

First Congregational Church of Berlin

Berlin Corners, Vermont

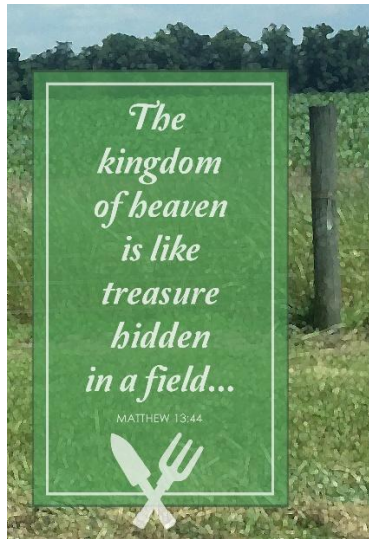
An inclusive, open & affirming church

Pastor Doug Cameron

Lorna Carty, Guest Pianist

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

July 26, 2026



WE GATHER TOGETHER

RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* by Robert W. Thygerson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: Come, people of God, and enter the presence of the One whose kingdom is unlike any earthly kingdom.

P: We come seeking the treasure that never fades and the pearl of great price.

L: The kingdom begins like a tiny seed, yet grows beyond imagination.

P: Plant your Word within us, O Lord, that our faith may grow.

L: The kingdom works quietly like yeast through dough, transforming hearts and lives.

P: Transform us by your Spirit until we reflect the love of Christ.

L: Come with joy, for God's kingdom is among us.

All: We worship the King of kings, whose kingdom shall never end. Amen.

***HYMN** *At the Name of Jesus* **TWC #266**

*Those who are able may stand

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious and Eternal God, We gather this day with thankful hearts because you have invited us into your kingdom through Jesus Christ. We praise you for a kingdom that begins in humble ways yet grows with unstoppable power. Thank you for planting the seed of faith within us and for patiently shaping us into your people. Open our ears to hear your Word and our hearts to receive it with joy. Help us to recognize the incomparable value of knowing Christ, so that nothing in this world becomes more important than following him. May your Holy Spirit work quietly among us today, changing our hearts, strengthening our faith, and filling us with hope. Let our worship honor you, encourage one another, and draw us ever closer to your Son. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52 (pew Bible p.795)

***HYMN** *Sweet Hour of Prayer* **TWC #623**

MESSAGE “The Kingdom—It’s Worth It!”

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 *Beautiful One* by Tim Hughes; arr. by Victor Labenske

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** *To God Be the Glory* **TWC #72**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *You Are My All in All* by Dennis L. Jernigan; arr by Victor Labenske

*Those who are able may stand

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Joys: birthdays: Trina N., Stephen C., Lexi C., Lexi's new job

For FCCB family & friends: Mary G. (stroke), Eric P. (lung transplant) and the donor's family, Kelsey, Sue R., Ian L. and Andy L., Libby (diagnosed with breast cancer), Joyce G. (Karen's aunt), Larry M., Marty (diagnosed with sarcoma) & Kathryn L., Colby H., Pastor Doug's sister Lori, Vicky (Maggie's friend) with cancer, Donna T. & Peter H., Joy (Rick T.'s daughter) and Hayden S. searching for new job, Stephanie J. with brain cancer diagnosis, Paul and Jeff (Pastor Doug's golf buddies), Trina N., Matthew A-B, Marilyn (Rick's sister), Lesley (friend of Tonya), Eli, Logan C., Ray and Cindy C., Jordan's son, Yolanda, Jeanine K.

For the loss of a loved one, the families of: Gloria Askew, Steve Dodson, Lou (Maggie S.'s brother), Brenda Clark, Carol Day, young sisters Olivia & Rylín, Janet Allen, Ferdy Leclair, John Pelkey, Ginger's cousin's son who died by suicide, Jordan's uncle in Ghana, husband of Johanna (lifelong friend of Barbara C.), Nancy Adams McLaney, Jim Clemons, husband of Lois Adams, Paul Irons, Nancy Zorn, Chad Duprey (Barb C.'s grandson), 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

For our World: as we celebrate USA's 250th birthday, we remember those serving our country, wildlife firefighters, farm workers with no employment rights, families under economic stress, 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, 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.

Pastor Doug's Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10-2; also available to visit in homes.

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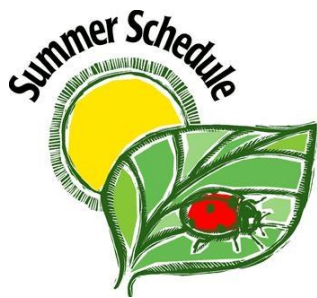


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN

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

*Those who are able may stand



Sunday, August 2 – 11:00 am

* Outdoor worship & potluck meal at Waterbury Center State Park

Sunday, August 9 – 9:30 am

Worship & Communion

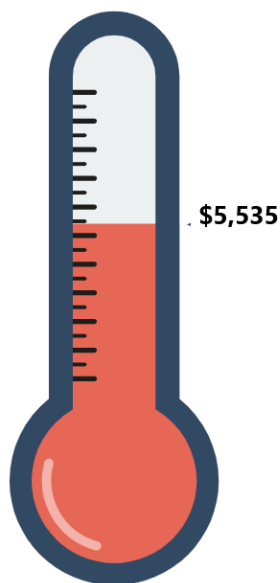
Sunday, August 16 – 9:30 am Worship

Sunday, August 23 – 9:30 am Worship

Saturday, August 29 – 11 am to 1pm

Pie-Looza Sale

Sunday, August 30 – 9:30 am Worship



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The collection for **July/August** is back-to-school supplies.

Snacks - please try for healthy snacks. Could be kid-friendly pantry items (PB, mac and cheese, ramen) to take home.

Backpacks

Laundry detergent (schools often have laundry facilities onsite for lost-and-found items, home ec/life skills, and student use when that support is needed)

Washable markers, crayons, glue sticks, pencils, colored pencils, dry erase markers

Small dry erase boards for student personal use (great for math and language practice at school and at home)

*****They have requested a total of no more than 10 of each item as this list is being distributed to other groups. For snacks it would be a total of no more than 10 for each type of snack.**

We will collect goods and money until August 9.

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

Thank you to all who donated for the June collection of hygiene items. Our total donation value is \$346.

Thank you!

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!