



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN

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

"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

## Corner Chronicle for July / August 2025

### An Inclusive, Open & Affirming Church

#### Report from Ministry Search Team for June 2025

The FCCB Ministry Search Team is very pleased to announce that the FCCB church council has approved a congregational meeting on Sunday August 10 to vote on inviting Doug Cameron to become our settled pastor. The draft Call Agreement between Doug and FCCB has been reviewed by Doug, the church council and conference minister Lynn Bunjak. Printed copies of the Call Agreement will be available at Sunday morning services starting June 29th or from Rob Griffin at [griffinsuter@hotmail.com](mailto:griffinsuter@hotmail.com).

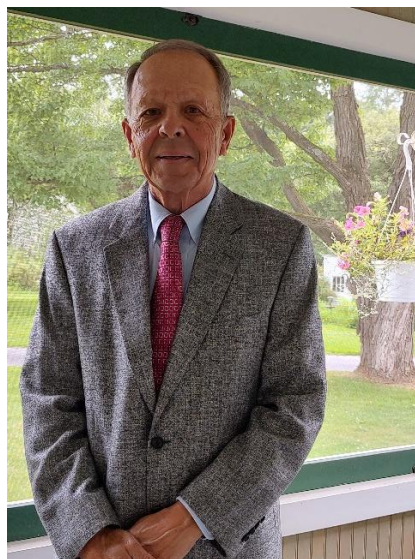
Doug is familiar to very many of us through his work as substitute minister at FCCB. He will be joining us for our Bonfire Service on Saturday July 12 so that everyone will have a chance to talk with him in a more informal setting. We have also included a short bio from Doug below.

If the congregation votes to call Doug as our settled pastor, he will start on September 1. Due to prior commitments, he will be on unpaid leave in October and resume his duties November 1. Treasurer Rob Griffin has updated the 2025 budget approved at our November 2024 annual meeting to include ministerial compensation for September, November and December. He has also drafted a 2026 budget. Both these budgets indicate that we will continue our strong financial position with Doug as our settled pastor. The budget spreadsheet will be made available along with the Call Agreement starting June 29<sup>th</sup>.

FCCB Ministry Search Team (Ellen Moody, Nancy Fowler, Rob Griffin)



BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD, AND  
WHOSE HOPE IS IN THE LORD. JEREMIAH 17:7, NKJV



Doug was born in Rutland and raised in Winooski along with his four siblings. After graduating from Winooski High School, Doug joined the Air Force and served for four years, including 13 months in South Korea.

Upon his discharge, Doug returned to Vermont and began a 30+-year career in electronics sales. As his career was winding down, his lifelong interest in Bible study was increasing, leading him to enroll in the UCC's VAST program, a three-year course of study. During this time, he felt God calling him to ministry, resulting in his being licensed to serve as the Settled Pastor of the East Brookfield Congregational Church, where he served for seven years.

Following his time in East Brookfield, Doug served the Randolph Center church for 18 months, and the Williamstown United Church for seven years, retiring in April 2023. After about six months of retirement, it was clear that God was still calling, and Doug began doing pulpit supply for churches in the Washington Association.

Doug and his wife, Donna, live in East Brookfield. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In addition to spending time with family, Doug enjoys golf, kayaking, and studying Scripture.

## Sunday Services for July and August:

June 29 - Council: Message by Ginger

July 06 - Nancy Fowler - communion Laura C.

July 12 - Gary Isham and council - Saturday evening Bonfire Service, 6pm

July 13 - No Service at FCCB

July 20 - Council message by Jordan Mensah

July 27 - Rev Simon de Voil

August 03 - Rev Laura Cadmus - communion

August 10 - Rev Sami McRae

August 17 - Rev Simon de Voil

August 24 - Service by Karen Foote, Picnic Waterbury State Park, 11am, NO service at FCCB

August 31 - Council - message by Nancy Fowler

September 07 - Pastor Doug Cameron



Saturday, July 12, 2025, 6pm we will have our annual bonfire services behind the church. **Please note there will be no service in the church July 13.**

Sunday August 24, 2025 we will be meeting at the Waterbury Center State Park Beach at 1100 am for potluck picnic service. **Please note there will be no service in the church August 24.**

## Lectionary Readings

**Sun July 06: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**Sun July 13: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Amos 7:7-17, Psalm 82, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

**Sun July 20: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

**Sun July 27: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85, Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19), Luke 11:1-13

**Sun August 03: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9, 43, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

**Sun August 10: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

**Sun August 17: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

**Sun August 24: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

**Sun August 31: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

## Worship Lay Readers and Ushers

July 06 - Reader - Sarah Launderville

Usher - Linda Isham

Communion - Nancy F. and Heather M.

