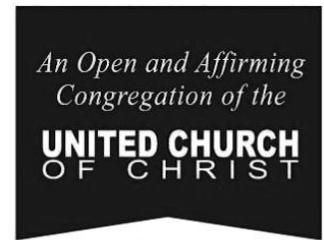




38 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont



firstchurchburlington.org

November 21, 2021

10 a.m.

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving and Dedication Sunday*

PRELUDE

Selections

The Onion River Jazz Band!

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elissa Johnk

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

Steve Hyde

based on Psalm 100

Leader: The world is filled with the glory of Creation,

People: And we give thanks!

Leader: Our lives are gifted with laughter,

People: And we give thanks!

Leader: Our world resounds with great song,

People: And we give thanks!

Leader: In worship, we know we are loved,

People: And offer our love to others.

Leader: As we enter into worship this morning, let us fill this space with our gratitude:

People: (Call out the things you are grateful for in your own life)

Leader: Let us pray:

***OPENING HYMN**

We Gather Together

#421 NCH

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12

Andy Barker

TIME OF UNBURDENING

by the Rev. Gord

Leader: Gracious Creator, you have given us so much,

People: but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled.

Leader: You call us to live in caring community,

People: but too often we place our wants and needs first, with those of others a distant second.

Leader: You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us,

People: but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing.

Leader: For all the times when we mistreat and misuse Your gifts,

People: for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves,

All: forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Remote worshipers are invited to submit prayer requests via YouTube chat –
prayer requests received prior to the sermon will be shared during “Prayers of the People.”*

CONNECTIONS STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

WORD OF GOD FOR (SM) ALL AGES

ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (see insert – scroll down)

GOSPEL READING Mark 12: 38-44

SERMON

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING** *Take My Life, God, Let It Be* #448 NCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember our congregation includes those who are worshipping digitally, and share concerns appropriately – with permission and using first names only.

SILENT PRAYER • LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS Scott Newman

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Over in Glory Land*

*During this time you are invited to offer your monetary gifts.
You can give online using this link
which is also under the video title on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/fccbonlinegiving>
or by texting FCCBUCC to 73256
or mail a check payable to:
First Congregational Church at 38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401*

***DOXOLOGY** #780 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Great Is Your Faithfulness* #423 NCH

***BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *When the Saints Go Marching In*

Those who are observing physical distancing are encouraged to leave immediately following the benediction. Those who are not are encouraged to stay for a portion of the postlude to facilitate their departure.

**Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Many thanks to the ***Onion River Jazz Band*** for their musical leadership today!
Gene Childers, *trumpet*; Andy Miskavage, *clarinet*; Bill Brislin, *trombone*; Carl Recchia, *piano*; Paul Gittelsohn, *tenor banjo*; Glendon Ingalls, *sousaphone and bass*; Tony Hall, *drums*

FELLOWSHIP ON ZOOM: All worshipping remotely are invited to a virtual time in fellowship – on Zoom – follows worship. The link is in the YouTube description for this morning's live-stream and on the front page of the First Church website:
www.firstchurchburlington.org

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome to First Congregational Church in Burlington. Our faith is over 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not! First Church opens its doors to the Greater Burlington area, to seekers, to tourists from near and far, to those in need, to an array of building users, and to a congregation (of members, friends, and family—both curious and the committed) who call our faith community their church home.

We celebrate the sacred worth of all persons as unique individuals made in the image of God. Whatever your age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or physical, cognitive, or emotional ability, we invite you to find a safe and nurturing spiritual home with us. All are welcome to participate, fully and without reservation, in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a community of faith.

The First Congregational Church of Burlington is an Open & Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. This means everyone – **everyone** – is welcome. Including YOU!

