

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.*

September 20, 2026



WE GATHER TOGETHER

RINGING OF THE BELL / LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Kol Nidre Opus 47* by Max Bruch **Deborah N. Black, cello**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Then Let Us Render Him His Own* **FCCB Choir**

CHILDREN'S TIME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: God calls us from many places and many walks of life.

P: We come together as one people in God's vineyard.

L: Some have traveled the road of faith for many years.

P: Some are just beginning the journey.

L: Some serve publicly, while others serve quietly.

P: Every person is known, valued, and welcomed by God.

L: There is room for each of us in God's kingdom.

P: By God's grace, we are welcomed, loved, and called to serve.

L: Let us worship the God whose grace is greater than we can imagine.

All: Let us worship God together!

***HYMN** *For the Fruit of All Creation* **TWC #379**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious and welcoming God, you have called us into this place from many different paths. Some of us come with joy, others with sorrow; some with strong faith, others with questions; some ready to serve, and others needing rest. Yet you welcome each one of us. Open our hearts to your presence. Quiet the voices of pride, comparison, and division within us. Help us recognize that we are one congregation, working in one vineyard and serving one Lord. Through our prayers, songs, and the hearing of your Word, remind us

**Those who are able may stand*

of your generous grace. Renew us for the work you have given us, and make this church a place where every person experiences the welcome of Jesus Christ. We pray in his name. Amen.

ANTHEM *All The Way Home* by Sarah Quartell **FCCB Choir**

WE LISTEN TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (pew Bible p. 801)

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Fugue in G Minor* from WTC Book 1 by J.S. Bach

MESSAGE “The Last Will Be First and the First Will Be Last”

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 *Chanson* from *Suite Antique* by John Rutter **Denise Ricker, flute**

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)

Generous God, everything we have comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. Bless those who give and those who long to give but cannot. Use our offerings, our time, our abilities, and our lives to strengthen your church, welcome the stranger, care for those in need, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Unite us in your service and send us joyfully into your vineyard. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE TOGETHER

***HYMN** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* **TWC #699**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Two-Part Invention No. 6 in E Major* by J.S. Bach

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IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Joys: September 14 would have been Vaughn A.'s 90th birthday

For FCCB family & friends: all those facing upcoming surgeries, Beth C.'s mother-in-law took a bad fall, Andy L., Gary I. (and Linda) in heart surgery recovery, Eldora (nearing end of life), Pastor Doug's brother Michael, Sue D., Dot F. (recovery from surgery after a fall), Mara in San Antonio Grande, Paul (shingles), Bonnie Burkholder (dementia) and her daughter Melissa (cancer), Lorna's brother-in-law (had a stroke), Pastor Kevin (formerly Barb C.'s pastor) who has stopped chemo treatments, Sarah (friend of Sue H.), Heather M.'s friend Jody (who lost her husband), Barb C., Caroline (friend of Sandy T.), Mary G. (stroke), Eric P. (lung transplant) and the donor's family, Kelsey, Sue R., Ian L., Larry M., Marty (diagnosed with sarcoma) & Kathryn L., Pastor Doug's sister Lori, Vicky (Maggie's friend) with cancer, Donna T. & Peter H., Stephanie J. with brain cancer diagnosis, Paul and Jeff (Pastor Doug's golf buddies), 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: Jim Barrett, Joel Fielder, Cassie Major, Tim Sargent, Gloria Askew, Steve Dodson, Lou (Maggie S.'s brother), Brenda Clark, Carol Day

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

For our World: the homeless communities as colder weather approaches, those affected by wildfires, and those fighting those fires, we remember those serving our country, 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, food shelves & support services (and those who work there), storms that surround our country and world, starvation in Gaza, Ukraine, 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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Announcements

- TODAY – FCCB Council meets following coffee time
- Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 1-2 pm
- Bible Study group meets Thursdays on Zoom at 6pm; all welcome!



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

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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.



CHICKEN PIE SUPPER at FCCB

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Two seatings available:

5:00 and 6:30 PM

(LIMITED NUMBER of take-out meals available;
reserve EARLY)

Adults \$15.00, Ages 4-12 \$8.00;

3 and under FREE

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: 802-272-2956



The collection for **September**
is throw blankets/comfort
blankets; all ages & genders.

Please leave donations in
designated basket in the
Narthex.

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)



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

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