

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON, UCC

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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SIX STONE JARS: *The Economy of Jesus*

This winter, we turn to the stories of the Gospel to explore the radical economy of Jesus Christ. In today's Western culture - driven by constant demands on our time and resources - equity, wholeness, and meaning seem more and more elusive. Faced with similar challenges in the Roman Empire millennia ago, Jesus offered a new order: a new way of thinking about who we are, what we have, and how we relate to each other. As the Rev. Marcia McFee writes, "In his economy, the true measure of abundance is fullness for the whole community." Today we continue to explore this theme with the fullness Christ offers to all – the fullness of hope. See the FCCB website or YouTube Channel for recordings of the first four sermons in this series.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @FCCB

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH – NEW DATE

Calling all (self-identifying) women, ages 9-99, to join in a luncheon at **11:45 am next Sunday, the 23rd** upstairs in the dining room. We'll lunch, and chat about where we see ourselves as a group in the future, set goals and priorities, and discern where we are heading as a supportive group within our church community. Bring your thoughts and ideas!

A LIVING RESISTENCE

During last Sunday's post-worship discussion of Wendell Berry's "The Two Economies" - with Rev. Johnk, there was interest in continuing the conversation seeking practical applications of the concepts discussed. All are invited to **meet with Rev. Johnk after worship on Feb. 23rd** to explore further. Read Berry's essay here: <https://bit.ly/WendellBerry2>

ASH WEDNESDAY: *Beauty & Frailty*

Let's gather in worship to start the contemplative season of Lent together at 7pm on Wed. March 5th

A HEART for the UNHOUSED: Advocacy

VIA – Vermont Interfaith Action - has initiated a Vermont-wide "post card campaign" to advocate for housing for the many in Vermont who are unhoused. Our Outreach Team is encouraging your involvement **following worship on February 23rd**. Post cards, addresses for Vermont political leaders, information about the issue and sample messages will be available.

LEGAL CLINIC

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 February 23rd and March 23rd**. on those dates, call (802.862.5010) between noon and 1pm for an appointment via Zoom or phone that afternoon. Details: www.firstchurchburlington.org

WORSHIP:

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

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!
- **Music Ensembles**, put together by our Ensemble Director, Jeff Bryant, are a great way to offer your instrumental or vocal gifts. Email jbryant@firstchurchburlington.org for more info

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. Please remember to wear yours through fellowship time!

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! You can also connect using our online Welcome form: bit.ly/fccbwelcomecard

The Church E-News: Feel like there's more going on that you'd like to know about? Subscribe to our e-news! Sign up on our website, in the Church Office, or complete a Welcome Card in your pew (and placing in the offering plate).

SERVICE:

Harm Reduction Kit Assembly: The fourth Sunday of each month, following the worship service, the Outreach Team hosts an assembly line of volunteers to help stock community service organizations with harm reduction kits. All are welcome to lend a hand.

Good Neighbor Crew: Contact Will, office@firstchurchburlington.org, 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 free weekly, Saturday community 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: 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 Cyndy Hall, President; or Elissa about opportunities to serve. We really DO need you!

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.

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

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



Youth Group: 6:00 – 8:00pm on Wednesdays at College Street Congregational Church. Want to get involved? Contact Youth Ministry Leader, Will Gunger at youthministry@firstchurchburlington.org

Monday 2/17	Church Office Closed
Tuesday 2/18	Church Office Closed 10:00 am – Craft Circle: All invited 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm – JUMP Volunteer Lunch
Wednesday 2/19	10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Church Office Hours & Possibility Shop Open 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Youth Group at College Street CC 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm – Bible Study at FCCB 6:45 pm – 8:15 pm – Austin Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm – AA (Dining Room)
Thursday 2/20	8:30 am – 9:30 am – Bible Study with Rev. Elissa Johnk via Zoom 9:00 am – JUMP Drop-In Center (Chapel) 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Church Office Hours 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – Sanctuary Choir
Friday 2/21	9:00 am – JUMP Drop-In Center (Chapel) 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Church Office Hours & Possibility Shop Open 3:00 pm – Funeral service for Charlie Lord
Saturday 2/22	8:00 am – 9:00 am – Small Potatoes: Free Community Breakfast / Bag Lunch
Sunday 2/23	9:15 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am – 11:00 am - Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 am – Fellowship in the Chapel with Refreshments for All 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Youth Group (FCCB) 11:15 am – A Living Resistance – conversation with Rev. Elissa Johnk 11:15 am – Heart for the Unhoused Postcard Campaign 11:15 am – Assemble Harm Reduction Kits in the Chapel 11:45 am – Women's Fellowship Luncheon (Dining Room) 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Legal Clinic Appointment Scheduling: Call (802) 862-5010

