



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 June 2026

An Inclusive, Open & Affirming Church

From the Pastor's Desk



We Are Family

As the days grow longer and the warmth of June settles around us, summer invites us into a different rhythm of life. School schedules begin to ease, vacations are planned, gardens grow, and families often find a little more time to simply be together. In many ways, summer offers us a sacred opportunity for renewal – not only physically, but spiritually as well.

In Scripture, we are often reminded that God renews both creation and the human heart. The beauty of summer points us toward the goodness of God: the green hills, blooming flowers, the laughter of children outside, and evenings shared with loved ones. These moments can become holy moments when we pause long enough to recognize God's presence among us.

Summer is also a wonderful season to renew family connections. In a world filled with busy schedules and constant distractions, even small moments matter – sharing meals together, taking walks, praying as a family, or simply listening to one another more carefully. Strong families are built not only through big events, but through everyday acts of love, patience, and grace.

And as we enjoy the blessings of summer, let us not forget the importance of staying connected to our

church family. While routines change during these months, our need for worship, prayer, fellowship, and service remains constant. Church is not simply a place we attend; it is a community where we encourage one another, grow in faith together, and continue the work Christ has called us to do.

Perhaps this June is an invitation to slow down a little. To rest. To reconnect. To spend time with God in prayer and reflection. To rediscover joy in worship. To notice the people around us who may need kindness, encouragement, or hope.

As Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

May this summer become a season of renewal for our spirits, our families, and our church community. May we find rest in God's presence and new strength for the journey ahead.

Blessings for a joyful and renewing June!

Pastor Doug





The Bible Study group will be holding a pot luck supper on **Thursday, June 4 at 6 p.m.** to wrap up this session. An invite is being sent out to all the church members for this exciting pot luck for an inspiring time together where we will discuss future bible study gatherings, our plans, needs, hopes for future topics and future path for the group. Please feel free to bring a dish or dessert and join us in this time together that will be open for all to attend. We would love to have you be a part of this and if you have wanted to see what this group is all about, this would be a very fun time to come join us.



On **Sunday, June 28 at 4 pm**, Christopher McWilliams and friends present "Dance, Dance, Dance!" a concert inspired by and featuring music about dance. The concert will be at the First Congregational Church of Berlin (1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin VT 05602). The guest performers include Denise Ricker (flute), Lotta Suter (violin) and the FCCB choir. Denise and Christopher will perform an arrangement of "Lord of the Dance" by Joel Rainey. The FCCB choir will sing "Dance, dance my heart" by Emma Lou Diemer and other pieces. Christopher will also play works for solo piano. Admission is free and everyone is invited to a reception after the concert, including the opportunity to view the exhibition of paintings by Gordon Clow. For more information, see www.fccbvt.org.

Saturday, July 18 -- Bonfire Worship Service (no church on Sunday the 19th)

Saturday, July 25 -- Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale

Sunday, August 2 -- Worship & Picnic at Waterbury Center State Park

Monday-Thursday, August 10-13 -- Shidaa Summer Camp

Lectionary Readings

Sun June 07: Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-12, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sun June 14: Third Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7), Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Sun June 21: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 21:8-21, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

Sun June 28: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13, Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

