

# Here's What's Happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF BURLINGTON

[WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG)



## WORSHIP:

**Sunday Morning Worship:** Worship is at 10 am on Sundays. Our worship services are also live-streamed - and a recording of each service is available - on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV](http://www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV).

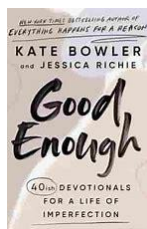
- **CHILDREN:** Families are encouraged to check in at the *Faith Formation Kiosk* after 9:40am. See "Learning."
- **MUSIC:** To offer your musical gifts, vocal or instrumental, or to learn more about First Church music programs contact Music Director, Amy Shortt at [ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org).
- **CHOIRS:**
  - **Wednesday 6:45pm Austin Chimers Bell Choir rehearsals are held at First Church.** New and novice ringers are always welcome. For details contact Bell Choir Director, Jennie Coleman, [jcoleman@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:jcoleman@firstchurchburlington.org)
  - **Thursday 7pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are held in the Chapel at First Church.** All are welcome to sing! Contact Music Director, Amy Shortt ([ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org)) for more information. The Sanctuary Choir also gathers Sundays at 9:15am for rehearsals before worship.
  - **Children's Choir & Youth Choir:** All children and youth are invited to meet in the Sanctuary - immediately following worship on **Sunday September 25** - for a time of music making with Ms. Laura and Ms. Amy as we prepare to sing in worship on October 2 – World Communion Sunday.
    - For more information, contact Children's Choir Director, Laura Elder-Connors at [lelderconnors@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:lelderconnors@firstchurchburlington.org) – or for information about Youth Choir contact Music Director Amy Shortt: [ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org)

**PARKING:** On Sunday mornings, **the First Church parking lot is most needed and reserved for - our first-time visitors - and for friends and members with limited mobility.** If this applies to you, please park in the church lot. Drivers are invited to drop off passenger(s) before using street parking or the parking garage (both FREE on Sundays). Thank you!

**FLOWERS:** The calendar for donating flowers is available in the Church Office. You can create an arrangement with your own flowers, or order flowers from Maplehurst. Email [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org) for details.

## FIRST CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

**RE-GATHERING UPDATE:** In response to our recent survey, and in consideration of CDC guidelines and Vermont Health Department information – our Re-Gathering/Covid Response Team, Trustees, and Executive Council have approved changes in our re-gathering guidelines that will be effective on Sunday, October 2. Learn more by reading the Rev. Elissa Johnk's September 16 letter using this link: [bit.ly/regatheringsept2022](http://bit.ly/regatheringsept2022) The letter is also in the FirstChurchBTV 9.16.22 E-News and is linked on our website: [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)



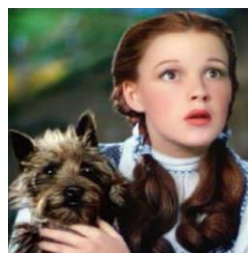
**GOOD ENOUGH - SERMON SERIES & DISCUSSION GROUPS:** What if your life isn't perfect? Or the world? Is your faith "good enough", and how do you tell? Kate Bowler's book: *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* will shape our sermon series this fall, asking us to examine deeply, compassionately, and with humor, the ways our faith life can support us in these challenging times. Book groups are forming now, to discuss this highly praised national bestseller, starting September 25<sup>th</sup>. Some copies of the book are available in the First Church Office for \$15 – the book is readily available from other sources as well. For more information &/or to let us know that you want to participate in a group – please sign up online using this link: [bit.ly/goodenough2022](http://bit.ly/goodenough2022) or contact the Church Office at [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org) with your contact information.

### **TODAY is PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY:**

All are invited to join our FCCB group – and other UCC congregations gathering to walk in BTV's Pride Parade **TODAY** after worship.

We will meet at First Church at 11:30am before walking to the gathering site on King Street at the Hood Plant parking lot at 11:40. The parade route starts by going up Church Street – and this year turns west on Bank Street as the route eventually follows Main Street to the new Pride Festival site at Burlington's Waterfront Park.

**VT Pride asks that everyone wears a mask** while at the parade staging site on King Street & at the Pride Festival at Waterfront Park.



### **STORY-TELLERS WANTED:**

We're organizing a Moth-style story telling event for Friday October 21 from 6:30 to 8pm at First Church.

The theme is, "Toto, I have a feeling we aren't in Kansas anymore!"

We are looking for stories of surprise and unusual context. Do you have a story to tell?

Interested in learning more? Contact Steve Hyde at 802-598-3864 or [stephenhyde@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenhyde@yahoo.com). Stories create connection and build community – let's have some fun!

