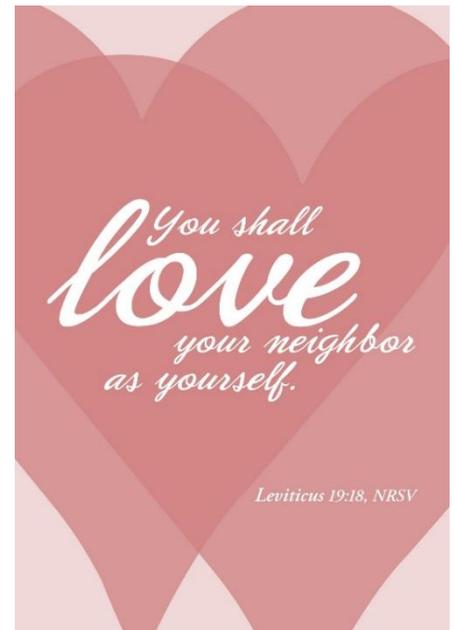


**First Congregational Church of Berlin**  
Berlin Corners, Vermont  
An inclusive, open & affirming church  
Rev. Sami McRae, Guest Leader  
Christopher McWilliams, Music Director

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

**February 15, 2026**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**



## **WE GATHER TOGETHER**

### **RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**PRELUDE**      *A Moment of Inspiration*, by Christopher McWilliams

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**      *Take Time to Be Holy*, words by William D. Longstaff, music by  
George C. Stebbins      **FCCB Choir**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

**L:** God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us. For all those who have come fleeing oppression and persecution—black, white, brown and yellow:

**P: God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.**

**L:** For those who have come fleeing hardship and hunger:

**P: God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.**

**L:** For those who have come to join loved ones already here:

**P: God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.**

**L:** For those who have come seeking freedom and opportunity:

**P: God, help us welcome those who have come to dwell among us.**

**L:** Let us remember the words of Christ, who said

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

\*Those who are able may stand

**P: When, Lord, were you a stranger that we welcomed among us?**

**L: “Truly, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me”**

**P: When we welcomed the stranger, we welcomed you, Christ Jesus, in our midst!**

**\*HYMN** *We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding* NCH #182

**INVOCATION (responsive)**

**L: Loving God, you call us to create hospitable communities.**

**P: Help us to overcome any fear and anxiety we may have of those who come from other lands to live among us.**

**L: Give us the courage and wisdom to create compassionate and just immigration policies.**

**P: Grant that we may all live together in peace and love. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** *I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing*, arr. Karen Ivana FCCB Choir

### **WE LISTEN TOGETHER**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

pew Bible p. 93

Matthew 22:34-40

pew Bible p. 804

**\*HYMN** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* NCH #563

**MESSAGE** Rev. Sami McRae

### **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** *Fairest Lord Jesus*, arr. James Michael Stevens Lotta Suter, violin

\*Those who are able may stand

**\*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** *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* NCH #183

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Temple Bells*, by Dennis Alexander



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

 IN OUR   
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**For FCCB family & friends:** travelling mercies to many, including Dalton C. & Lexi C., Donna T. & Peter H., Chris B. recovering from accident, Jordan M., Thanna A., Donna C. has upcoming procedures, everyone dealing with the current round of colds/flu/Covid, Melissa “Bidey” W. hospitalized with Covid, Ian L., Andy L. recently hospitalized with pneumonia, Kathryn L. recovering from surgery, Erin M., Dan H., Denise R., Marilyn (Rick’s sister), Paul in California, Kevin G., Arthur and Nancy Z., Brenda C., Shannon (Thanna’s and Barbara’s granddaughter), Lesley, Eli, Logan C., Ray and Cindy C., Jordan's son, Yolanda, Pastor Doug's sister and niece, Jeanine K.

**For the loss of a loved one, the families of:** Joanne Bowles, Chad, Karl Boisvert, Joanne Martin, the 7 crew members of the fishing boat from Gloucester, MA, the Mount Anthony High School wrestling team, Larry Miller, Marilyn (Linda I.’s sister)

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

**For our World:** people struggling due to severe cold weather, the people of Minneapolis (especially Ginger’s friend Jerry), the people of Venezuela and our service people there, victims of recent mass shootings, all military service people, food shelves & support services (and those who work there), storms that surround our country and world, starvation in Gaza, Ukraine, homeless communities in VT, all those battling cancer, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse.

\*Those who are able may stand

## Announcements

- **Ash Wednesday Service, February 18 at 6:00 pm**
- FCCB Council meets next Sunday, February 22 after worship
- Choir rehearses at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm ❄️ **Until further notice, Bible Study will be held on Zoom during the winter months.**



Join us on Zoom for Sunday worship OR Thursday Bible Study:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89101553827>

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

**Pastor Doug's Office Hours**  
**Wednesdays, 10 am – 2 pm**  
**Also available to visit in homes.**

**dougc9927@gmail.com**

**H: 802-276-3404 C: 802-356-0578**

**Would you like to hear a favorite scripture/theme for Pastor Doug's MESSAGE during worship? Write it down and leave in the Suggestion Box on his desk.**



The collection for **February** is diaper bags. Neutral colors are best for any gender.

Please leave donations in designated basket in the Narthex.

***Thank you!***

***January's donations were valued at \$434.00!***



### **Easter Bake Sale**

**Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 1 pm**

Please sign up in Parish Hall (or with Ginger Anderson) to bring breads, cookies or desserts for sale. Gluten-free items are especially asked for as well.

We'll also have **Easter baskets** as raffle items at the bake sale. Please consider signing up to contribute a basket. They should be based on fun themes (examples might be: "Pet Lovers Basket," "Young Readers Basket," "Healthy Houseplant Basket," etc.). They can include a few sweets, but also other items that fit the theme and appeal to a broad range of interests for all ages.

Baskets should be ready and at the church by Sunday, March 22 so church members have a chance to see and buy raffle tickets even if they can't attend the sale on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be drawn at the conclusion of the Bake Sale on March 28.

***Thank you!***

\*Those who are able may stand

*- 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.*



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN

1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin, VT 05602 ~ 802-229-0338

PO Box 1157, Montpelier, VT 05601

"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

✂ -----

### **EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM (order by March 22)**

**3 OPTIONS: Daffodils \$8 --- Tulips \$8 --- Easter lily \$9**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ # and flower choice \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

The flowers will grace the sanctuary on Easter (April 5), and then you can take yours home or share with someone special.

**Please tear off this stub and include with your order payment. Place in offering, mail, or give to our Treasurer, Rob Griffin. Thank you!**

**FCCB, PO Box 1157, Montpelier, VT 05601**

\*Those who are able may stand