Worship Lay Readers and Ushers

June 07 - Reader - Thanna Adams

Usher - Cheryl Poor

June 14 - Reader - Ginger Anderson

Usher - Aileen Peake

June 21 - Reader - Nancy Fowler

Usher - Mary Ellen Hill

June 28 - Reader - Cheryl Poor

Usher - Ginger Anderson



Birthday

6/01 - Cindy Downs

6/01 - Dan Hudson

6/07 - Sam Staab

6/10 - Kaylyn Crompton

6/10 - Erica Gauthier

6/12 - Austin Bashaw

6/14 - Don Foote

6/16 - Carole Lacasse

6/19 - Jayden Hudson

6/20 - Sally Chartrand

6/20 - Tonya Hinchliffe

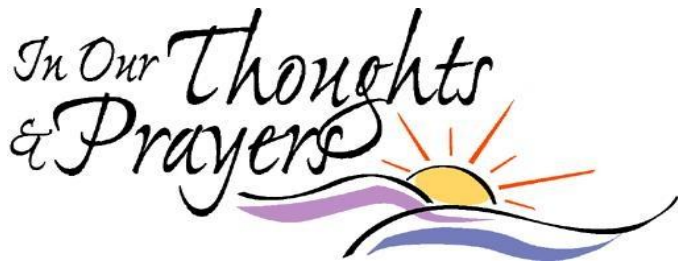
6/20 - Cathy Coane

6/28 - Sue Hudson

Anniversaries

6/29 - Tiana and Ryan Morse

6/30 - Brent and Carolyn Adams (1996)



Joys: Dalton received his Master's Degree and his wife Lexi accepted a new job (a move is in their future as well), Christopher's musical talents at our church and in community, the Hudsons have returned from their winter home, the Bethany and Northfield churches have a new (shared) pastor
For FCCB family & friends: Melissa "Bidey" W. had abdominal surgery, Dylan H. dealing with a difficult roommate, 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:

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: 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, 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.



First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB)
Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2026

Moderator Ellen Moody called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. 23 members were present in the sanctuary; a quorum was declared.

Judy Cookson made the motion and Thanna Adams seconded it; Trustees Team Leader Gary Isham proposes to spend \$6,456.22 to hire Hudson Woodworks LLC to construct a handicap accessible ramp at the exit door of the Parish Hall.

During discussion, it was determined that having a roof over the ramp can be done at a later time, under consultation with Hudson Woodworks. The quoted expense can be covered by the FCCB Building Fund. Jordan Mensah encouraged everyone to contribute to the cost, noting that it is a legacy from our hearts to our church.

General maintenance, especially in winter months, is still needed. Plans are evolving to ensure no one person is overburdened with those tasks.

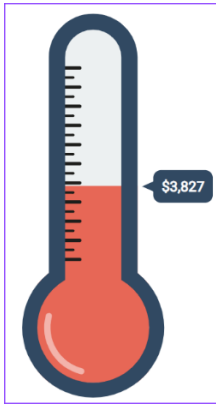
The motion was approved by the congregation.

Hearing no further business, Moderator Ellen adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted - Karen Foote - Clerk



Finance, Stewardship & Trustees



New Ramp

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!

A Note from the Music Director

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

Missions & Outreach



Tatum's Totes - the collection for **June** is **hygiene items** - Needed for all ages and genders - lotion, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, hair brush and comb, hair accessories, deodorant, loofahs. No travel size or dental items please.

Thank you to all who donated goods or money toward the May collection of water bottles!

*****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.

Admin and Communication

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

<http://www.fccbvt.org>



FCCB Pastor Contact information

Pastor Doug Cameron

Email: dougc9927@gmail.com

Home: 802-276-3404

Cell: 802-356-0578

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00a - 2:00p



Council Members 2026

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,
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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, 802-477-2715

FCCB email address:

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*



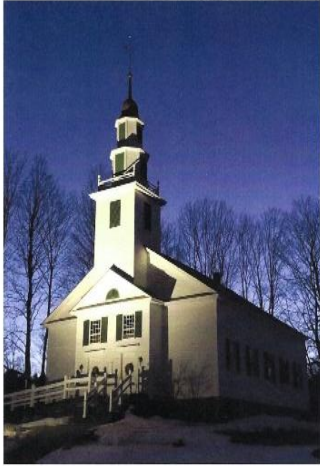
Reflecting the Father's Name



Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us – children of the only perfect Father – may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.



Dear Pastor Doug &
FCCB,

So many congratulations as you celebrate
the recognition of your joint ministry
together today! It was wonderful to
spend some time with you all and to
get to join you in celebration. Blessings
on the journey ahead, and love from all
of us across the way here at the old
Meeting House. Onward!

Dave Schilling
Pastor, OMT

BE THE LIGHT
This Summer