



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 October 2025

An Inclusive, Open & Affirming Church



From the Pastor's Desk

Donna and I want to thank you all for the way you've welcomed us this past month. From our very first Sunday, you've made us feel at home—like we've always been part of this church family. Your kindness, encouragement, and hospitality mean so much to us and we are grateful to be here with you.

I also want to take a moment to invite you to our Thursday evening Bible study which meets from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the church. It's a relaxed and friendly time to open God's Word together, ask questions, and encourage one another. If you've never been to a study before, this is a great place to start—I'd love to see you there.

Over these past few weeks, I've enjoyed having conversations with some of you about the church, its history, and its future. For those I haven't had the chance to talk with yet, I'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas, and stories too. Please don't hesitate to reach out or stop by—I look forward to learning from each of you and continuing this journey together.

Peace - Pastor Doug



WHILE THE PASTOR'S AWAY...



Please note - Pastor Doug is away for the month of October and will not be holding office hours. If a need arises from October 1 to 15 please contact Ellen Moody at 802-522-7728.

Coverage from October 16 to 31 please contact Heather Mensah at 617-780-2458.

Pulpit supply for October:

October 5 Rev Sami McRae

October 12 Council led by Rob Griffith

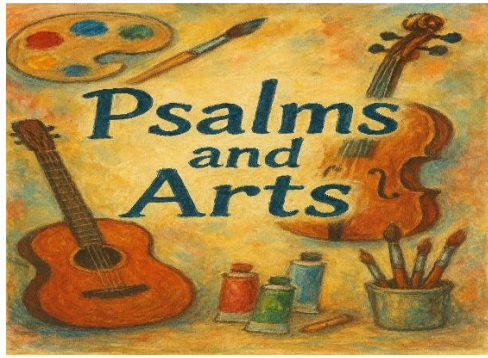
October 19 Susan McKnight

October 26 Rev David Vanderlinde-Abernathy



Silent Auction

The display of "All God's Critters" by Nancy and Nancie will remain up through October. There will be a silent auction for these photo tiles beginning Sunday, October 26 and will close the auction at the Annual Meeting on November 9. All the money will go to the church. They would make great Christmas gifts for grandchildren or friends who love animals.



Psalms and Arts workshop!
Saturday, October 4th, 9 am to 12:30 pm

Nikki Mustin will lead participants in understanding, internalizing, and gaining inspiration from a psalm, with a focus on imagery and exploring the emotion and beauty of the original Hebrew poetry. Then, participants will have a chance to create art or music based on the psalm--transferring the meaning and beauty to a modern audience.

Any and all art forms will be welcomed--written poetry, visual arts such as painting, drawing, fiber arts, or sculpting; or performing arts such as music, dance, or spoken word poetry. Even culinary arts have been used for this! Bring your own materials, instruments, or whatever else you may need to create your pieces. The day will end with a brief presentation or showcase of the pieces--no need to have finished pieces, but even the ideas that have taken shape will be gladly shared with the group. Expertise not required--Psalms and arts are for everyone, not just professionals!"

Nikki Mustin is a Hebrew scholar and Bible Translation Consultant, serving as a missionary with a non-profit called the Seed Company and specializing in Hebrew poetry and its translation. She has a Master's degree in Linguistics and Bible Translation and currently specializes in working with musicians and artists around the globe, using their local, indigenous arts to capture the message and beauty of Hebrew poetry, especially the Psalms. She also works with 3 languages in D.R. Congo long-term, and they are currently translating the book of Luke, as well as with a group that is creating the first-ever oral translation of the Bible in English.

Visit our website for more information and to register for this free event:

<https://www.stowecommunitychurch.org>



Celebrating Indigenous People's Day at FCCB

At our Sunday morning service on October 12, led by the FCCB church council, we'll be honoring indigenous people of the Americas with a celebration of their diverse cultures and their many contributions to our everyday life. The music in the service will be drawn from various Native American traditions, featuring songs for wooden flute and drums. For their anthem, the FCCB choir will sing the choral work "Ispiciwin" by contemporary Canadian composer Andrew Balfour, whose text in the Cree language means "journey".

We will have prayers drawn from Native American traditions, reflecting the commonality between our UCC traditions and those of our Native American neighbors. Rob Griffin will retell one of his favorite Native American stories and talk about the power of stories to shape our thoughts, our lives and our relationships.

We hope you will us for the special celebration. For more information, contact Rob Griffin at griffinsuter@hotmail.com





Concert of "Music from around the World" on October 26

On Sunday October 26 at 4 pm, Christopher McWilliams and friends will present a concert of "Music from around the World" concert in the FCCB sanctuary. Joining Christopher and the FCCB choir for this concert are Denise Ricker (flute) and Lotta Suter (violin). The program celebrates the rich diversity of music around the world with selections drawn from Native American, African and classical Western European traditions. Admission is free, with donations to benefit Capstone Community Action. The concert will be followed by a reception in the FCCB Community Room, including the opportunity to view the new exhibit of photographs by Nancy Fowler and Nancie Austin Bradley. For more information, see the FCCB website (fccbvt.org) or contact Rob Griffin at griffinsuter@hotmail.com



Special Service of Music, Prayer, Readings and Meditation

On Thursday evening October 30 at 7 pm, special guest Mary Bonhag will once again be leading a service of music, meditation and prayer from the Taizé tradition. The candle-lit service features simple harmonious chants, short readings,

scriptures, poems and prayers, periods of silence, and the lighting of candles. Mary will also sing chants by the Brookfield composer and retired clergy Kathy Wonson Eddy. The candlelit service will be held in the FCCB sanctuary.

