

JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> 9:00AM



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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 left 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.

**CHILDREN AND KIDS PROGRAMMING** is available every Sunday during worship led by our exceptional staff of trained educators and volunteers. The nursery is open to children 0-5 yrs. For children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, Kidz Lab meets after the Word of God for All Ages. Check in for all ages at the Faith Formation kiosk outside the front left exit of the sanctuary.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE** devices are available in the sanctuary. Ushers can assist you.

**CONNECT** with us by filling out a welcome card (in pews) and drop it in the offering plate.

**GATHER AFTER THE SERVICE** for refreshments and conversation on the lawn or in the chapel, depending on weather.

## SUMMER ON THE WATERFRONT

This summer we are intentionally embracing the beauty of our unique location in downtown Burlington with a variety of events and initiatives on the waterfront. One Sunday a month, you can jump into **sailing lessons and special worship services down at the Community Sailing Center on July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>**. You can join the **First Church “Pull Together” Dragonboat team** in the Dragonheart Fundraiser. You can gather for a **waterfront breakfast and connection** on the third Tuesday of the month. All on the shores of Lake Champlain.

**Because the truth is, the church isn’t a building.** Worship doesn’t have to be in the sanctuary. And cultivating the Kindom of God requires a joyful response to the Creation all around us.

# SERVE. GROW. CONNECT.



## ***We've Got Peace Like a River!***

Since 2018, we have gathered with College Street Congregational Church every summer for a multi-generational faith formation experience - PEACE CAMP! This year, we are focusing our fun and fellowship over two evenings, **July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**. Register to participate and/or volunteer at <https://bit.ly/PeaceCamp25> or you can email [abilton@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:abilton@firstchurchburlington.org) for more information.



***Join Team Captain Baki Nelson and the First Church Dragonboat Team.*** One of the best ways to get connected within the church *and* enjoy the beauty of the Burlington waterfront. Need more information? Email Baki, [fn.info@icloud.com](mailto:fn.info@icloud.com). Ready to sign up now? Here's how to register with the Pull Together First Church team: <https://bit.ly/DragonheartFCCB>. The race day is **Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. ALL ARE WELCOME! (*Scholarships are available*)



## ***Where Two or Three Are Gathered In My Name***

Head down to the Waterfront at 7:30am on the third Tuesday of July and August (**7/15, 8/19**), to share in a breakfast picnic! Bring your own meal, coffee or tea, and a chair or blanket and share in fellowship on the beautiful shores of Lake Champlain. AND that's not all... Fellowship Breakfasts at the Church will continue at 7:15am on the first Tuesday of each month (**7/1, 8/5**).

## ***Fiction? Non-Fiction? Why not both?!***

Starting Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup>, two book group offerings will be held over Zoom:

***In the Arms of Elders* by William H. Thomas (6:00pm)**, is a physician's fictional parable for wise leadership and community building- a pick intended to help us to imagine new frameworks for building community for all people.

***Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder (7:15pm)**, is a non-fiction narrative, exploring the ways that doctor Jim O'Connell created a community of care for his city's unhoused population. Those wishing to do advocacy work for our unhoused neighbors should participate in this group.

*Copies of both books are available for purchase in the office.*

## ***An Ordination and Installation Celebration***

On **Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>** we will gather at 11am for a service of ordination and installation for Ava Bilton. All are welcome to join this joyful and meaningful event in the life of the Church.



# GET INVOLVED

**ASSEMBLE HARM REDUCTION KITS** today after worship! Hosted by the Outreach Team, all are welcome to put together wound care kits for the Howard Center and their clients in the chapel immediately following the service.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** opportunities are open throughout the summer for those who are interested in offering their musical skills in worship. If you play an instrument or sing and want to participate, email Choral Director, Becky Millard, [bmillard@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:bmillard@firstchurchburlington.org).

**GOOD NEIGHBOR CREWS** help make sure the church grounds and our surrounding neighborhood are kept clean, tidy, and safe for all to enjoy. Volunteers to do daily cleaning sweeps of the grounds and spend time out on the porch connecting with community members. There are many ways to help! To find out more and volunteer, email Office Administrator, Will Gunger, [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org).

**YOUTH GROUP** gatherings are on a summer hiatus. The group will resume later this summer for Wednesday evening sailing sessions. Questions? Email Youth Leader, Will Gunger, [youthministry@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:youthministry@firstchurchburlington.org).

**ZOOM & IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDIES** are on break until the fall. Join one of the Summer Book Groups instead!

**SUMMER WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE AT 9:00AM** through Labor Day weekend to help beat the heat and maximize our time to get out and enjoy the beauty of summer in Vermont!

**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> HOLIDAY** next week, July 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, including the Possibility Shop.

## 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, *Pastor*  
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 Matt Bushey and Alanabeth Cadence  
Lou Rochford is Digital Usher and Slide Creator*