July 13 - NO service at FCCB

July 20 - Reader - Gordon Clow

Usher - Joan Garcia

July 27 - Reader - Thanna Adams

Usher - Ginger Anderson

Aug 03 - Reader - Ginger Anderson

Usher - Mary Ellen Hill

Communion - Cheryl Poor

Aug 10 - Reader - Sue Hudson

Usher - Blair Austin-Bradley

Aug 17 - Reader - Heather Mensah

Usher - Cheryl Poor

Aug 24 - NO service at FCCB

Aug 31 - Reader - Dan Hudson

Usher - Ginger Anderson



## Birthday

### July

7/01 - Salem Staab

7/02 - Karen Peake

7/07 - Trina Newland

7/10 - Sandy Clark

7/17 - Stephen Cody

7/23 - Cheryl Peterson

7/25 - Geraldine Check

### August

8/01 - Hazel Kelley

8/05 - Gary Arleth

8/07 - Nicholas Richardson

8/09 - Madison May Plant

8/09 - Daelyn Clark

8/09 - Craig Chartrand

8/11 - Rev. Alison Young

8/14 - Nicole Verchereau

8/14 - Marilyn Bolles

8/16 - Toni Lopez

8/18 - Cindy Gauthier

8/20 - Denis Young

8/25 - Morgan Arleth

## Anniversaries

### July

7/22 - Win and Marilyn Bolles (1961)

7/24 - Blair and Nancie Austin-Bradley

7/25 - Ricky and Monica Richardson (1981)

### August

8/28 - Jim and Aileen Peake (1966)



God, hear our prayers,

For FCCB Family and Friends: Nancy Z., Blair and Nancie as they travel to Tanzania, Yolanda, Karen, Dan, Andrew, Dalton and Lexie, Steve D., Karen and Dan Hudson, Aileen, Pastor Alison and Denis, Family of Mark Beaudet, Tom A., Pastor Doug's sister and niece, Arthur's wife, Nancy, Sally and Ellen's family, Peter as he heals, Mary and Cindy W. and their family, Tracy, Grayson, Dave T. (friend of Judy), Sally, Laura J., Kathleen (Gordon's wife), Laura J, Debbie,, Ron, Eli, Payton, Mason, Elizabeth, Scott, Sue D, Betsy, Jason and Jesse, Marcia, Jimmy B, Kathryn and Marty L, Carol, Andy and Ian L, Peter F, Leann, Jack.

Joys- Graduating Seniors. Nancy & Ed's daughter Kristen getting married on Saturday.

For the loss of a loved one, the families of: Frank Check, Jean Olson, Shirley Viens, Raymond and Loomis families, Lula Lavery, Clyde Cassidy Jr., Dave Burley, Craig Chartrand, Jason Swift, (Cindy W, son), Jim Gingras (Karen's uncle).

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

For our World: the protests in LA, fires in Canada, those in the path of tornadoes, President Biden, starvation in Gaza, Ukraine. our country, homeless community in VT, all those battling cancer, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse

Please help to keep the prayer list relevant and up to date by emailing Nancy Fowler at [fowler5vt@gmail.com](mailto:fowler5vt@gmail.com) with any names that can be removed from the prayer list.

**Pastoral Care:** If you are in need of a phone call, visit or prayers please contact me at 802-522-7728 or [Ellenmoody777@gmail.com](mailto:Ellenmoody777@gmail.com). If you are able to assist with giving others rides to church or to appointments during the week please let me know. We are trying to organize to help our members in



need. I appreciate all everyone does to keep in contact with others.  
Respectfully, Ellen Moody - Chair of Church Council

**From the Chartrand family:** A big thank you from the Chartrand family to everyone for all the love and support in making Craig's Celebration of Life such a success. We deeply appreciate all of you!  
Sally, Ellen and all of the family.