Staff Directory

Rev. Elissa Johnk, *Lead Minister*

Caroline Catlin, *Office & Nursery Administrator*

Lucy Samara, *Communications Coordinator*

Max Johnson, *A/V Coordinator*

Jennifer Coleman, *Bell Choir Director*

Laura Elder-Connors, *Children's Choir Director*

Derik Breen, *Building & Grounds Staff*

Hannah Sachs, *Director of Creative Ministries and Youth Ministries*

Hilah Clarke, *Faith Formation Director*

Ana Ruesink, *Youth Choir Director*

Ann Vivian, *Fall Music Coordinator*

Ian Rock-Jones, *Security Staff*

Baki Nelson and Paul Hobbs, *Ushers* • Patty Thomas, Linda Elrick and Caroline Crawford, *Welcomers* • Lou Daniel Rochford, *Digital Usher*

Many thanks to all our lay musicians who are helping out while are in search for our new Music Director!

www.firstchurchburlington.org info@firstchurchburlington.org 802.862.5010

Follow us @firstchurchbtv

ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Friends, these people have found nurture and support in the midst of this family of Christ. Through study and prayer they have been led to join in covenant with us, for service to Christ and to the world.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Before you stand God's people, God's gift to you, as you are to them. Will you welcome them with open hearts? Will you confirm the promises made to them at the time of baptism, offering them the love and support of the Christian church? And will you welcome the new challenges, questions, gifts and insights they bring, as together we grow in faith?

We will, with the help of God.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Deacon: Let us, the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Burlington, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ. Since with them we are changed in body, we reunite ourselves by reciting our church's historic covenant together:

(UNISON) We covenant with the Lord and with one another to respond to God's call that we be people of God in the name of Jesus Christ. We take this to be our Church, promising to walk with our fellow members in faithfulness and Christian love. We accept as our responsibility the worship of God, the fellowship of this community, and the witness of our church. We claim as our mission the promotion of justice, human dignity and peace, and participation in meeting the unfolding needs of God's people. We bind ourselves to follow the leadings of God's spirit as God reveals them to us.

Deacon: On behalf of this congregation, here are certificates of membership.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

OUR NEW MEMBERS

JOINING TODAY: Welcome Joan, John, Bob, Nellie and Sara! Our new members are part of a larger group that participated in "First Church 101" this fall. A second group from that class will be joining First Church in December 2021.



Joan Goodell: I grew up mostly in Newton, Massachusetts. I went to College at Drew University and later Maria Regina College. John and I married in 1964. I am a happy parent of three adult children. I enjoy reading, trying new recipes and being outside in nature. We moved to Vermont in April 2021 from Vestal, New York to be closer to our daughter

John Goodell: I grew up in Dundalk, Maryland and graduated from the University of Tennessee and from the Drew School of Theology. Joan and I married in 1964 and have three children and four grandchildren. I was a campus minister briefly and then a pastor in the Binghamton, NY area until retirement in 2003.



Bob Phillips: I relocated to Vermont in July 2021 to a home that we built in Colchester thirty years ago, after the death of my wife of 55 years in December 2020. I retired from Unilever in 2020. I received a Master's in Gender Studies from Columbia University in 2003. Since then I have been an investor in start-ups and have owned several small companies and have engaged with several colleges including the Grossman School of Business at the University of Vermont where I have lectured on sustainable innovation.



Nellie Stidham: I graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in Neuroscience and am now pursuing an M.S. in Pharmacology with minors in Chemistry and Emergency Medicine Services at UVM. I am a Research Assistant at UVM's Center on Rural Addiction and am passionate about addiction research and treatment. I moved to Vermont from Massachusetts, where I grew up in a small congregational church in Dennis, on Cape Cod. Some of my hobbies include reading, photography and sailing, which originally brought me to UVM to compete with their sailing team!



Sara Wilcoxson: I moved to Burlington recently from my home in Denver, Colorado to live closer to my daughter and daughter-in-law who live in Montreal, Quebec. I enjoy reading, gardening, walking and riding my bicycle. I am a member of Americorps.