

First Congregational Church of Berlin

Berlin Corners, Vermont

An inclusive, open & affirming church

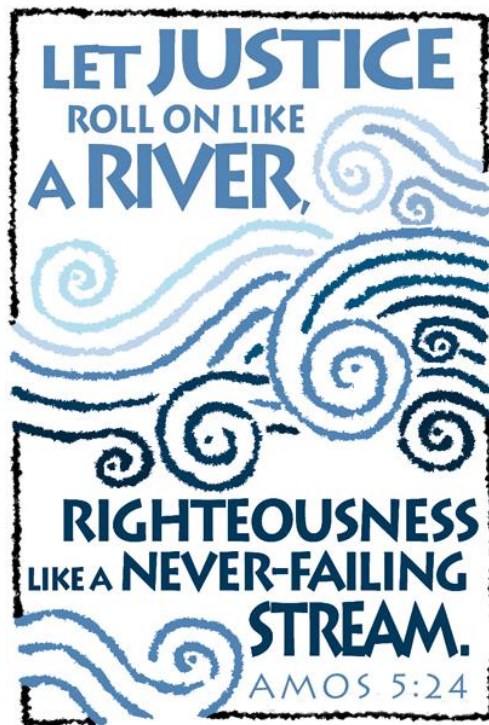
Rev. Sami McRae, Guest Leader

Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday



WE GATHER TOGETHER

*Indicates that you may stand

RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Simple Song* by Robert Schumann **FCCB Chime Ringers**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Dona Nobis Pacem (Dytech Nam Tvoy Meer)*

FCCB Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) based on Psalm 146

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

P: I will praise the Lord as long as I live and will sing praises to my God all my whole life long.

L: Do not put your trust in mortals, the powers of this world, for they are no help, when their breath departs, they return to the earth like everyone else and on that very day their plans perish.

P: Happy are those whose help and hope is in the Lord our God who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them and who keeps faith for ever.

L: For it is the Lord our God who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

P: The Lord sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down and loves the righteous.

L: The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked the Lord will bring to ruin.

P: The Lord will reign forever and our God for all generations. I will indeed praise the Lord with my whole life.

***HYMN** *For the Fruit of All Creation* TWC #379

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (responsive)

L: O God of our hearts, You yearn to be so close to us that we can know you in every breath, in every hope, in every relationship.

P: Meet us here today and teach us to recognize the covenant of justice, peace and love you have written on our hearts.

L: So may our desires become your desires, our work become your work, and our community the place where you are sought and found. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM *Sisi Ni Moja (We Are One)* by Jacob Narverud FCCB Choir
Jordan Mensah, drums

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Amos 5:21-24 (pew Bible p. 747)

Luke 10:25-37 (pew Bible p. 844)

***HYMN** *The Lord is Here* TWC #777

MESSAGE

Rev. Sami McRae

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (see also our Prayer List)

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung) (TWC #632)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen, Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I Wonder* by James Michael Stevens Lotta Suter, violin

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***COMMUNION HYMN** *Come Share the Lord* TWC #782

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

PREPARING AND SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE DEPART TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

TEXT: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981, alt.
 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Text and Music © 1981, 2000 OCP

HERE I AM (Schutte)
 7.7.7.4.D with refrain

Used with permission of Dan Schutte, composer, and Oregon Catholic Press, publisher.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Tempo de Marcha* by Heitor Villa-Lobos

The vision of First Congregational Church of Berlin is to be a friendly, inviting spiritual home that practices the deep caring of Jesus within the congregation and in the wider community.

Please join us for coffee time following worship this morning, held in the Parish Hall Community Room.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Joys: Dan was in church, music by Christopher, Evan taking place in chess tournament, Mary's great grandson's wedding, Dalton and Lexie's Vermont celebration, the joy of music at FCCB.

