

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON, UCC

## AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

[WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG) • @FIRSTCHURCHBTB



## THE PRACTICE OF AWE: *CULTIVATING A LIFE OF SPIRITUAL DEPTH*

In this season of Lent we are focusing on the practice of awe. Sure, the wilderness may seem empty, barren, even scary to many, but here in Vermont, we know that wilderness is *beautiful*. This is the place God's wonder is fully on display. As we move through this season together, let each Sunday be a reminder of the many ways to engage with the wonderful mystery of life and creation. Remember what it means to be amazed and let yourself surrender to the transformative call of the wild.

### THE TABLE: *All Belong Here* - A Contemporary Worship Offering for Lent

Our contemporary worship service is offered at 11:30 am in the Dining Room. This service is grounded in the theology and identity of First Church, but designed for a more relaxed, informal setting. Bagel breakfast begins at 11:00 am. Children's programming will be provided. Wondering what the music of The Table sounds like? Check out this playlist on Spotify to listen to the songs inspiring our set lists: <https://spoti.fi/3R2NJL5>

## WHAT'S HAPPENING @FCCB

### TODAY: DAY of DELIGHT

*Delighting in Connection with One Another*

What makes your heart happy? Let's find out together **TODAY - gather at church at 1pm** and join one of the small groups and experience delight together. Pick from:

- Running with Simon North
- Crafting with Karan Dewar at FCCB
- Cooking (and eating!) Persian Cuisine with Baki Nelson at FCCB
- Photography and Exploring downtown Burlington with Lucy Samara
- Rainy Day Hiking at Rock Point with Will Gunger

**TODAY: 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.

### Fellowship Breakfast:

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be at First Church this Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00am - please email Baki

Nelson, [fn.info@icloud.com](mailto:fn.info@icloud.com) to RSVP &/or for more information.

### Life Support Groups

*Support groups for patients and caregivers*

If you are facing a life-threatening illness, or caring for someone who is, you are invited to join our new support groups. **Wednesdays at 10:30 am** – patients will meet over Zoom. Caregivers will also meet at 10:30am on Wednesdays, but in-person in the Stone Room at First Church. Contact Elissa for more information at [ejohnk@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:ejohnk@firstchurchburlington.org)

### LENTEN PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP:

*See the world through a new lens*

Engage the practice of awe during Lent with photography! Meet over Zoom for photo sharing and discussion on **Mondays at 7pm thru April 14<sup>th</sup>**. For the Zoom link, email [Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org)

### HOLY WEEK VIGIL:

*Can you stay awake with me?*

Sign up (easel in fellowship) before or after worship today - to participate for one hour - in the Maundy Thursday thru Good Friday Prayer Vigil at First Church.

## WORSHIP

**Sunday Morning Worship at 10am:** We also livestream, with a recording available: [youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV](https://youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV)

**Sunday Morning Worship at 11:30am:** *The Table* – a casual, contemporary worship – details above.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jbryant@firstchurchburlington.org) for more info

**Readers:** Interested in reading during worship? Contact [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org)

## WELCOME:

**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](http://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](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org), to sign up to help clean the church property.

**Elmwood Shelter Snack Collection:** Donations of individually packaged snacks in support of the Elmwood Community Shelter are invited any time – and particularly on the first Sunday of the month in conjunction with the monthly (first Sunday) Silent Vigil for Racial Justice. The donation box for the snacks is in the First Church Library (across from the Church Office). Thank you for participating!

**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](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org) for details or if you or someone you know is in need of care.

**Meals On Wheels:** FCCB volunteers deliver on specific weekday mornings each month, contact Al Weldon to learn more at [alweldon@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://jumpvt.org). Email JUMP Board President, Anne Tewksbury-Frye for info about getting involved: [actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto: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](mailto:lrbrewster@gmail.com)

## 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** – the Zoom link is posted in the calendar highlights and on the front page of the church website ([www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)) on Thursday morning.

**Women's Book Group:** For details and book list, please contact Janice Clements at: [janclm25@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:youthministry@firstchurchburlington.org)

<b>Monday 3/31</b>	Church Office Closed 6:00 – 7:30 pm – Tai Chi: White Cloud Arts (Dining Room) 7:00 pm – Lenten Photo Group via Zoom
<b>Tuesday 4/1</b>	Church Office Closed 7:00am – Fellowship Breakfast for all at FCCB
<b>Wednesday 4/2</b>	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 – 7:30 pm – FCCB Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm – Austin Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm – AA (Dining Room)
<b>Thursday 4/3</b>	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 Rehearsal
<b>Friday 4/4</b>	9:00 am – JUMP Drop-In Center (Chapel) 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Church Office Hours & Possibility Shop Open
<b>Saturday 4/5</b>	8:00 am – 9:00 am – Small Potatoes: Free Community Breakfast / Bag Lunch