June 25, 2025

The members of the First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB) are hereby warned to meet on Sunday, August 10, 2025 after the morning worship service to hear and act on the following:

1. The Search Committee of Rob Griffin, Ellen Moody, and Nancy Fowler present their candidate, Pastor Doug Cameron, for FCCB's new part-time settled pastor. If accepted, he would begin employment on September 1, 2025.
2. The members may hear and act on any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

Respectfully submitted - Karen Foote, Clerk

-----  
First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB)  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2025

Moderator Ellen Moody called the meeting to order at 10:45 am. 26 members were present in the sanctuary; a quorum was declared.

Trustee Team Leader Gary Isham made the motion that the congregation approve the expense of \$2,700.00 to Blanchard Excavating of Washington, VT for building/property repairs, maintenance and updates, including the addition of a pedestrian walkway along the north side of the sanctuary. Cheryl Poor seconded the motion. Opening the discussion, Ellen read a letter from Treasurer Rob Griffin (not in attendance) explaining his support of the motion and clarifying the church's current

secure financial standing. After further discussion, the motion was passed by the congregation.

Hearing no further business, Moderator Ellen adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted - Karen Foote - Clerk

## Finance, Stewardship & Trustees

### Worship & Church Life

**Deacon's Fund** - Deacons Fund donations will be collected on Communion Sundays. There are special envelopes in the Pew holders. If you are writing a check make it out to the First Congregational Church of Berlin and indicate on the memo line Deacons Fund. Donations can be made anytime by putting it into the Sunday collection basket or mailing check to the church at PO Box 1157, Montpelier, VT 05601.

### Deacons Fund Committee

Gordon Clow, Andy Lacasse and Joan Verchereau

### Pastoral Relations Committee

Ellen Moody, Andy Lacasse, Blair Austin-Bradley, Thanna Adams

### Faith Formation

**Bible study:**

### Missions & Outreach

**Tatum's Totes** - the collection for **July and August** is creative project materials- like sketch pads, paints, anything that can be built by hand, jewelry making kits for teens. As well as easy 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.

**\*\*\*Per Green Mountain United Way - all items donated must be new / unused items. They cannot accept used items\*\*\***

When donating by cash or check please clearly mark that it is for Tatum's Totes and who it is from. You may give your monetary donation to Rob or place in the collection basket or mail to FCCB so that the donation can be accounted for.

When donating goods please include a total dollar value. The GMUW gives us a monthly statement with the estimated cash value of all goods received that month.

Please contact Joan Verchereau if you have questions about this mission.

### From the organ bench:

The first half of the 2025 calendar year has seen an abundance of music events here at FCCB.

In addition to contributing my talents at the piano, organ, guitar, choir, bell choir and collaboration with instrumentalists/singers during worship, I have been giving more frequent performances outside of worship. There was a Current Counterpoint Concert in March, a Springtime concert at the beginning of May, and recently, the Summer Solstice program featured the choir similar to that of last June. Other members featured in the program were the Birchwood Trio, Denise Ricker on flute and a newcomer to the choir, Paula Chiuchiolo. This concert received a great deal of praise and enthusiasm from the audience, and the church raised \$254 for Capstone Community Action compared to the \$100 raised in each of the previous concerts. We love what we do, and we want to continue to share our talents in the music world.

- Christopher McWilliams

### Admin and Communication

\*\*\*\*\*Check it out - the FCCB web page

<http://www.fccbvt.org>

### From the Treasurer

We continue to be in a very strong financial position, with no debt and greater income than expenses.

- Ordinary income: Our total income for 2025 year-to-date is \$46,034. However, this total income includes \$6,575 in donations and matching grant to the Building Fund. So our ordinary income year-to-date is **\$40,359**. This is comparable to our ordinary income at this time in 2024 of \$40,198 (that is, total income of \$41,198 minus Building Fund income of \$1,000).
- Ordinary expense: Our total expense for 2025 year-to-date is \$39,581. However, this

includes \$307 in interest on our Cornerstone Fund loan paid in January and the first half of February, and \$5,744 in one-time building expenses (basement cleaning, parish hall storage, driveway maintenance, new walkway). So our ordinary expense year-to-date is **\$33,837**. This is significantly less than our ordinary expense of \$38,038 at this time in 2024 (\$39,450 in total expense minus \$1,412 in loan interest). The lower expense in 2025 year-to-date is largely due a decrease of \$5,464 in ministry expenses in 2025 year-to-date compared to 2024 year-to-date (substitute ministry expense of \$6,329 in 2025 ytd versus total ministry expense of \$11,793 at this time in 2024, including settled pastor and substitute ministry).

