

August 24th 9:00 am



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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.

CHILDCARE is available during worship led by our exceptional staff of trained educators and volunteers. Check-in with the children's ministry team in the midway, 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 have intentionally embraced the beauty of our unique location in downtown Burlington with a variety of events and initiatives on the waterfront. There are still a few opportunities to squeeze out the last drops of sunshine: Jump into **sailing lessons and a special worship service down at the Community Sailing Center (August 31st)**. Head out for a **Vitality Walk** around the UVM campus TODAY. And celebrate **Burlington PRIDE Festival** by decorating and/or walking with the FCCB float on Sunday September 7th.

Because the truth is, the church isn't a building. Worship doesn't have to be in the sanctuary. Cultivating the Kingdom of God requires a joyful response to the Creation all around us.

SERVE. GROW. CONNECT.



Let's Grow Our Church!

TODAY after worship is the final Vitality Walk of the Summer. What we observe and experience through the walks will inform our approach to new ministries and connections with our neighbors. For this walk, we'll meet on the UVM Campus at the intersection of Prospect and College St. Gather in the church library at 10:30 am if you'd like to walk over together, or meet the group there at 10:50 am.



Waterfront Worship and Backpack Blessings!

Head down to the waterfront for the final Sail into Summer event of the season, next **Sunday August 31st** at the Community Sailing Center. A music-driven service will begin at 9:30 am, followed by refreshments, lunch on the grill, and sailing lessons provided by the Sailing Center. For all children and youth going back to school, be sure to bring your backpack for the Blessing of the Backpacks! To sign up for sailing, go to <https://bit.ly/FCCBSailAugust>



Parade with PRIDE!

We are looking for volunteers to design and create this year's float for the annual Burlington PRIDE festival (September 7th). This is an excellent opportunity to share God's love and affirmation of ALL people through creative collaboration and FUN! Talk to Ava or Elissa if you're able to help.



Make a Joyful Noise!

Both the Austin Handbell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir are looking for new members this fall. Both are open to people with all levels of experience! The Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:45–8:15 pm starting September 3rd. The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:00–8:30 pm starting September 4th. Email Becky Millard for more information, bmillard@firstchurchburlington.org.



Updates and Information

Keep an eye out this week for updates regarding the fall schedule at First Church. And, be sure to read recent the Boards and Teams update compiled by the Deacons if you haven't already. Printed copies are available at the Welcome Desk in the Midway.

GET INVOLVED

SPECIAL MUSIC opportunities are open 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.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CREWS help make sure the church grounds and our surrounding neighborhood are kept clean, tidy, and safe for all to enjoy. Volunteers are needed to help with daily cleaning sweeps of the grounds and to spend time out on the porch connecting with community members. To find out more and volunteer, email Office Administrator, Will Gunger, office@firstchurchburlington.org.

YOUTH GROUP will resume in September. To learn more, email Youth Ministry Leader, Will Gunger, 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 9:00 AM through Labor Day weekend to help beat the heat and maximize our time to get out and enjoy the beauty of summer in Vermont!

SERVING AT FIRST CHURCH is a great way to meet people and get connecting beyond the worshipping life of the church. If you're interested in finding a way to serve that fits with your skills, interests, and availability, email Pastor Ava Bilton, ava@firstchurchburlington.org.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*
Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*
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*

The Rev. Ava Bilton, *Pastor*
Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*
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 Baki Nelson and Paul Hobbs
Lou Rochford is Digital Usher and Slide Creator*