



# 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 March 2026

### An Inclusive, Open & Affirming Church

#### From the Pastor's Desk



#### A Lenten Journey Together

Lent invites us into a slower, deeper rhythm of faith. It is a season set apart—not to rush us toward Easter, but to help us pay attention to where we are right now. In these forty days, we are invited to walk honestly with God, trusting that even the quiet, uncertain, or challenging moments are holy ground.

The psalmist offers this prayer:

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts. See if  
there is any wicked way in me, and lead  
me in the way everlasting."*

— Psalm 139:23-24

This is a deeply Lenten prayer. It asks for courage, humility, and trust. It reminds us that Lent is not about self-judgment or perfection, but about openness—allowing God to search our hearts with love and lead us forward with grace.

Each of us enters Lent carrying different things. Some of us carry gratitude and hope. Others carry grief, exhaustion, or unanswered questions. Lent makes room for all of it. It assures us that God meets

us not after we have everything figured out, but right where we are.

That is why community matters so much during this season. Faith is not meant to be lived alone, especially when the journey feels difficult. This Lenten season, we will gather for a **Lenten Bible Study on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom**, focusing on our shared Lenten journey. Together, we will listen to scripture, reflect on where God is at work in our lives, and support one another as we walk this path.

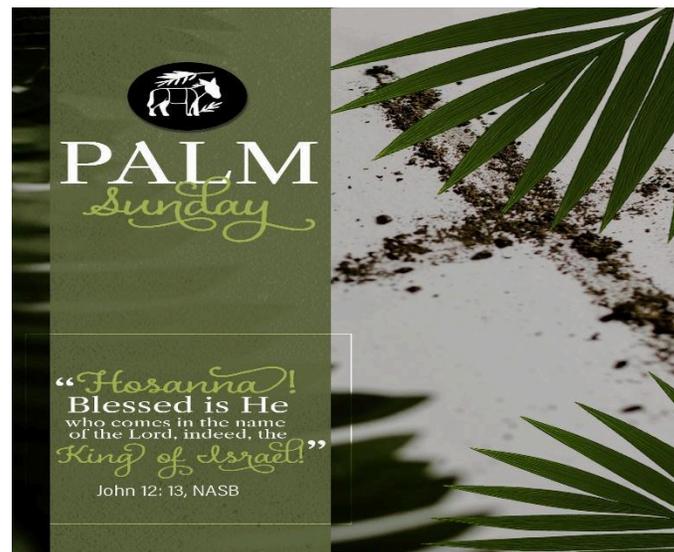
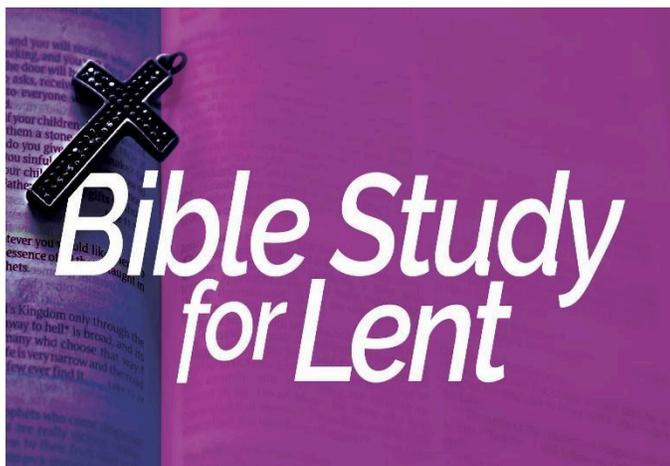
This will be a space for conversation, prayer, and honest reflection—not a place where you need to have the "right" answers. Whether this is your first Lenten study or one of many, you are welcome just as you are.

Lent reminds us that transformation does not happen overnight. It happens step by step, prayer by prayer, moment by moment. As we walk through this season together, may we be attentive to God's presence, gentle with ourselves, and open to the quiet work of renewal happening within us.

I hope you will consider joining us as we walk this Lenten journey together.

**Lenten Bible Study**  
**Thursdays | 6:00 p.m. | Zoom**  
**All are welcome.**

Peace - Pastor Doug



## Lectionary Readings

### Sun Mar 01: Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

### Sun Mar 08: Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

### Sun Mar 15: Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

### Sun Mar 22: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

### Sun Mar 29: Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66

## Worship Lay Readers and Ushers

**March 01** - Reader - Gordon Clow

Usher - Carole Lacasse

**March 08** - Reader - Ginger Anderson

Usher - Joan Garcia

**March 15** - Reader - Thanna Adams

Usher - Cheryl Poor

**March 22** - Reader - Cheryl Poor

Usher - Aileen Peake

**March 29** - Reader - Heather Mensah

Usher - Mary Ellen Hill



### Birthday

3/12 - Brad Hudson

3/14 - Courtney Haggett

3/16 - Mary Wells

3/22 - Andrew Crompton

3/26 - Karen Foote

3/30 - Lydia Richardson

3/30 - Richard Gariboldi

### Anniversaries

None



**Joys:** the efforts of Olympic athletes (along with the rigors and pressures of competition), Andy L. is back home, Dan H. improving (and playing golf), Donna T. is looking forward to having knee surgery

