



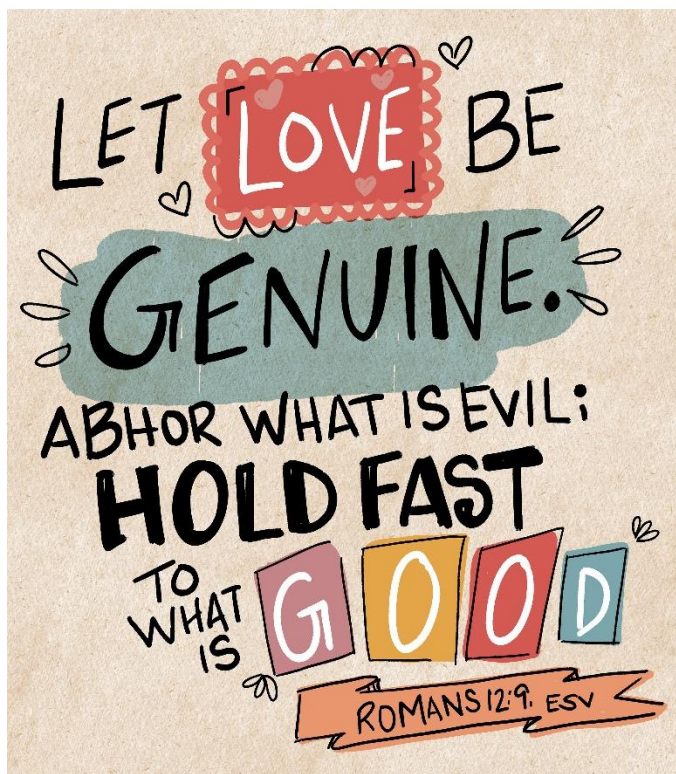
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN

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 September 2026

An Inclusive, Open & Affirming Church



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

September always feels a little like a new beginning.

The days are getting shorter, the mornings a little cooler, and summer vacations and activities are beginning to wind down. As much as we may hate to see summer go, September brings us back into the familiar rhythm of church life—a time to reconnect with one another, renew our faith, and begin another season of learning and growing together.

One opportunity I hope you will consider is our **Thursday Evening Bible Study**, which begins **September 10th** and will continue through **June 10th**. We will meet each Thursday evening from **6:00-7:00 p.m. on Zoom**. The link can be found on the church's website (fccbvt.org).

Throughout the year, we will explore Scripture and some of the questions that are important to our faith

and our everyday lives. You don't need to be a Bible expert. Bring your Bible, your questions, your experiences, and an open heart. One of the blessings of Bible study is discovering that we often learn as much from one another as we do from the words on the page.

As we begin this new church season, I also want to remind you that I am here for you. If you would like a pastoral visit, please give me a call. Sometimes we need someone to talk with, someone to pray with, or simply someone to sit with us for a while. You are also always welcome to stop by and see me during my Wednesday office hours, **10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Church is more than what happens for an hour on Sunday morning. It is the relationships we build, the prayers we share, the ways we care for one another, and the journey of faith we walk together.

So, as summer comes to a close and we get back into the swing of church life, I look forward to seeing where God will lead us in the months ahead.

May this new season be a time of renewed faith, deeper friendships, and new opportunities to experience God's presence in our lives.

Blessings - Pastor Doug





August 29 - Pie-looza bake sale, cafe and Live Music - First Congregational Church of Berlin (1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin VT) will be hosting a Live Music Café on Saturday August 29th from 1-2 pm in the FCCB Community Hall, rain or shine!

A delicious selection of sweet and savory pies will be available for purchase as individual slices (plain and a la mode) or entire pies. While you enjoy your pie and lemonade (or other beverages), you are invited to listen to jazz standards and popular songs played by Christopher McWilliams and also see the new art exhibit of works by artist Deborah Prince Smith.