For FCCB family & friends: Wayne C., Donna and Peter, rain, Cheryl and Tom with loss of home in fire, Randy, Ginger's uncle, Debbie P, Tom, Jean B., Ray and Cindy Cyr, Barb C., Barb C., Michael, Mary Ellen, Anita, Dan H., Jordan's son, Andy, Joel, Lisa, Kennedy, Nancy Z., Yolanda, Andrew, Dalton and Lexie, Steve D., Pastor Doug's sister and niece, Grayson, Dave T. (friend of Judy), Sally, Laura J., Kathleen (Gordon's wife), Laura J, Ron, Eli, Payton, Mason, Elizabeth, Scott, Sue D, Betsy, Jason and Jesse, Marcia, Jimmy B., Ian L, Peter F, Leann, Jack.

For the loss of a loved one, the families of:

Daniel Zampieri, Esther Farnsworth, Peter Hill, Paul Normandy, Jean Olson, Raymond and Loomis families, Lula Lavery, Clyde Cassidy Jr., Dave Burley, Craig Chartrand.

For our members and friends in residential and independent care facilities: Jamin, Elaine, Anita, Sandy, Ann, Renata, Marvie, Toni, Sue, Steve

For our World: those in the path of wildfires, victims from recent mass shootings, storms that surround our country and world, starvation in Gaza, Ukraine. our country, homeless community in VT, all those battling cancer, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse.

Join Us on Zoom for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89101553827>

Meeting ID: 891 0155 3827 Passcode: 1808 1-646-558-8656

Want to know more about us? <https://fccbvt.org> or find us on Facebook!



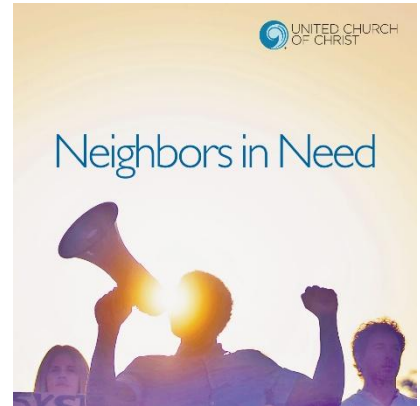
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN

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"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." ☪ That they may all be one. ~ John 17:21

Announcements

- October 5 is our annual special mission offering for Neighbors in Need, which supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ. Look for details in the Narthex.
- Next Sunday, October 12, the Council members will lead us with a special Indigenous Peoples Day worship.
- Choir rehearses at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays.
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the church or on Zoom.



Pastor Doug's Office Hours

Pastor Doug is away during October, and will not have open office hours.

If a need arises during October 1-15, please contact Ellen Moody at 802-522-7728.

October 16-31, contact Heather Mensah at 617-780-2458



The collection for **October** is winter accessories (hats, mittens, gloves); all ages & genders.

Please leave donations in designated basket in the Narthex.

Thank you!

October 18 – Delicious supper - roast pork with lots of fixings (and something yummy for vegetarians), with soup and dessert. A very fun Bingo game - not your usual! Don't be surprised if there is some singing involved! \$20 per person, with an opportunity to contribute more if you'd like.

All proceeds go to education projects and support of women in the village of San Antonio Grande (SAG), El Salvador. Bethany Church has had a relationship of solidarity with SAG for over 30 years and FCCB has had travelers and supporters over the decades (talk with Nancie and Blair Austin-Bradley and Donna and John Hall).

Contact Theresa Lever for reservations - 802-498-5019, thelevers@comcast.net

October 25 -- 9 am Clean-up Day indoors & out

October 26 – 4 pm “Music From Around the World” concert by Christopher McWilliam and Friends

October 30 – 7 pm Special Service of Music, Prayer, Readings and Meditation by Mary Bonhag

November 9 -- FCCB Annual Meeting

November 16 -- 3:00 pm. Installation for Pastor Doug (*we also will have our long-awaited potluck early lunch/coffee time that morning following worship*)