**For FCCB family & friends:** travel mercies during the upcoming big snowstorms, Matthew A-B, Donna T. & Peter H., Thanna A., Donna C., Ian L., Andy L., Kathryn L. recovering from surgery, Erin M., Dan H., Denise R., Marilyn (Rick's sister), Paul in California, Kevin G., Brenda C., Shannon (Thanna's and Barbara's granddaughter), Lesley, Eli, Logan C., Ray and Cindy C., Jordan's son, Yolanda, Pastor Doug's sister and niece, Jeanine K.

**For the loss of a loved one, the families of:** the 9 skiers lost in the Lake Tahoe avalanche, Nancy Z., Joanne Bowles, Chad Duprey (Barb C.'s grandson), Karl Boisvert, Joanne Martin, the 7 crew members of the fishing boat from Gloucester, MA, Larry Miller, 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:** our country and Constitution, February is Black History Month; we need to remember those who fought/still fight for racial justice, people struggling due to severe cold weather, the people of Minneapolis (especially Ginger's friend Jerry), the people of Venezuela and our service people there, victims of recent 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.



## Finance, Stewardship & Trustees

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 March is socks - all ages and genders.

Thank you to all who donated goods or money toward the February collection of diaper bags!

\*\*\*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.

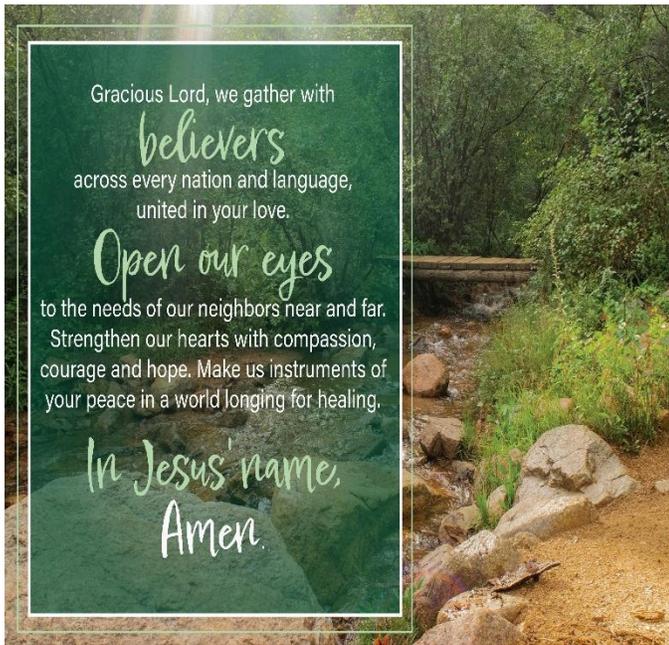
When donating goods please include a total dollar value. The GMUW gives us a monthly statement with the estimated cash value of all goods received that month.

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>



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*

### FCCB Pastor Contact information

Pastor Doug Cameron  
 Email: [dougc9927@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ellenmoody777@gmail.com), 802-522-7728
- VICE CHAIR - Ginger Anderson,  
[quedaV06@gmail.com](mailto:quedaV06@gmail.com), 802-229-1665
- TREASURER - Rob Griffin, [griffinsuter@hotmail.com](mailto:griffinsuter@hotmail.com),  
 802-272-2376
- ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION and CLERK -  
 Karen Foote, [kbf789@aol.com](mailto:kbf789@aol.com), 802-223-7286
- MISSIONS & OUTREACH - Heather Mensah,  
[withheather@yahoo.com](mailto:withheather@yahoo.com), 617-780-2458
- FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP & TRUSTEES - Rob Griffin,  
[griffinsuter@hotmail.com](mailto:griffinsuter@hotmail.com), 802-272-2376 and Gary  
 Isham, [glisham@yahoo.com](mailto:glisham@yahoo.com), 802-917-8027
- WORSHIP & CHURCH LIFE - Carole Lacasse,  
[calacasse@netscape.com](mailto:calacasse@netscape.com), 802-229-9504
- FAITH FORMATION - Beth Cody,  
[codyscastle@gmail.com](mailto:codyscastle@gmail.com), 802-279-5921
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Mary Ellen Hill,  
[meqhill@yahoo.com](mailto:meqhill@yahoo.com), 802-279-8704

Friday March 6th



Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour on March 8<sup>th</sup>!





cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. “*What I have written, I have written,*” he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” – *Revelation 17:14*

*Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.*

*We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.*

*Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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## The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*” They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, “*I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.*”

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, “*Here is your king.*” The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, “*We have no king but Caesar!*”

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the

from your  
garden to  
the Food  
Banks

in our  
communit  
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planting a  
whole row or  
section of

your garden,  
dedicated to  
helping feed  
the nee