Taizé gets its name from the monastic community in the French village of Taizé, which was founded in 1940 and served as a shelter for political refugees fleeing persecution during World War II. Thousands of pilgrims still travel to the ecumenical, monastic community of Taizé yearly to attend teachings on trust, peace and reconciliation.

Please join us in singing or just be bathed in the music of this special service!

Lectionary Readings

Sun Oct 05: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lamentations 1:1-6, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

Sun Oct 12: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

Sun Oct 19: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

Sun Oct 26: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

Worship Lay Readers and Ushers

October 05 - Reader - Thanna Adams

Usher - Blair Austin-Bradley

October 12 - Reader - Sarah Launderville

Usher - Ginger Anderson

October 19 - Reader - Ginger Anderson

Usher - Mary Ellen Hill

October 26 - Reader - Nancy Fowler

Usher - Joan Garcia





Birthday

An10/01 - Eldon Austin-Bradley

10/01 - Nancy Austin-Bradley

10/06 - Dennis Downs

10/08 - Linda Isham

10/10 - Kim Gauthier

10/11 - Susan Rich

10/11 - Emily Arleth

10/12 - Erin Moody

10/13 - Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy

10/21 - Laura Cadmus

10/21 - Krysta Zabriske

10/21 - Dylan Hinchliffe

10/24 - Evan Hinchliffe

10/26 - Desirae Bashaw

Anniversaries

10/01 - Dennis and Cindy Downs (1993)

10/10 - Rich and Tonya Hinchliffe (1998)

10/28 - Andy and Carole Lacasse (1967)



Joys: Dan was in church, music by Christopher, Evan taking place in chess tournament.

For FCCB Family and Friends: Donna and Peter, Cheryl and Tom with loss of home in fire, Randy, Ginger's uncle, Debbie P, Donna T., Tom, Jean B., Ray and Cindy Cyr, Barb C., Barb C., Michael, Mary Ellen, Anita, Dan H., Jordan's son, Andy, Joel, Lisa, Kennedy, Nancy Z., Yolanda, Andrew, Dalton and Lexie, Steve D., Pastor Doug's sister and niece, 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., Ian L, Peter F, Leann, Jack.

For the loss of a loved one, the families of:

Daniel Zampieri, Esther Farnsworth, Peter Hill, Paul Normandy, Lula Lavery, Clyde Cassidy Jr., Dave Burley

For our members and friends in residential and independent care facilities:

Jamin, Elaine, Anita, Sandy, Ann, Renata, Marvie, Toni, Sue, Steve

For our World: those in the path of wildfires, victims from recent mass shootings, storms that surround our country and world, starvation in Gaza, Ukraine. our country, homeless community in VT, all those battling cancer, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse,



First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB) Congregational Meeting Minutes September 28, 2025

Moderator Ellen Moody called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. 29 members were present in the sanctuary; a quorum was declared. Pastor Doug Cameron shared a prayer for the group.

Karen Foote made the motion (requested by Trustee Team Leader Gary Isham) that the congregation approve the expense of \$4,280 for installing a handrail system along the walkway on the north side of the sanctuary. This work is to be completed in October 2025. Rob Griffin seconded the motion. Gary described the work to be done. Rob added that he will be applying for grants to hopefully assist in paying some of the cost. After further discussion, the motion was passed by the congregation.

Ellen shared a suggestion (originally discussed at a recent Council meeting) for hosting a Halloween event (typically called "Trunk or Treat"), but discussion was tabled until next year when more time can be dedicated to planning it.

Hearing no further business, Moderator Ellen adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted - Karen Foote - Clerk

Weekly Newsletter Update

After many years of putting together a "mailchimp" newsletter for Barre Congregational and FCCB, I have made the decision to step away from this task. The church council discussed this and felt that the Chronicle, the bulletin, and the webpage will be sufficient means for communicating church news. We will begin adding the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. I will continue to maintain the webpage with updated events and the Sunday bulletin. It is still being decided how best to add the names in the prayer list. - Nancy Fowler

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

***** Cheryl Poor will continue to assign ushers and lay readers as well as keeping the contact list up to date. *****

Faith Formation

Missions & Outreach

Tatum's Totes - the collection for **October** is **winter accessories - hats, mittens and gloves - any age and any gender.**

Thank you to everyone who donated items or money towards the September collection of blankets. We donated 32 blankets with an estimated value of \$423.

*****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:

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: 8802-356-0578

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

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, 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*