

First Congregational Church of Berlin

Berlin Corners, Vermont

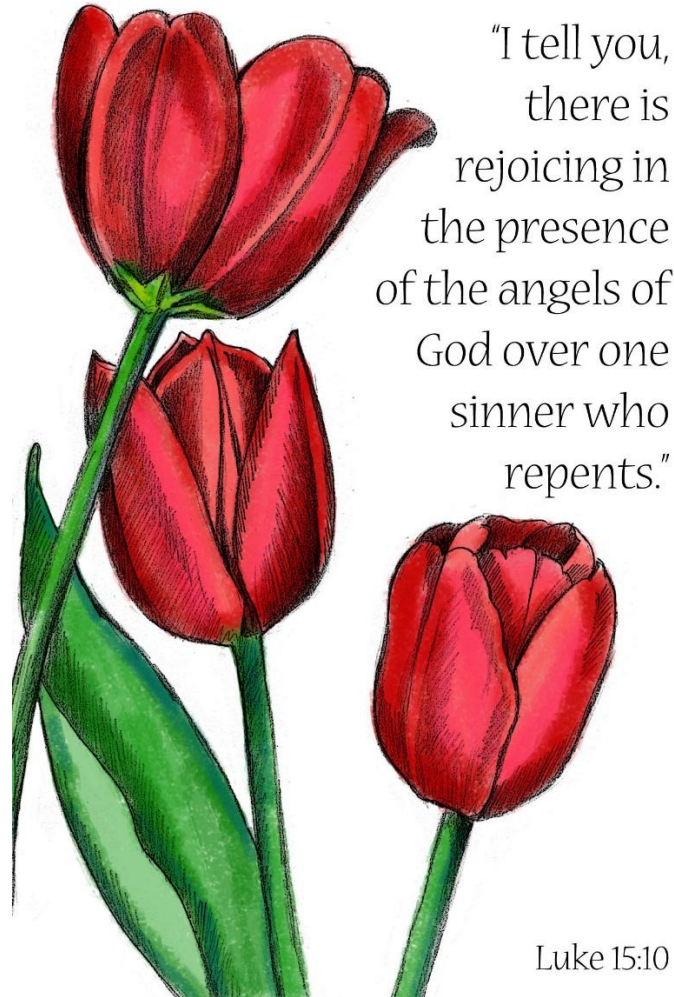
An inclusive, open & affirming church

Rev. Sami MacRae, Guest Preacher

Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

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

August 10, 2025



"I tell you,
there is
rejoicing in
the presence
of the angels of
God over one
sinner who
repents."

Luke 15:10

WE GATHER TOGETHER

*Indicates that you may stand

RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *The Song of Summer* by Jean Sibelius

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) *(inspired by Luke 15:1-10)*

L: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;

P: God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us and waste the gifts we have been given.

L: God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;

P: let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever; let us worship God together.

***HYMN** *Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him* **TWC #17**

INVOCATION (Unison)

O God of tender loving mercy, we come as we are – troubled and weary, grateful and grumpy. In this hour, quiet the distractions that clamor for our attention. Move among us and lighten the burdens we cling to – the pride, the anger, the fear. Make us bold and imaginative. In flame into passion and action our love of you, our neighbor, and our flawed yet precious selves. May we center on you and on the things that make for peace within us and among us. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* by Henry Percy Smith,
arr. Tedd Smith and Don Hustad
Rosie Badeau, piano, Christopher McWilliams, organ

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 34:1-8 **(Pew Bible, p. 441)**

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 **(Pew Bible, p. 940)**

Luke 15:3-10 **(Pew Bible, p. 850)**

***HYMN** *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* **TWC #73**

MESSAGE *"The Lost & Found Department"* **Rev. Sami MacRae**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 *Adagio from Piano Trio Opus 11 in B-flat Major* by Ludwig Van Beethoven
Kailea Silvers, cello, 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 AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN** *Amazing Grace* **TWC #502**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata in E-flat Major* by Johann Ludwig Krebs

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.

Join Us on Zoom for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89101553827>
Meeting ID: 891 0155 3827 Passcode: 1808 1-646-558-8656

Announcements

- Brief Congregational Meeting following worship today
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm at Ellen's house or on Zoom.
- August 17, Rev. Simon Ruth de Voil will lead our worship.
- August 24, our annual worship & potluck picnic at Waterbury Center State Park at 11:00

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.



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)*



The collection for **July/August** is creative project materials: sketch pads, paints, anything that can be built by hand, jewelry making kits for teens.

Also: easy slides/slip-ons for when the weather changes would be great (tough to think that will happen again, but pretty sure it will). Teens love Adidas and Nike slides right now- and slides are very forgiving on sizes. Regular gym shoes would be helpful too. We can find homes for any size, but if you want target areas, youth 3-5 and regular 6-10 in gender neutral would find homes the fastest.

Please leave donations (marked with cost) in designated basket in the Narthex.

Thank you!



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

<https://fccbvt.org>

