

# Here's What's Happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC OF BURLINGTON

[WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHBURLINGTON.ORG)



## WORSHIP:

**Sunday Morning Worship:** Worship is at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Our worship services are also live-streamed - and a recording of each service is available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV](http://www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTV).

- **CHILDREN:** Families are encouraged to check in at the *Faith Formation Kiosk* after 9:40am (in the *Midway Art Gallery*, the space that connects the Sanctuary and main building) for information and to sign in children for the Nursery, Pre-School, and Elementary School programs each Sunday morning.

**MUSIC:** We are finishing our search process for a **Director of Music Ministries** - we are thankful for the service of our Fall Music Coordinator, Ann Vivian, and of our lay musicians and vocalists. If you are interested in offering your musical gifts, vocal or instrumental, please contact Ann Vivian: [av@gvvarchitects.com](mailto:av@gvvarchitects.com).

For information about the Children's Choir, contact Laura Elder-Connors: [lelderconnors@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:lelderconnors@firstchurchburlington.org), for the Youth Choir, contact Ana Ruesink: [aruesink@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:aruesink@firstchurchburlington.org).

**Bell Choir:** Our Austin Chimers welcome new ringers!

For details contact Director, Jennie Coleman, [jcoleman@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:jcoleman@firstchurchburlington.org)

**PARKING:** On Sunday mornings, **the First Church parking lot is most needed and reserved for - our visitors, friends, and members with limited mobility.** If that is your situation - please park in the church lot. Drivers are invited to drop off passenger(s) before using (FREE on Sundays) street parking or the parking garage. Thank you.

**FLOWERS:** The calendar for donating flowers is available in the Church Office. You can create an arrangement with your own flowers, or order flowers from Maplehurst. Email [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org) for details.

## FIRST CHURCH HAPPENINGS!



**TODAY Silent Vigil for Racial Justice at 1pm:** All are invited to stand in solidarity for racial justice from 1 to 1:30pm on the first

Sunday of each month. Bring a sign and meet us on the lawn!



**Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm: YOUTH-LED ADVENT SERVICE for ALL:** Youth

participating in Confirmation have planned a beautiful Advent Worship. All are invited to worship in-person at First Church (masks required) or remotely via livestream on the FirstChurchBTV YouTube Channel.

**NEXT SUNDAY December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am: The Christmas Pageant:** A no-rehearsal family event for the ages to enjoy with music provided by the kids, Barker/Ruesink Band, and friends!



Following the Pageant is the annual "**First Church Christmas Wrap**"! We'll gather in the Dining Room on the second floor to wrap gifts for children and adults in our community.



close to  
HOME

**Wednesdays & Fridays during Advent at 12:30pm on Facebook:** Join Director of Creative Ministries, Hannah Sachs or Lead Minister, Rev. Elissa Johnk at [www.facebook.com/FirstChurchBTV](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchBTV) for a 10-minute time of prayer.

## CURRENT SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

**Poinsettia & Mission Offering:** Donations are invited "in honor of" and "in memory of" someone special to you. Dedications will be shared in the Order of Worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent - December 19. Donations will support an important mission and will be used to decorate the First Church Sanctuary with poinsettias and greens. For the mission portion, our Outreach Team invites your support of the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church following the recent tragic death of their pastor - the Rev. Dr. Christopher Von Cockrell. Use this LINK: <https://bit.ly/missionandpoinsettia2021> for details and to submit your dedication online.

**SHARE CHRISTMAS: IT'S ABOUT JOY!** Share Christmas is a First Church tradition! Share Christmas is a way to give the joy of the holiday to others - and a way to receive practical support - and joy - from the congregation.

- To learn more about how to participate as a donor, volunteer or recipient - our First Church Outreach Team invites you to click on the Give and Apply graphics below.
- **Applications for assistance DUE by December 5, 2021:** <https://bit.ly/applysharechristmas2021>
- **Donations are requested as soon as possible and are welcome throughout December:** <https://bit.ly/givesharechristmas2021>

## SERVING:

**Meals On Wheels:** Al Weldon leads this community mission for us, contact him at [alweldon@aol.com](mailto:alweldon@aol.com) to learn more about helping to deliver meals monthly, or as a substitute on the second Wednesday of the month.

**Dismas House:** Our volunteers have supported the dinner program at the BTV Dismas House (a transitional home for parolees) for many years. You are invited to prepare and share a meal on your own or with a friend on the third Thursday of any month. Contact First Church Dismas Coordinator Donal Dugan, [donal.dugan@gmail.com](mailto:donal.dugan@gmail.com) for info.