## SERVING:

**Silent Vigil for Racial Justice:** All are invited to stand in solidarity for racial justice **October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 to 1:30pm.**

Bring a sign and meet us on the lawn!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** – Are you looking to exercise your green thumb? Want to use the electric or ride on mower – or tend a raised bed of veggies? We need your volunteer spirit – gardening and mowing - at First Church this summer! Use this form: [bit.ly/greenthumbfccb](https://bit.ly/greenthumbfccb) or contact the Church Office to learn more.

**Meals On Wheels:** Contact our own Al Weldon to learn more at [alweldon@aol.com](mailto:alweldon@aol.com) about helping to deliver meals twice monthly, or as a substitute.

**Dismas House:** We have been involved with the BTV Dismas House (a transitional home for parolees) for 30+ years. You are invited to prepare and share a meal on your own or with a friend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of any month. Contact our Dismas Coordinator Donal Dugan, [donal.dugan@gmail.com](mailto:donal.dugan@gmail.com) for info.

**Volunteers Needed to work with our Faith Formation Team!** Our vibrant programs for children are available every Sunday! For more information about programs, or volunteering, please contact Director of Faith Formation, Hilah Clarke, [hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org), or drop by the “Faith Formation Kiosk” before the 10am worship.

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

**JUMP:** A Drop-In Center based here, JUMP assists hundreds in our community annually. Contact our JUMP Board member, Anne Tewksbury Frye to learn more: [actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net). JUMP is currently offering services by mail, phone, and email on weekdays - and in-person on Thursdays (only) at starting at 9am.

**The FCCB Possibility Shop:** Our thrift shop sells gently used, household items and clothing and is open **Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-3pm. Volunteers needed:** Call Karan Dewar 802-922-3821 or Brenda Frazer 802-862-4747.

**Pledges & Gifts of Self:** Stewardship — gifts of money and gifts of self— are invited and needed year-round! Stewardship information is available in the Church Office or check out our website: [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org).

**Friends at First** work with our “Partners in Pastoral Care” Team to provide rides, meals, and other services as needed. Please contact the Pastoral Care Team: [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org) for more information.

**Sunday Morning Welcomers & Ushers!** Friendly faces are needed to greet or usher. For more information, please contact Office Manager, Caroline Catlin at [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org).

## LEARNING AND CONNECTING:

### **Faith Formation Opportunities:**

- **Childcare** is available for Nursery, Pre-School children each Sunday morning. Families are encouraged to check in at the *Faith Formation Kiosk* after 9:45am (in the *Church Office*).
- **Today – Church School Peer Group:** Faith Formation Director Hilah Clarke is offering (Church School) Peer Group following the “Word of God for (Sm)all Ages.” We are in the process of hiring a Youth Coordinator for the Sunday morning Middle School Peer Group and to assist Jason Vanderlaan, Youth Leader, with The Haven (youth program). For now, Hilah will lead a program for elementary/middle school children that will include a prayer circle, Bible story, and play outside at the Ronald McDonald House weather permitting. Please, visit the **“Faith Formation Kiosk”** prior to worship to sign in participating children/youth.
- **YOUTH PROGRAMS:** We are happy to share that our collaboration with the College Street Church will be on-going and that the fall calendar for youth programs is taking shape! Youth Leader, Jason Vanderlaan and Hilah Clarke will be leading September Wednesday gatherings at College Street from 6:00-8:00 pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Be on the lookout for a calendar of fun-filled events coming soon!
- **High school youth** are encouraged to participate in the 10am worship on Sunday mornings.
- As always, “fidget bags” will be available for children who wish to remain in pews with family. This will be the model we will have in place throughout the summer.

**Bible Study:** The Rev. Elissa Johnk’s morning Bible Study on Zoom will resume Wednesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

**Women’s Book Group:** Use this link for the group’s 2022-2023 book selections: [bit.ly/womensbookgroup22](https://bit.ly/womensbookgroup22) For details and to be added to the group’s email list, please contact Janice Clements at: [janclm25@gmail.com](mailto:janclm25@gmail.com).

## WELCOMING:

**NAME TAGS help build community:** We're rolling out new, magnetic name tags! Forms and completed name tags are available in Sanctuary Narthex! For questions, please email [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org).

**Virtual Fellowship:** Every Sunday, after worship, on Zoom - [bit.ly/sundayfellowship](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship)! All are welcome!

**New to First Church?** Please fill in your contact information on the welcome cards provided in the pews. We’d love to know you’re here and say hello! Our online Welcome form: [bit.ly/fccbwelcomecard](https://bit.ly/fccbwelcomecard)

**The Church Newsletter:** Please sign up – in the Church Office - or at [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org). To receive a mailed copy, sign up in the Church Office.