

First Congregational Church of Berlin

Berlin Corners, Vermont

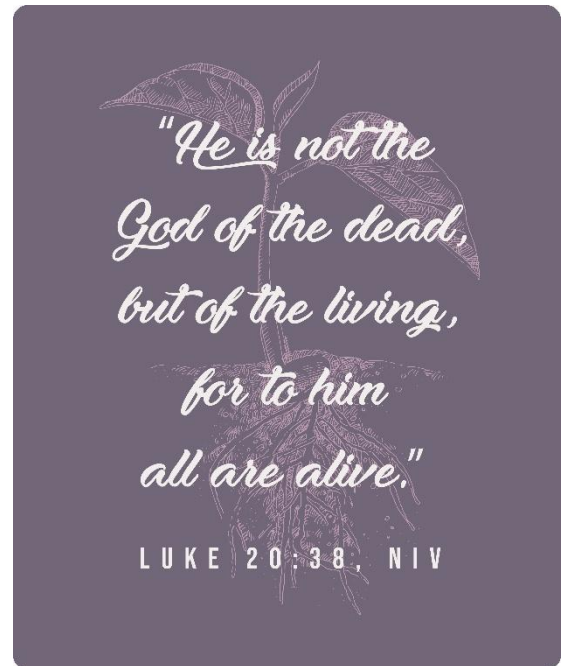
An inclusive, open & affirming church

Pastor Doug Cameron

Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

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

November 9, 2025



WE GATHER TOGETHER

*Indicates that you may stand

RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Meditation* by Paul Hindemith Lotta Suter, violin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Clap Your Hands* by Jimmy Owens

FCCB Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Guard me as the apple of your eye, O God.

P: You wondrously show us your steadfast peace.

L: Hide me in the shadow of your wings, Divine Spirit.

P: You wondrously show us your steadfast strength.

L: I behold your face in righteousness, Christ of Hope.

P: You wondrously show us your steadfast love.

***HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* TWC #43

INVOCATION (unison)

God of Love, we see only a fraction of your presence, God. We know you only in part, as we experience this world with our senses, our experiences, and what is tangibly in front of us. How does the sacredness of each earthly breath draw us closer to your presence on this side of Heaven? May we grasp the beauty of this world, even on the gloomy days. May we cherish our relationships here on earth even when times are challenging. May we know that God is forever

present with us and will care for us as we arrive at our eternal home on the other side of Heaven. Amen.

ANTHEM *O Let's Get On* by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh,
arr. John F. Wilson **FCCB Choir**

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 20:27-38 **pew Bible p. 855**

***HYMN** *Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart* **TWC #545**

SERMON “The God of the Living”

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (See also our Prayer List)

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER in song (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 *Romance* by Dmitri Shostakovich **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

WE DEPART TO SERVE TOGETHER

***HYMN** *We Come, O Christ, to You* **TWC #86**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postlude on “Silver Street”* by Gerald Peterson

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: Milo, new grandson of Lucy & John C.

For FCCB family & friends: Shannon (Thanna and Barbara's granddaughter), Donna C., Andy L., Linda & Gary I., Karen (Nancie's friend), Lesley, Eli, Beth C., Ed F., Karen (Sandra's niece), Donald W., David O., Bob C., Logan C., Wayne C., Donna and Peter, Cheryl and Tom with loss of home in fire, Randy, Ginger's uncle, Debbie P, Tom, Jean B., Ray and Cindy Cyr, Barb C., Michael, Mary Ellen, Anita, Dan H., Jordan's son, Joel, Lisa, Kennedy, Nancy Z., Yolanda, Andrew, 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: Kathleen Clow, Peter Roux, Judith Hebert, Cheryl Markham, the Middlebury College student recently in the news, Lewis Case, 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: Jeanine, Jamin, Elaine, Anita, Sandy, Ann, Renata, Marvie, Toni, Sue, Steve

For our World: food shelves (and those who work there) as government funding continues affect those services, 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.



Pastor Doug's Office Hours

**Wednesdays, 10 am – 2 pm
Also available to visit in homes.**

dougc9927@gmail.com

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Announcements

- Today – FCCB Annual Meeting
- Nov. 16 – 3 pm Installation Service for Pastor Doug, reception to follow
- Choir rehearses at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays.
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the church or on Zoom.

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans' Day
- November 16 – Tatum's Totes Holiday Gift Drive begins; gifts due December 7. See last page for details!
- Sunday, Nov. 30 – 2 to 3 pm Melissa Perley's cello students will be playing holiday music at Woodridge Rehab & Nursing Facility. Everyone is invited to attend and sing along with the residents.
- November 30 – First Sunday in Advent

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

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

DEACONS FUND

An anonymous monetary collection to financially and confidentially help members of the church and community when emergency needs are made known to a member of the Deacons Fund Committee or the minister. *(see envelope in pew)*

We love having all ages in worship! However, if any children get restless during the service, please feel free to visit our kids' corner in the church entry and enjoy some quiet activities.



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



Tatum's Totes Holiday Gift Drive 2025

Our Advent mission drive again this year is to partner with The Green Mountain United Way (GMUW) and Tatum's Totes to provide gifts for 25 children in Vermont's foster care program to receive at Christmas.

- Please visit the Advent Owl wall hanging located in the Narthex to select a child. Please feel free to take more than one child if you wish. ***I should have the tags and Advent Owl ready by Nov. 16.***
- Write your name next to the child(ren) you choose on the Master List spreadsheet hanging near the Advent Owl. **The tag # is the second printed line on the tag (example GMUW#: B1)**
- The pocket numbers on the Advent Owl don't necessarily match the number assigned by GMUW. I have used a blue and pink highlighter in the upper left corner of the tags to designate if the tag is for a boy or girl.
- **Please don't lose the child's tag, you will need to attach it to the bag that you place the items in in order for GMUW to identify each child's bag of gifts.**
- **Please also attach a separate piece of paper with the value of the gifts so we can accurately give a total gifts value to GMUW.**
- In order to sponsor a child, we are asking that donors provide age-appropriate gifts from the child's interest and needs list on the tag. The Tag we provide will include details about the child's age, gender, interests and needs. Some include favorite color and preferred clothing style.
- **PLEASE don't wrap the gifts**, instead place in gift bags with the Tatum's Totes Gift Tag stapled to the outside of the bag. If you don't have access to a gift bag you may use a different type of bag as long as the items are not wrapped and the tag is on the bag.
- All items will need to be dropped off at the church by **Sunday December 7, 2025**. Please contact Joni Verchereau (javo968@ymail.com) with questions.