

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

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## 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 218<sup>th</sup> 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:** For all reports, agenda, slate of candidates for leadership positions, and Zoom Link for the Annual Meeting – posted as they become available [CLICK HERE](#)



**Mardi Gras  
Auction & Dinner  
Saturday Feb. 10**

**You are invited! Mardi Gras  
Auction and Dinner Saturday,  
February 10<sup>th</sup> Help make Mardi  
Gras fun – [CLICK HERE](#)**



**New to First Church? Want  
to know more?** Participate in  
First Church 101 on Sundays  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> at  
9am with the Rev. Elissa Johnk.  
Questions – please email  
[office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org)

**Silent Vigil for Racial Justice:**  
All are invited to stand in solidarity  
for racial justice **NEXT SUNDAY, Feb  
4<sup>th</sup> from 11 – 11:30am.** Donations  
of individually packaged snacks for  
the Elmwood Community Shelter  
are invited at this event.

All are invited to  
gather in solidarity

**Silent Vigil  
for  
Racial  
Justice  
February 4  
11-11:30am**

**Fellowship Breakfast  
Tuesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7am.** All  
are invited! Please email Baki  
Nelson, [fn.info@icloud.com](mailto:fn.info@icloud.com) for  
more information and to participate.

**FELLOWSHIP  
BREAKFAST**  
TUES. FEBRUARY 6  
7 AM @ FIRST CHURCH



**SAVE THE DATE PEACE CAMP 2024!  
Mon. July 8<sup>th</sup> – Thurs. July 11<sup>th</sup>** Peace

Camp is an exciting, inter-generational  
event hosted by First Church Burlington

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

**Ash Wednesday Worship  
February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** Join us in the  
First Church Sanctuary for a joint with  
College St. Congregational Church



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

## WORSHIP:

**Sunday Morning Worship:** 10 am Sundays. We also livestream, with a recording available, on YouTube:  
<https://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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade** meets following 10am worship with Amy Shortt.
- **Cherub (Children's) Choir for children in Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:jcoleman@firstchurchburlington.org).

**READERS:** Interested in reading during worship? Contact [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org)

## SERVICE:

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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:** Stewardship — gifts of money and gifts of self– are invited throughout the year! We are so close to our budget goal — only 10k short! If you have not pledged, please visit [bit.ly/pledgeform2024](http://bit.ly/pledgeform2024)

**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/BibleStudy2024](http://bit.ly/BibleStudy2024).

**Women’s Book Group** is meeting on Zoom, **Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** to discuss *The Secret of Life: Rosalind Franklin, James Watson, Francis Crick, and the Discovery of DNA’s Double Helix* by Howard Markel; with Nancy McClellan facilitating. To receive e-updates, contact Janice Clements: [janclem25@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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!

<b>SUNDAY 1/28</b>	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!
<b>Monday 1/29</b>	6:00 – 7:30pm – Tai Chi: White Cloud Arts (Dining Room)
<b>Tuesday 1/30</b>	10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 10:00am – 12:00pm – Staff Meeting
<b>Wednesday 1/31</b>	10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS + Possibility Shop Open 6:00pm – Youth Group at College St. 6:45pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – AA (Dining Room)
<b>Thursday 2/1</b>	10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8:30am – Bible Study with Rev. Elissa Johnk (Zoom) 9:00am – JUMP Drop-In Center Open 7:00pm – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday 2/2</b>	9:00am – JUMP Drop-In Center Open 10:00am – 3:00pm – CHURCH OFFICE HOURS + Possibility Shop Open
<b>Saturday 2/3</b>	8:00am – Small Potatoes free community breakfast
<b>SUNDAY 2/4</b>	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 – Silent Vigil for Racial Justice 11:00am – Fellowship in the Chapel with refreshments for all! 12:00pm – 218 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: In-Person and on Zoom