

**First Congregational Church of Berlin**  
Berlin Corners, Vermont  
An inclusive, open & affirming church  
Worship led by the FCCB Council  
Christopher McWilliams, Music Director  
Andrew Walsh and Denise Ricker, guest musicians

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



**May 24, 2026 Pentecost Sunday and Memorial Day**



*Peony, the Pentecost Rose, a gift of healing (photo by Lotta Suter)*

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

<b>RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES</b>	<b>Gary Isham</b>
<b>PRELUDE</b> <i>Romanze Opus 85</i> by Max Bruch	<b>Andrew Walsh (viola)</b>
<b>WELCOME &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>Rob Griffin</b>
<b>INTROIT</b> <i>Holy Spirit, Fall on Me</i> by Mary Kay Beall	<b>FCCB Choir</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S TIME</b>	<b>Beth Cody</b>
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)</b>	<b>Karen Foote</b>
One: In a world dry and thirsty	
<b>All: Living Water flows;</b>	
One: In a world fainting and breathless	
<b>All: Divine Wind blows;</b>	
One: In a world cold and dark	
<b>All: Spirit's Flame glows;</b>	
One: Spirit is here. We open our awareness to perceive her and receive her.	
<b>All: Spirit is here. We give thanks and celebrate!</b>	

**\*HYMN**    *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*    **TWC #290**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

**Karen Foote**

**Eternal Spirit, Source of all that is and ever shall be,  
Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,  
May knowledge of your holiness inspire all people,  
And may peace and freedom flourish on earth  
Until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.  
May we find the bread that we need for today.  
For the hurts we cause one another, may we be forgiven as we forgive others.  
In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong.  
When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure.  
May you reign in the power of human love, now and forever. Amen.**

Tom Hall, Adapted from the prayer book of the Anglican Church of New Zealand

**ANTHEM**    *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*    African American Spiritual    **FCCB Choir**

## **WE LISTEN TOGETHER**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Acts 2:1-21    **(Pew Bible p. 885)**

**Ginger Anderson**

**\*HYMN**    *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*    **TWC #298**

**MESSAGE**    “Gifts of the Spirit”

**Rob Griffin**

**Prayer for Memorial Day (unison)**

**Heather Mensah**

**Lord, help us remember the spirit in which Memorial Day was conceived, as a way to bring together those who had once been bitter enemies. You pour out your mercy over all your children, with no respect for the borders of nation states. On this day, we pray for comfort for all those who have lost a loved one to the ravages of war. We pray that the peace of Christ, which passes all human understanding, will knit together this weary and war-torn world. Amen.** (copyright 2015 by Lillian Daniel)

**\*HYMN for Memorial Day**    *America, the Beautiful*    **TWC #418**

## **WE RESPOND TOGETHER**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (see also Prayer List)

**Heather Mensah**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**Heather Mensah**

Empowering God, you pour out your Spirit on everyone. You have not withheld your gifts, but have shared them freely. As your Spirit-filled people, we now offer our gifts in response to your boundless generosity. Use these offerings to bless those yearning for hope, and to build a community where all are seen, heard, and loved. May our giving, like your Spirit, be poured out without limit. Amen

**OFFERING**

**Mary Ellen Hill / Gary Isham**

**OFFERTORY** *Some Great Thing* by Vance Gilbert

**Peter Bingham (guitar)  
Jordan Mensah (drums)**

**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 (unison)**

**Heather Mensah**

**To you, Spirit of Holiness, we give our grateful thanks this day for all you have given us. We offer our gifts to you in loving service of our community and the world.**

**WE DEPART TO SERVE TOGETHER**

**\*HYMN** *The Trees of the Field (twice through)* TWC #272

**BENEDICTION (unison)**

**Carole Lacasse**

**Lord, help us to recognize and appreciate all that we are given. Help us make good choices in our lives, using the gifts of the spirit as you would have us do. Bless and keep us all, now and forever. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** *The Lord of the Dance* arr. Joel Rainey

**Denise Ricker (flute)**



*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.**

## **Announcements**

- CWS Blankets & Tools of Hope mission collection through Father's Day; see details and donation envelopes on table in front entry.
- Choir rehearses at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays
- Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 6:00 pm **held on Zoom**



**Join us on Zoom for Sunday worship OR Thursday Bible Study:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89101553827>

