

Here's What's Happening at
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON, UCC
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG • @FIRSTCHURCHBTB



The Reclamation: Redefine faith. Reimagine love. Reignite Hope.

For our sermon series this fall, we are reflecting on and reclaiming Christian concepts that have long been ceded to conservative, fundamentalist interpretations of Christianity. After reimagining the Kingdom of God and reexamining God's will, today we are joined by Church vitality consultant, Paul Nickerson, leading us in a conversation on reclaiming evangelism.

Reclaiming Evangelism Workshop

Do you dream of growing our church?

Church vitality consultant, Paul Nickerson, is leading an all-church workshop **TODAY from 11:30am-1:00pm** to help us learn why and how our church can grow. You don't want to miss this! Lunch and childcare provided.

UPCOMING

World Communion Sunday

What is Incarnation and what does it mean for Christians today?

On **Sunday, October 6th**, College Street Congregational Church will join us in worship for a celebration of Jesus' invitation to the Table, and a in-depth discussion of the incarnated Christ led by the Revs. Elissa Johnk and Ken White.

Fall Faith Formation Opportunities

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

- ***NEW* Book Group- *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*** by Richard Rohr will meet on Thursdays Oct. 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th at 6:00pm at First Church. Register at <https://bit.ly/fccbfallbooks>
- ***NEW* Book Group- *Practicing the Pause: Jesus' Contemplative Practice, New Brain Science, and What it Means to Be Fully Human*** by Caroline Oakes will meet on Sundays after worship, Oct. 20th, 27th, Nov. 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. Register at <https://bit.ly/fccbfallbooks>

Service / Service Sunday:

We are called to Serve

Sometimes service means worship, and sometimes it means being an active witness beyond the walls of our sanctuary. **Sunday, October 13th**, we will gather at College Street Congregational Church for a brief worship followed by a morning of service.

Our Outreach Team invites you to participate in Service Service Sunday by contributing hygiene supplies for JUMP (the suggested shopping list is available here: <https://bit.ly/shopforjump>) and/or by selecting from a number of service projects following the Service Service worship gathering.

First Church 101

New to First Church? Want to know more?

Join the Rev. Elissa Johnk for three sessions: Sundays Oct. 20th, 27th, and Nov. 3 at 11:15am in the Dining Room. First Church 101 covers everything from the history of the church, what we believe, what it means to be a member, and why it can be an important step on your spiritual journey. Questions? Contact Ava Bilton, Director of Congregational Life, abilton@firstchurchburlington.org

WORSHIP:

Sunday Morning Worship: We also livestream, with a recording available: www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTB

Fellowship Hour: Every Sunday after worship, gather in the chapel to chat about worship and life. Light refreshments are always served.

Music: To offer your musical gifts, vocal or instrumental, or to learn more about First Church music programs contact us at music@firstchurchburlington.org or abilton@firstchurchburlington.org

- **The Sanctuary Choir**, open to all adults, is rehearsing at 7:00pm on Thursdays – come & learn more!
- **The Austin Handbell Choir** rehearses at 6:45pm on Wednesdays at First Church – all are welcome!
- Stay tuned for updates about the **Youth Music Ensemble** (6th-12th grade), and **Cherub Choir** (K-5th).

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

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

WELCOMING:

NAME TAGS help build community: Request 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 and return it in the offering plate. 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.

Sunday Morning Welcomers & Ushers: Friendly faces are needed to greet or usher! To learn more, contact our Office Manager.

SERVICE:

Silent Vigil for Racial Justice: All are invited to stand in solidarity for racial justice **the first Sunday of each month from 11:30am-noon**. Bring a sign, a water bottle and chair if you want, and meet on the front lawn.

Elmwood Shelter Snack Collection: The first Sunday monthly 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.

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.iumpvt.org. Email JUMP Board President, Anne Tewksbury-Frye for info about getting involved: actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net

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: Want to find a way to get involved? To use your gifts in a meaningful fashion? Talk to Jamie Polli, President; Donal Dugan, Deacons co-Chair; or Elissa about opportunities to serve. We really DO need you!

Pledges & Gifts of Self: Stewardship gifts are invited throughout the year! Stewardship info is available in the Office.

LEARNING AND CONNECTING:

Bible Study:

- **In-person Bible Study at First Church every Wednesday at 6:15pm.**
- **Thursday online Bible Study over Zoom will resume at 8:30am on September 19th.**

Coffee & Hand Crafts: Looking for community and creativity? Grab your latest project and meet at First Church at 10am on any Tuesday and enjoy coffee (or tea!) crafting and conversation.

Let's Lunch! All are invited to gather for lunch – hosted by our Connections and Partners In Pastoral Care Team – at noon at First Church on Tuesdays October 15 and November 19. For a ride &/or to RSVP contact the Church Office.

Women's Book Group: For details and to be added to the group's email list, please contact Janice Clements at: janclm25@gmail.com.

The next Fellowship Breakfast will at FIRST CHURCH on Tuesday, October 1 at 7:00am.

Please email Baki Nelson, fn.info@icloud.com for more information and to RSVP.

Faith Formation Opportunities:

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

Scan this QR Code – with 9.29.24 updates
- to learn more about children and youth
programming at First Church!