Our net total income year-to-date is \$5,619. Our net ordinary income year-to-date is **\$6,522**. We currently have total assets (excluding building, property, etc) of **\$36,564**, including Primary Checking of \$9,602, Building Fund of \$393 and Vanguard portfolio (as of March 31, 2025) of \$26,559. Our positive cash flow is enabling us to move toward the \$45,515 in assets we had at the end of 2024, before we paid back \$15,000 on our Cornerstone Fund loan.

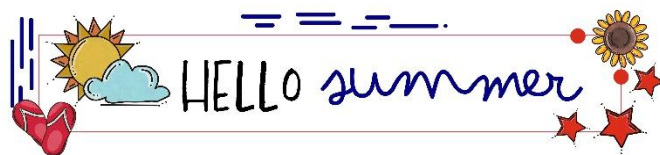
Regards - Rob Griffin - Treasurer

Income summary:

In the period from May 17 through June 17, 2025, FCCB received the following income:

Pledge payments: \$4,317  
Loose offering: \$192  
Donations to general fund: \$670  
Donations to Tatum's Totes: \$110  
Donations to Deacons Fund: \$125  
Donations to Blanket Sunday: \$87.50  
Donations to Tools of Hope: \$112.50  
Donations to Organist Fund: \$2,000  
Donations to Building Fund: \$50  
Per cap dues: \$15  
Income from rentals: \$955

Total income during this period was \$8,634



## Council Members 2025

COUNCIL CHAIR & MODERATOR ~ Ellen Moody,  
ellenmoody777@gmail.com, 802-522-7728

VICE CHAIR ~ Ginger Anderson,  
quedaV06@gmail.com, 802-229-1665

TREASURER ~ Rob Griffin, griffinsuter@hotmail.com,  
802-272-2376

ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION and CLERK ~  
Karen Foote, kbf789@aol.com, 802-223-7286

MISSIONS & OUTREACH ~ Heather Mensah,  
withheather@yahoo.com, 617-780-2458

FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP & TRUSTEES ~ Rob Griffin,  
griffinsuter@hotmail.com, 802-272-2376 and Gary  
Isham, glisham@yahoo.com, 802-917-8027

WORSHIP & CHURCH LIFE ~ Carole Lacasse,  
calacasse@netscape.com, 802-229-9504

FAITH FORMATION ~ Beth Cody,  
codyscastle@gmail.com, 802-279-5921

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Mary Ellen Hill,  
meqhill@yahoo.com, 802-279-8704

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Nancy Fowler,  
[fowler5vt@gmail.com](mailto:fowler5vt@gmail.com), 802-477-2715

### FCCB email address:

[firstcongregationalchurchberlin@yahoo.com](mailto:firstcongregationalchurchberlin@yahoo.com)

### FCCB Mailing Address:

PO Box 1157, Montpelier, VT 05601

*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*



For many people, relaxing by a campfire is a favorite summer activity. Nestling into the surrounding darkness while gazing into dancing flames, we sense God's love and let the day's chaos go. In contrast, Exodus 24:17 describes, "Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a devouring fire."

Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes offers another take, writing about God using flames to change us. (The full poem is here: [unfoldinglight.net/2025/02/24/fire](http://unfoldinglight.net/2025/02/24/fire))

God, your presence is like a consuming fire – not destructive, but transformative, not the fire of anger but the flame of love, the fire of glassblowers and bakers the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and useful.

Your glory is no tame campfire  
where we sit and make s'mores.  
It burns out of our control.  
The furnace of your love  
roars about our hearts, remaking us  
Teach us to be unafraid. ...

When you bask in firelight glow – and maybe eat some s'mores! – ponder how God is transforming you with love, and for the sake of love.