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

## **Pastor Doug's Office Hours**

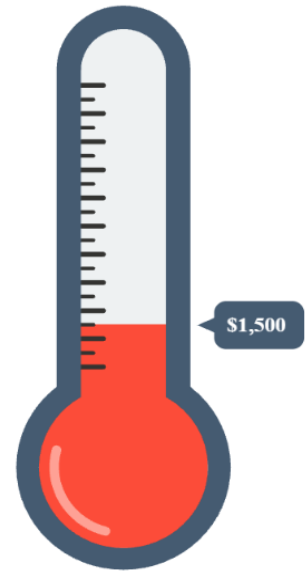
**Wednesdays, 10 am – 2 pm Also available to visit in homes.**  
**dougc9927@gmail.com H: 802-276-3404 C: 802-356-0578**

**PLEASE NOTE: Monday May 18 until Monday June 1, Pastor Doug will be on vacation and there will be no office hours. Please contact Ellen Moody for any needs; 802-522 7728**

Our new ramp will give accessibility to all. It will ensure the ability to participate in the events and gatherings that enrich the lives of the family we have made here through Christ.

We have a chance to show our love for this little church and our care for its community with a pledge of support.

If you would like to donate to FCCB to help cover the cost of the ramp for the upstairs parish hall (and potentially a roof for the ramp), please write a check to "FCCB" and put "Ramp" on the memo line. You can put it in the Sunday collection or mail it to FCCB, PO Box 1157, Montpelier VT 05602. If you prefer to give cash, please put the cash in a pew envelope, write "For FCCB ramp" on the envelope and put it in the Sunday collection. **THANK YOU!**



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**Joys:** we are blessed to enjoy Christopher's musical talents at our church, but he also recently skillfully performed at the Onion River Chorus' concerts, the Hudsons have returned from their winter home, the Bethany and Northfield churches have a new (shared) pastor, Ryan (Mary W.'s grandson) graduated with high honors, best wishes for Pastor Doug & Donna to enjoy a vacation/break; also, their granddaughter's fiancé has returned from military deployment

**For FCCB family & friends:** continued prayers for Donna T. (and Peter H.) as she approaches knee surgery, Sally C. has had health setbacks after a recent fall, Joy (Rick T.'s daughter) and Hayden S. searching for new job, Stephanie J. with brain cancer diagnosis, Sue R., Andy L., Lori (Pastor Doug's sister), Ed & Diane B, Lou (Maggie S.'s brother), Clarice (Thanna's sister), Paul and Jeff (Pastor Doug's golf buddies), Trina N., Matthew A-B, Ian L., Marilyn (Rick's sister), Brenda C., Lesley, Eli, Logan C., Ray and Cindy C., Jordan's son, Yolanda, Jeanine K.

**For the loss of a loved one, the families of:** husband of Johanna (lifelong friend of Barbara C.) the Barre community has lost a young person, Nancy Adams McLaney, Jim Clemons, husband of Lois Adams, Yvette Zampieri, Christopher Florucci, Paul Irons, Dr. Roger Kellogg, Barbara Fantoni, Nancy Zorn, Chad Duprey (Barb C.'s grandson), Marilyn (Linda I.'s sister)

**For our members and friends in residential and independent care facilities:** Janet (friend of Pastor Doug's), Chuck, Jamin, Elaine, Anita, Sandy, Ann, Renata, Marvie, Toni, Sue, Steve

**For our World:** farm workers with no employment rights, families under economic stress from oil prices especially, innocent victims (children and their families), prayers for PEACE: in the Middle East, for our leaders, our country and Constitution, remember those who fought/still fight for racial justice, the people of Minneapolis (especially Ginger's friend Jerry), the people of Venezuela and our service people there, victims of 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.

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.





The collection for **May** is water bottles. All ages, all sizes. **MUST BE NEW!**

Please leave donations in designated basket in the Narthex.

Thank you to all who donated book and money towards books in April; it totaled \$300.

*Thank you!*

## 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)*



## Learn Drumming from African Masters

Jordan Mensah & Samuel Marquaye of Shidaa Projects, Inc. (<https://shidaaprojects.org/>) will host a series of eight evening sessions of West African drumming. They will be teaching the drumming techniques of Ghana and leading the group in shared drumming using those techniques. The lessons are your chance to learn or expand your drumming experience.



Classes start April 20<sup>th</sup>, and continue on Monday nights, 6:30 - 7:45pm for 8 weeks (April 20<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>) at the First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB), 1808 Scott Hill Rd, Berlin VT. If you have a drum, please bring it, but don't worry if you don't. We will have one for you to use.

The cost is \$150 per participant for the entire series of eight sessions. Drop-in single sessions are \$20 each. Financial assistance is available upon request.

To register or for more information please contact Heather Mensah 617-780-2458 or [programs@shidaaprojects.org](mailto:programs@shidaaprojects.org)