

First Congregational Church
Burlington, VT UCC

LOVE *thy* NEIGHBOR



*HOW DO WE DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, AND
WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER?*

MAY 4TH 10AM

firstchurchburlington.org | info@firstchurchburlington.org | (802) 862-5010
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WELCOME

WE MEAN IT.

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 those in need, to an array of building users, and to a congregation of members, friends, and family—both the 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. That means YOU!

VISITING?

RESTROOMS are located out the front exit of the sanctuary, right, down the hallway, and then on your left.

KID BAGS + WIGGLE SEATS are available at the front and rear of the sanctuary.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available at the rear of the sanctuary. Ushers can assist you.

CONNECT with us by filling out a welcome card (in the pew) and dropping it in the offering plate.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

You've probably heard about the greatest commandment - love the Lord thy God, and love thy neighbor as thyself - but in time when our society feels more divided than ever, what does that really mean for us as followers of Jesus?

Who is our neighbor? What does it mean to love them? What does that love look like in action?

In this five-week sermon series, we'll explore what it means to love our neighbor, *really*.

As Rev. Marcia McFee says, "the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the "other side". As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place."

Start by coming to our Good Neighbor Workshop TODAY from 1pm-3pm here at the church.

Learn how to connect with members of our community experiencing houslessness and struggles with addiction. Consider how you might be able to cultivate compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

SERVE. GROW. CONNECT.



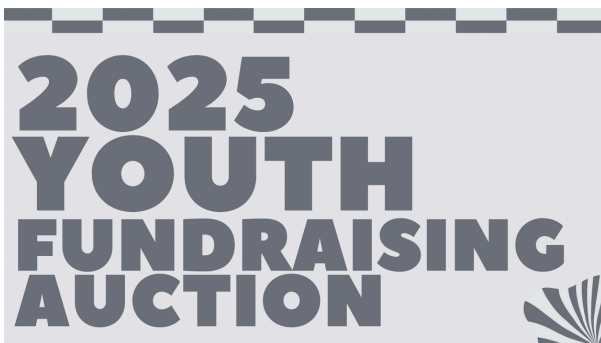
Coffee With The Pastors

Want to know more about First Congregational Church? **Next Sunday May 11th**, join Elissa and Ava at **9am** in the Stone Room for coffee, a light breakfast, and conversation about who we are, what we value, where we've been, and where we're going. Whether you've been visiting occasionally or attending regularly, this is a great next step to connect with First Church.



It's Time for a Spring Glow-Up

The church needs all who are able to pitch in for a spring clean! On **Saturday, May 17th from 9am-12pm**, come gather with the community over donuts, juice, and coffee, and help out with some yardwork, painting, repairs, and cleaning. This is a family friendly event- all are welcome *and* needed to lend a hand. There will be a job for everyone!



Support the Upcoming Youth Service Trip

This year, the Youth are traveling to Rutland, Vermont to learn about the needs of those in other parts of our state. In addition to direct service, they'll be helping out with Rutland's Pride Festival... and they need your support! Head into the chapel after 10am worship on May 11th, 18th, and 25th to bid on many new and beloved items in the silent auction.



2025 Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP) Auction

The JUMP online fundraising auction will be open from Sunday 4/27 at 12pm until Friday 5/9 at 7pm. It has everything from gift cards to local businesses, to an African Safari, to creative baskets, to amazing work from local artisans...there is something for everyone!

Access the auction using this link:

<https://www.biddingforgood.com/jointurbanministry/2025auction>



Fundraising to Support Immigrant Justice

On **Thursday, May 8th from 5pm-7pm**, Vermont Interfaith Action (of which First Church is a member) is holding a fundraiser to support first generation immigrants and refugees in Vermont. This will be an interfaith, multicultural, intergenerational, interactive gathering including food, music, special guest speakers and more. For tickets, go to <http://www.ohavizedek.org/event/rooted>.

GET INVOLVED

CHILDREN AND KIDS PROGRAMMING is available every Sunday during worship led by our exceptional staff of trained educators and volunteers. Questions? Email Director of Faith Formation, Hilah Clarke, hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org.

YOUTH GROUP is open to students in 6th -12th grade and happens every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm in collaboration with College Street Congregational Church, UCC. Students share a meal, play games, and engage in discussions led by Youth Leader, Will Gunger. Questions? Email Will, youthministry@firstchurchburlington.org.

CHOIR AND ENSEMBLE opportunities are open for all ages through our children's, youth, and adult choirs as well as with our special ensembles. If you sing or play an instrument and want to get connected, email Choral Director, Becky Millard, bmillard@firstchurchburlington.org.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CREW helps make sure the church grounds and our surrounding neighborhood are kept clean, tidy, and safe for all to enjoy. Want to learn more? Join our Good Neighbor Training TODAY from 1pm-3pm. Questions? Email Office Administrator, Will Gunger, office@firstchurchburlington.org.

SILENT VIGIL FOR RACIAL JUSTICE is TODAY from 11:30 to noon on the First Church front yard. Signs supporting racial justice are available – pick one up in the Church Library (across from the office) after worship.

DONATIONS FOR ELMWOOD COMMUNITY SHELTER of individually packaged snacks are invited TODAY in conjunction with the Silent Vigil for Racial Justice. The donation box for the snacks is in the First Church Library (across from the Church Office).

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST FOR ALL is on Tuesday, May 6th at 7:15am at the church. All are welcome to attend! Please RSVP by emailing Baki Nelson, fn.info@icloud.com.

CHURCH STAFF

Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Will Gunger, *Office Admin & Youth Ministry Leader*

Caroline Catlin, *Early Childhood Coordinator*

Grace Raines, *Elementary Ministries Coordinator*

Tyler Warren & Michelle Mraz, *Security Staff*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds*

Ava Bilton, *Director of Congregational Life*

Jeff Bryant, *Ensemble Director*

Becky Millard, *Choral Director*

Michael Dyke, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

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

Ushers for today's service are Paul Hobbs and Leendert Huisman

Lou Rochford is Digital Usher and Slide Creator