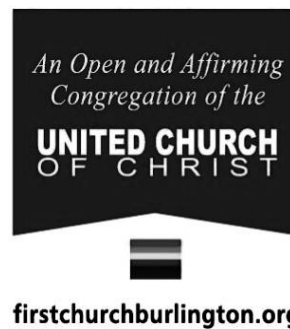


Welcoming All.
Seeking Justice.
Finding God.

38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



July 28, 2024
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Friendship isn't a big thing — it's a million little things.
- Paulo Coelho

Online worshipers (live stream) are invited to greet the congregation by writing your name in the YouTube chat. Please also submit any prayer requests via the YouTube chat – to be shared during “Prayers of the People.”

PRELUDE Dov Michael Schiller

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CENTERING SILENCE Ava Bilton
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** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* #7 NCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Tony Hall

One: Who will be your people?

All: Our people are all those who gather here.

One: Where will you go?

All: We will go wherever God leads us.

One: How will you make the journey?

All: With loving kindness and faithful commitment.

One: Then let us now worship with Ruth's promise in mind.

All: Let us worship together as friends.

TIME OF UNBURDENING

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

ANTHEM *Call Your Mom* Todd Sherman Clark/Noah Kahan
Youth Music Ensemble

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM)ALL AGES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week's “Celebrations & Prayer's” list is available for you on the front page of our website – <https://firstchurchburlington.org/> - 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.

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *O God in Whom All Life Begins* #401 NCH

PROVERBS READING *On Friendship* Calvin Nay
Proverbs 17:7, 18:24, 27:9, 27:5-6, 17:9, 16:28, 27:10, 18:1

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Simple Gifts* Sondra K. Tucker

Ambassadors Bell Ensemble

You are invited to offer 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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DOXOLOGY** #780 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. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Ruth 1:14-2:3

SERMON The Marks of Friendship

***CLOSING HYMN** *God We Thank You for Our People* #376 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

A warm welcome to Dov Michael Schiller who is joining us as a guest musician throughout the summer season.

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

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

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Ava Bilton, *Director of Congregational Life*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson-, *A/V Technician*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Jesse O’Gorman, *Security Staff*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children’s Choir Director*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Alanabeth Cadence, Dawn Plante, Paul Hobbs, *Ushers*

Sara Wilcoxson, *Welcomer*

Lou Rochford, *Digital Usher*

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Follow us @firstchurchbtv