

Here's What's Happening at
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON, UCC
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG • @FIRSTCHURCHBTB



UPCOMING:

OFFICIAL MEETING WARNING

Pursuant to Articles VII and X, Sections 2, 4, and 5, of the BY-LAWS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Burlington, Vermont: **The 218th Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held at First Church Sunday February 4, 2024, at noon, with an option to attend via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. The agenda of the meeting will be:**

- Election of officers and board members;
- Discussion and vote on the operational budget for fiscal year January 1 –December 31, 2024;
- Any other business which may properly come before the members assembled.

- Dawn C. Plante, Clerk

Annual Meeting Information: All reports, agenda, slate of candidates for leadership positions, and Zoom Link for the Annual Meeting – will be posted as they become available: bit.ly/annualmeetinginfo2024



FREE LEGAL CLINIC We are hosting a legal clinic TODAY, January 21. Call 802-862-5010 between noon and 1pm to request an afternoon appointment. This confidential service is available to all in the church and Vermont.

You are invited! Mardi Gras Auction and Dinner

Saturday, February 10th

Help make Mardi Gras fun:

bit.ly/mardigras24fccb



Mardi Gras

Auction & Dinner

Saturday Feb. 10

New to First Church?

Want to know more?

Participate in First Church 101 on Sundays February 11th, 18th, and 25th at 9am with the Rev. Elissa Johnk.

Questions – please email office@firstchurchburlington.org



FIRST CHURCH 101
EXPLORE CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP
WITH THE REV. ELISSA JOHNK



**January Sunday
Breakfasts
8:45 - 9:45am**

**Sundays in January & February:
Drop-in & enjoy breakfast** at First Church! Sign up to help build a breakfast: bit.ly/breakfast2024jan



**SAVE THE DATE PEACE CAMP
2024! Mon. July 8th – Thurs. July 11th** Peace Camp is an exciting, inter-generational event hosted by First Church Burlington and College St.

Congregational Church! Volunteer & sign-up information coming soon.

WORSHIP:

Sunday Morning Worship: 10 am Sundays. We also livestream, with a recording available, on YouTube: www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTB

MUSIC: To offer your musical gifts, vocal or instrumental, or to learn more about First Church music programs contact **Director of Music, Amy Shortt** at ashortt@firstchurchburlington.org

- Our **Sanctuary Choir** rehearsals are at 7pm Thursdays and 9:15am Sundays. All are welcome to sing!
- **Alleluia (Youth) Choir for youth in 3rd – 8th grade** meets following 10am worship with Amy Shortt.
- **Cherub (Children's) Choir for children in Pre-K-2nd grade** meet following worship with Laura Elder-Connors.
- **Bell Choir** rehearsals are from 6:45 – 8:15pm on Wednesdays at First Church. New ringers are always welcome! For details contact Jennie Coleman, jcoleman@firstchurchburlington.org.

READERS: Interested in reading during worship? Contact info@firstchurchburlington.org to let us know!

PARKING: The First Church parking lot is most needed and reserved for - our first-time visitors - and those with limited mobility only. Drivers are invited to drop off passenger(s) before using street parking or the garage (both FREE on Sundays). Please do not park on the lawn as it damages the grass.

FLOWERS: The calendar for donating Sunday flowers is available in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. You can create an arrangement or order one. We will contact you with details. Questions? Email: office@firstchurchburlington.org

SERVICE:

Silent Vigil for Racial Justice: All are invited to stand in solidarity for racial justice **February 4th from 11-11:30am.**

Elmwood Shelter Snack Collection: The first Sunday of the month we collect individually packaged snacks (fruit ok!) to help the Elmwood Shelter community center feel more welcoming and inviting for guests. Drop-off box is in the library, or at the silent vigil!

Friends at First work with our "Partners in Pastoral Care" – PIPC Team to provide rides, meals, and other services as needed. Email office@firstchurchburlington.org for details or if you or someone you know is in need of care.

Meals On Wheels: We deliver two Wednesdays a month, contact Al Weldon to learn more at alweldon@aol.com.

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.

The **Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP)** is open in person at First Church, Thursday and Friday mornings at 9am, providing hospitality and valued assistance to thousands of individuals each year. For more info: www.jumpvt.org

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.

Vermont Interfaith Action: We are currently partnering with VIA on issues of public safety, housing insecurity, addiction, and racial justice. To find out more, contact Louise Brewster at lrbrewster@gmail.com.

Teams and Committees: We're about to start our new fiscal year. Want to find a way to get involved? To use your gifts in a meaningful fashion? Talk to Susan Ellwood, President, Donal Dugan, Deacons co-Chair, or Elissa, about opportunities to serve. We really DO need you!

Pledges & Gifts of Self: We are finalizing our 2024 budget now. Stewardship information is available in the Church Office and at bit.ly/pledgeform2024. Thank you for supporting the ministries of First Church!

LEARNING AND CONNECTING:

Bible Study: You are welcome – no experience necessary!
Rev. Elissa Johnk's **Thursday** morning Bible Study is at **8:30am on Zoom:**
bit.ly/BibleStudywithElissa.

Fellowship Breakfast will meet at First Church in February. Specific date coming soon.
Please email Baki Nelson, fn.info@icloud.com for more information and to participate.

Women's Book Group is meeting at Zoom, **Monday, January 22nd at 7pm** to discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes; with Janice Clements facilitating. To receive e-updates, contact Janice Clements: janclem25@gmail.com.

Faith Formation Opportunities:

- We are *always* eager for volunteers to work with staff in our classrooms! Email Hilah to let us know you're interested.
- Here with kids? Visit the **"Faith Formation Kiosk" in the midway prior to worship to sign in.**



Scan this QR Code to learn more about children and youth programming at First Church!

WELCOMING:

NAME TAGS help build community: Forms and completed name tags are available in Sanctuary Narthex.

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

The Church E-News: Sign up on our website, in the Church Office, or complete a Welcome Card in your pew. To receive a mailed newsletter, sign up in the Church Office.

Fellowship hour: Every Sunday after worship, in the chapel. Come chat about worship and life and enjoy a hot drink!

Sunday Morning Welcomers & Ushers! Friendly faces are needed to greet or usher! Contact our Office Manager!

SUNDAY 1/21	8:45-9:45am – Community drop-in breakfast! 9:45am – Nursery care opens, please check in at kiosk 10:00am – Worship in the Sanctuary / YouTube 11:00am – Fellowship in the Chapel with refreshments for all! 1:00 – 3:00 pm – FREE Legal Clinic
Monday 1/22	6:00 – 7:30pm – Tai Chi: White Cloud Arts (Dining Room)
Tuesday 1/23	10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 10:00am – 12:00pm – Staff Meeting
Wednesday 1/24	10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS + Possibility Shop Open 4:00pm – Personnel Team Meeting (Zoom) 6:45pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – AA (Chapel)
Thursday 1/25	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:30am – Bible Study with Rev. Elissa Johnk (Zoom) 9:00am – JUMP Drop-In Center Open 7:00pm – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday 1/26	9:00am – JUMP Drop-In Center Open 10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS + Possibility Shop Open
Saturday 1/27	8:00am – Small Potatoes free community breakfast
SUNDAY 1/28	8:45-9:45am – Community drop-in breakfast! 9:45am – Nursery care opens, please check in at kiosk 10:00am – Worship in the Sanctuary / YouTube 11:00am – Fellowship in the Chapel with refreshments for all!