurrection, over and over again, day after day,  
as God reaches down into our deepest graves and with the same power that  
raised Jesus from the dead wrests us from our pride, our apathy, our fear,  
our prejudice, our anger, our hurt, and our despair."*

- Rachel Held Evans

[Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church](#)

(Worshipping from home? Today's worship service included Communion.  
Gather a candle and your own elements – beverage and bread – prior to worship.)

**PRELUDE**

*Children's Song Medley: Jesus Loves the Little Children;  
Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam;  
Praise Him, All Ye Little Children; Jesus Love Me*  
Tim Berger, trumpet, & Amy Shortt, piano

arr. Brent Olstad

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Joan O'Gorman

*Remote worshipers are invited to submit prayer requests via YouTube chat –  
prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during "Prayers of the People."*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

Doug Viehmann

One: On that first day, when time began:

**All: you gave birth to creation;  
light danced through the darkness;  
the waters of hope flowed free and clear.**

One: On that first day at the Jordan River,

**All: you spoke of life for all your children,  
as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness,  
dancing in hope with his cousin, John.**

One: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

**All: you call us to faithfulness,  
as we open our hearts to you,  
your voice claiming us as your own.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

#28 NCH

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

Charlotte Blair Cheeseman, daughter of Savannah and Michael Cheeseman.  
Born June 23, 2020.

Tanner Stephen Meredith, son of Megan Cheeseman and Tyler Meredith.  
Born April 19, 2020.

Tucker Douglas Meredith, son of Megan Cheeseman and Tyler Meredith.  
Born March 23, 2022.

**INVITATION**

**WELCOME**

Deacon: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of new growth into full Christian faith and discipleship. Baptism is both God's gift and our faith response to that gift.

**All: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and creator of us all.**

#### INTRODUCTION

Pastor: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, one in Christ and members of Christ's body.

To the parents: You have brought your children here to receive the sacrament of Christian baptism. As a sign of your faith response, I ask you to make the following promises: Megan and Tyler: do you desire to have your children Tanner and Tucker baptized into the Christian faith and the universal Church of Jesus Christ? Savannah and Michael, do you desire to have your child Charlotte baptized into the Christian faith and the universal Church of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Do you promise, with God's help, to teach your children about the love of God, nurturing and leading your children to know Jesus Christ as God's Holy One and do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with and lead them to an understanding of the Christian faith?

Parents: We do with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples and to teach your children by your own example and witness: to follow in the way of our Jesus, to resist evil, to show justice and love, to witness to the call of peace and justice?

Parents: We do with the help of God.

To members of the congregation:

Pastor: Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, the members of this faith community and the worldwide community of God's people receive these children into your love and care, and do you promise to show them and all children the unconditional love of God?

**People: We promise our love, support and care, God being our helper.**

#### PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for the gift of water which nourishes and sustains life. We thank you for the gift of this water which reminds us of the baptism of Jesus in the water of the River Jordan. We thank you for the gift of these children now to be baptized in the Christian faith. O God, bless with your Holy Spirit this water. Bless this child that they might be a blessing to the home and the world. Bless these parents and all your faithful people gathered here. In the spirit of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 66: 10-14

#### MESSAGE

*"Buddies Share with Each Other"*

~ Theological Musings from my three-year-old granddaughter, Kaia Joan, and other thoughts on Baptism and Communion

#### \*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

*Shall We Gather at the River*

#597 NCH

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*This week's "Celebrations & Prayer's" list is available for you on the front page of our website – and among the links under the title of the YouTube live stream throughout this morning's live stream of the worship service.*

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### SILENT PRAYER

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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Deep River*

Adolphus Hailstork

*You are invited to offer your monetary gifts  
online using this link: <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>  
(also under the video title on YouTube)*

*or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256 - or mail a check payable to:  
First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401*

\*DOXOLOGY

#780 NCH

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

*I Come with Joy*

#349 Vv 1-3 NCH

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION *Thom Shuman, adapted*

Leader: May the God of freedom be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

Leader: People of God, lift of your hearts.

**Response: We lift them to the One who sets us free for lives of service and hope.**

Leader: Beloved ones let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Response: We will sing our songs of freedom to the One who calls us to new life.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING AND SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*We believe this is God's table, not ours, so all are welcome at this table, regardless of age or faith. The cup is unfermented grape juice, and gluten-free bread is available.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*CLOSING VERSES

*I Come with Joy*

#349 Vv 4-5 NCH

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Variation on America*

arr. Thomas Keeseek

**Virtual Fellowship:** Worship is followed by Fellowship outside at First Church – and remotely on [ZOOM](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship) - the link – which is also available on our website - is: <https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship>

*\*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome to First Congregational Church in Burlington. Our faith is over 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not! First Church opens its doors to the Greater Burlington area, to seekers, to tourists from near and far, to those in need, to an array of building users, and to a congregation (of members, friends, and family—both curious and the committed) who call our faith community their church home.

We celebrate the sacred worth of all persons as unique individuals made in the image of God. Whatever your age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender

identity or expression, marital status, or physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, we invite you to find a safe and nurturing spiritual home with us. All are welcome to participate, fully and without reservation, in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a community of faith.




The First Congregational Church of Burlington is an Open & Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. This means everyone – **everyone** – is welcome. Including YOU!

### Staff Directory

Rev. Joan O’Gorman, *Parental Leave Pastor*  
Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister, on parental leave*  
Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*  
Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*  
Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*  
Laura Elder-Connors, *Children’s Choir Director*  
Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries and Youth Ministries*  
Amy Shortt, *Director of Music*  
Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*  
Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*  
Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Baki Nelson, *Head Usher*  
Bob Wolf, *Welcomer*  
Hannah Sachs, *Digital Usher*

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