

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON, UCC

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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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 *Kindom of God*, reexamining *God's will*, reclaiming *evangelism*, and discussing *incarnation*, we return this week to a topic charged with many differing thoughts, feelings, and opinions: *sin*. Let this service be an invitation to rediscover and redefine a crucial element of Christian theology and what it means for you, today.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @FCCB

First Church 101

New to First Church? Want to know more?

Join the Rev. Elissa Johnk for three sessions: Sundays at 11:15am on Oct. 20; at 9am on Oct. 27, and at 11:15am on Nov. 3 at 11:15am - in the First Church Dining Room (upstairs/elevator). We'll cover everything from the history of the church, to what we believe, what it means to be a member, and why joining can be an important step on your spiritual journey. Questions? Contact Ava Bilton, Director of Congregational Life, abilton@firstchurchburlington.org

Climate Hope Voter Pledge

Let us care for All Creation

By taking the pledge to vote in the next election, you are making a sacred commitment to a more just and equitable world for people of all ages, races, and walks of life. This is a campaign led by the National United Church of Christ and supported locally by the FCCB Climate Justice team. Cards to record your pledge will be available after the service.

Free Phone-In Legal Clinics

In need of legal assistance? Don't know where to start? Our Legal Clinics are free and open to all living in VT. Upcoming Clinics are on Sundays Oct. 20 (today!) and Nov. 17, on those dates, call (802.862.5010) between noon and 1pm for an appointment via Zoom or phone that afternoon. Details: www.firstchurchburlington.org

Chicken & Biscuits at FCCB on Saturday November 2 - a great dinner to gather for & to invite your friends to – **use this link to reserve tickets &/or volunteer:**

<https://bit.ly/chickenbiscuit2024>

Trunk or Treat

Fall Fun for Families and Friends

Have you ever wanted to wear your Halloween costume just one more time? This year, you get to wear it to church, and trick or treat, too! On Sunday Oct. 27th, all are invited to invite their friends, don their costumes for worship, and head out to the parking lot afterwards for trunks full of treats hosted by our Connections and Faith Formation Teams. Are you willing to host trick or treaters at your trunk? Email Linda Elrick: elrick45@icloud.com

Fall Book Groups:

Learn and grow together

The Universal Christ - *How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*

Join Rob Backus and Steve Hyde for a deep dive into this important book by Father Richard Rohr.

Thursdays 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7 at 6pm at First Congregational Church. Copies of the book are available in the church office. Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/fccbfallbooks>

Practicing the Pause - *Jesus' Contemplative Practice, New Brain Science, and What it Means to Be Fully Human*

Join Ava Bilton after worship on 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, and 11/24 to discuss this powerful, transformational book by Caroline Oakes. If you're a doubter, if you're looking for a new way into prayer, if you just need a break from it all, this is for you! Copies of the book are available in the church office. Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/fccbfallbooks> (or just show up after worship today!)

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 Director of Congregational Life, Ava Bilton at: 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 needed to greet & usher! To learn more, contact 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.

Good Neighbor Crew: Contact Will Gunger in the Church Office to sign up to help clean the church property.

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

JUMP - 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. 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 via Zoom - 8:30am weekly.**

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 Tuesday November 19. For a ride &/or to RSVP contact the Church Office.

Women's Book Group: For details and book list, please contact Janice Clements at: janclm25@gmail.com.

The next Fellowship Breakfast will at FIRST CHURCH on Tuesday, November 5 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

- At First Church with kids? Visit the **"Faith Formation Kiosk"** in the midway prior to worship to sign in.
- **Want to learn more about our programs for children and youth?** Use this QR Code:

