

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!

The flowers on the pulpit today are given by Susan Saunders in memory of Ellen Saunders (May 21, 1949 - April 6, 2024).

Staff Directory

Elissa Johnk, <i>Lead Minister</i>	Chris Lyons-Dinh, <i>Interim Director of Music</i>
Ava Bilton, <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Hilah Clarke, <i>Faith Formation Director</i>
Caroline Catlin, <i>Office & Nursery Administrator</i>	Jason Vanderlaan, <i>Youth Ministries</i> <i>on parental leave</i>
Lucy Samara, <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	Emerson Grow, <i>A/V Technician</i>
Jennifer Coleman, <i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Jesse O’Gorman, <i>Security Staff</i>
Laura Elder-Connors, <i>Children’s Choir Director</i>	
Derik Breen, <i>Building & Grounds</i>	

Will Gunger, *Head Usher* • Bob Wolf, *Welcomer*
Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher* • Steve Fuchs, *A/V Tech*

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Follow us @firstchurchbtv

*Welcoming All.
Seeking Justice.
Finding God.*

38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



*An Open and Affirming
Congregation of the*
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

firstchurchburlington.org

May 19, 2024
Pentecost Sunday

*“Who hopes for what is seen?”
The apostle Paul*

PRELUDE

Halling

Fredrik Sjolin

Eclectica: Sofia Hirsch, Laura Markowitz,
Ana Ruesink, and John Dunlop

WORDS OF WELCOME

Ava Bilton

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CENTERING SILENCE

Centering silence has its roots in the earliest of desert monastic traditions and the Christian mystic tradition. Relaxing into quietness creates the space for deep listening and draws us into ourselves.

***OPENING HYMN** *Standing at the Future's Threshold* #538 Vv. 1,2,4 NCH

THE COLLECTIVE STORY OF RESURRECTION

The Jorgenson Family

from Acts 2, by Marcia McFee, adapted

One: They were all gathered in one place ...

One: [...] But Peter reminded them of the words of the prophet Joel: “I will pour out my spirit on all people!”

**All: We have faith that the Spirit will revive us
and we will dream dreams again
envisioning a better world for all people,**

One: Then offering our lives to God, to watch those visions come true.
This is a word of God, the Word of Hope for we who long for it.

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING THE PEACE.**

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

Children are always welcome in worship. Those who wish to join their peer groups for Kids Lab are invited to follow Hilah to their classrooms.

ANTHEM

Praise to the Spirit
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Hal Hopson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember our congregation includes those who are worshipping digitally and share concerns with streaming in mind – with permission, using first names only.

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.

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

What a Covenant

#471 NCH

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Polska from Dorotea

Danish String Quartet

You are invited to offer your monetary gifts and/or to complete the yellow offering card found in your pew. If you are new, please use this time to complete a welcome card and place it in the offering plate – and introduce yourself to our ushers after the service!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***DOXOLOGY**

#778 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.*

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:22-27, p.983

SERMON

***CLOSING HYMN**

I Love to Tell the Story

#522 Vv. 1,2,4 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Staedelil

Danish String Quartet

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

Special thanks to Eclectica for sharing their gifts
in worship this morning!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Members and Friends are invited to the Chapel for a brief Fellowship time, before returning to the Sanctuary for our Congregational Meeting. At the meeting, members will vote on the Trustees' proposed framework for allocating the funds from the sale of the former parsonage.