**Volunteers Needed to work with our Faith Formation Team!** Our vibrant programs for children are available every Sunday! For more information about programs, or volunteering, please contact Director of Faith Formation, Hilah Clarke, [hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org), or drop by the “Faith Formation Kiosk” before the 10 am worship.

**Small Potatoes:** First Church hosts this weekly, community, free Saturday breakfast and bag lunch. Want to help make sandwiches? To learn more, contact Outreach Team Member, Reid Willis, [frwillis@gmail.com](mailto:frwillis@gmail.com).

**The FCCB Possibility Shop:** Our basement thrift shop sells gently used, household items and clothing. The volunteer-managed “Poss Shop” is open Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-3pm! Interested in learning more about volunteering? Contact Mary Hyde: [marywhyde@gmail.com](mailto:marywhyde@gmail.com) or Louise Brewster: [lrbrewster@gmail.com](mailto:lrbrewster@gmail.com).

**JUMP:** A Drop-In Center based here, JUMP assists hundreds in our community annually. Contact our JUMP Board member, Anne Tewksbury Frye to learn more: [actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:actfrye@burlingtontelecom.net). JUMP is currently offering services by mail, phone, email, and in-person on Thursdays only at starting at 9am.

**Friends at First** work with our “Partners in Pastoral Care” Team to provide rides, meals, and other services as needed. If you are interested in helping or if someone you know could use some care, please contact the Pastoral Care Team: [office@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:office@firstchurchburlington.org)

**Quilt/Shawl Ministry & Evening Knitting/Crocheting Group:** On break currently, for more information, please contact Jan Jackson at [organjan@comcast.net](mailto:organjan@comcast.net) or Betsy Freeman at: [bfreeman789@yahoo.com](mailto:bfreeman789@yahoo.com), respectively.

**Pledges & Gifts of Self:** Stewardship — gifts of money and gifts of self— are invited and needed year-round! Stewardship information is available in the Church Office or check out our website: [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org).

## LEARNING AND CONNECTING:

### **Faith Formation Opportunities:**

- **Childcare** is available for Nursery, Pre-School, and Elementary School programs each Sunday morning. Families are encouraged to check in at the *Faith Formation Kiosk* after 9:40am (in the *Midway Art Gallery*, the space that connects the Sanctuary and main building).
- **Worshipping remotely?** Youth age K-5 are invited to join Hilah Clarke on Zoom, Sundays from 9:15-9:45am <https://bit.ly/churchschool930>
- The next **Confirmation** meeting is today, **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** during the 10am worship for planning the **Youth-led Advent service** which will be held **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**.

**Scholarships:** Scholarship funds are available for those affiliated with First Congregational Church who are actively enrolled in post-secondary educational programs. Learn more on our website or email Director of Faith Formation, Hilah Clarke: [hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org) with questions and/or to request an application.

**Bible Study:** The Rev. Elissa Johnk’s **Thursday** morning Bible Study at **9am on Zoom:** [bit.ly/BibleStudywithElissa](https://bit.ly/BibleStudywithElissa). All are invited to participate and explore scripture for the following Sunday’s worship service.

**Men’s Breakfast:** All who identify as male are invited to gather for good company and a great breakfast! Next meeting TBD. For more information contact to Baki Nelson at: [fn.info@icloud.com](mailto:fn.info@icloud.com).

**Women’s Book Group: Holiday Zoom Gathering with Christmas Poetry & Short Story Reading:** The Women’s Book Group invites all who identify as female to gather on **Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** on Zoom for this annual event. Bring a favorite Advent or Christmas poem or story to read, or simply come to enjoy all of the stories and poems! To receive a Zoom link to the event – please email coordinator Janice Clements at: [janclem25@gmail.com](mailto:janclem25@gmail.com)

## WELCOMING:

**Fellowship Hour:** Every Sunday, after worship, on Zoom - [bit.ly/sundayfellowship](https://bit.ly/sundayfellowship) - and in person at Church! Come chat with others about worship and life.

**Sunday Morning Welcomers & Ushers:** Friendly faces are needed to greet or usher. For more information, please contact Director of Creative Ministries, Hannah Sachs, at [hsachs@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:hsachs@firstchurchburlington.org)

**New to First Church?** Please fill in your contact information on the connection cards provided in the pews. We’d love to know you’re here and say hello! Our online Connection form: [bit.ly/fccbconnectioncard](https://bit.ly/fccbconnectioncard)

**First Church Podcast:** “First Church Phonic” is located at: [anchor.fm/firstchurchbtv](https://anchor.fm/firstchurchbtv) and on all major podcast platforms. Our podcast holds many 10-minute guided prayers, sermons, Spirit Seeker interviews, and more!

**The Church Newsletter:** Please sign up to receive our weekly E-Newsletter – in the Church Office - or at [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org). To receive a mailed copy, sign up in the Church Office.