For more information, see www.fccbvt.org or contact Rob Griffin at 802-272-2376 or griffinsuter@hotmail.com



October 10, 2026

Welcome back our Chicken Pie Supper!
Saturday October 10, 2026
 Two seatings at 5 PM and 6:30 PM
 Take Out available
 Adults \$15 and children 4 to 12 \$8. Under 4 free.
 Reservations required at 802-272-2956

Many people in the church and the community have been asking when we are having this dinner again. So we will all need to pull together to work on this dinner. There are many different jobs. Please see the sign up sheets at church to choose where you can help out.
 With deep appreciation ahead of time.
 Ellen Moody

Lectionary Readings

Sun Sept 06: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14,
 Matthew 18:15-20

Sun Sept 13: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12,
 Matthew 18:21-35

Sun Sept 20: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Philippians
 1:21-30

Sun Sept 27: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-
 13, Matthew 21:23-32

Worship Lay Readers and Ushers

Sept 06 - Reader - Thanna Adams

Usher - Blair Austin-Bradley

Sept 13 - Reader - Karen Foote

Usher - Mary Ellen Hill

Sept 20 - Reader - Heather Mensah

Usher - Aileen Peake

Sept 27 - Reader - Gordon Clow

Usher - Joan Garcia



Birthday

9/01 - Joan Verchereau

9/01 - Amara Staab

9/06 - Robyn Moody

9/07 - Elaine Bennett

9/12 - Donna Cameron

9/12 - Marcia Hudson

9/19 - Fiona Adams

9/22 - Cheryl Poor

9/30 - Kyle Verchereau

Anniversaries

9/23 - Brad and Marcia Hudson (1995)

PRAYER list...

Joys: Hearing Jordan M. give last Sunday's Message, Nancie & Blair A.-B. enjoyed a great trip to San Antonio Grande (El Salvador) with others from Bethany Church, Sally C. had a great health check-up and enjoyed time with grandson Porter, new marriage of Austin C., Sue D.'s son has now skied on all seven continents

For FCCB family & friends: young people in our community as they return to school, Andy L. is in ICU currently, 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), Trina N., 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: 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: 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, homeless communities in VT, all those battling cancer, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse.



August 24, 2026

The members of the First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB) are hereby warned to meet on Sunday, September 13, 2026 after the morning worship service to hear and act on the following:

1. Trustee Team Leader Gary Isham and Treasurer Rob Griffin propose to pay \$2,555.89 to Hudson Woodworks LLC to install an ADA-required handrail on the new ramp to the upper parish hall. This would be paid from the FCCB Building Fund (current balance \$2,567).
2. Trustee Team Leader Gary Isham and Treasurer Rob Griffin propose to close the FCCB Vanguard account (current balance \$34,237) and move those funds to a guaranteed-income financial instrument such as a Certificate of Deposit in either our current bank (M&T Bank) or the UCC Cornerstone Fund.
3. The members may hear and act on any other business as may properly come before the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Foote, Clerk

Finance, Stewardship & Trustees

A Note from the Music Director



Worship & Church Life

Is your flower garden bursting with blooms? Consider sharing some with FCCB and bring some cuttings on a Sunday for altar flowers. Of course, a lovely house plant also can be enjoyed by all!

Sign up for a Sunday (or more than one) on the sheet posted on the FCCB kitchen fridge.

Also on the fridge is a sign-up sheet for hosting coffee hours after worship - we have many great cooks!

Thank you from the Worship & Church Life Team

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 **September** is **throw (comfy, cozy) blankets. All sizes for all ages, infant to teenager!**

Thank you to all who donated goods or money toward the July / August collection of back-to-school supplies. Our estimated total value was \$382, this included 8 backpacks, laundry detergent, snacks and school supply items.

*****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>

From the Treasurer

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, 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

Community Note

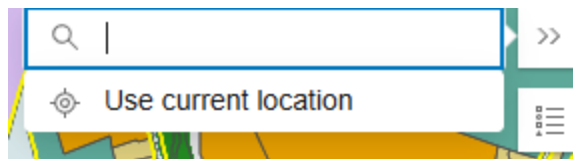
The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has released a draft Regional Planning Map that assigns a planning designation to every property in Berlin.

These designations can influence future development opportunities—not only for your own property, but also for neighboring properties and the community as a whole. They may affect how growth is encouraged, where infrastructure is prioritized, and how state agencies view future projects.

I encourage every Berlin property owner and resident to take a few minutes to find your property on the map and see how it is designated. If something doesn't seem right, or if you have questions or concerns, now is the time to raise them while the plan is still in draft form.

This is an opportunity to help ensure that the regional plan accurately reflects Berlin's needs and future.

Please take a look and share this with other Berlin residents so everyone has a chance to review the map before it is finalized. Here is a link to the map: <https://bit.ly/CVRPCFLUMAP>. To navigate to your location, use the Search bar in the upper right-hand corner of the map and enter your location, or select "Use current location". To add a comment, click on the menu button on the far right just below the search bar (the one with 4 little lines), and click "Stakeholder Feedback". The menu button also reveals a guide to the meanings of the colors used in the map/.



Gordon Clow - Berlin Planning Commission Chair

Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

