



BEARING WITNESS, LIVING JOY, MOVING WITH THE SPIRIT

Bearing Witness, Living Joy is our theme for this year's Stewardship campaign and our ministries for 2026. The idea of moving with the Spirit comes from our dynamic new logo which shows our foundation in Christ and our calling from the Holy Spirit. These three ideas of paying attention, resting in God, and putting our faith into action beautifully express what it means to be the First Baptist Church community of faith.

So much has changed in our world and we have responded by paying attention to the needs of those around us and by standing up for the historic Baptist principles of soul freedom and the separation of church and state. As we gather for worship, fellowship, and service, we rest in God's love, supporting each other and giving thanks for our many blessings. By being fully present and open to God we can live lives of Joy.

We are putting our faith into action this month by expanding our traditional Thanksgiving food processional to include a food drive for Feeding Chittenden and ANEW Place. We are hiring a Director of Family Ministries and Outreach who will support our Church School and strengthen our Mission partnerships.

As we consider our financial pledges for next year, may we bear witness, live with Joy, and move with the Spirit. It is a great blessing to be in ministry together.

IN CHRIST,
Rev. Karen A. Mendes

Happy Birthday

01 Karen Shastany
10 William McCormick & Luana McCormick
16 Lauren Harrington
17 Marty French & David Hall
19 Lois Lynch
22 David Little
25 Ginger Calder
29 Beth Vuley
30 Brian Hayes & Gail Holmes



Anniversary HAPPY

24 Brian & Linda Hayes - 18 Years

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WORSHIP SERVICES

9 Luke 20:27-38
God of the Living

16 Pledge Sunday
Isaiah 65:17-25
Bearing Witness, Living Joy

23 Thanksgiving Sunday
John 6:25-35
The Bread of Life

30 Advent 1
Isaiah 2:1-5
Walking in the Light

SECOND HOURS SERVICES

Check the
Green Steeple
Weekly for
more updates!



Gift of Caring, Time & Visitation



All of us are part of the First Baptist Visitation Team and can call or email our church friends or send a note or card. Please take some time to reach out to the church members and friends who live in your town. You can access the church directory through Instantchurchdirectory.com or through the Instant Church Directory App. Try phoning someone you might not otherwise call, but miss seeing in church.

Make Your Financial Donation

If you are unable to attend worship in person, you may mail a check to the church office or give electronically through the donate button on our church website: <http://www.fbcburlingtonvt.com> or through the smartphone app called Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Our ministries depend on the generous gifts of our members and friends. You can also give using this QR code. Thank you for your participation in sharing the love of God in our community and our world.



Opportunities for Fellowship & Learning

There is more to Church than Sunday mornings!

Weekday Bible Study - Mondays at 11:30am - We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. Please join us in person or remotely and feel free to bring your lunch. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024135383?pwd=b1pWcXRqZVo1Yjl2Zmh3Q2x5MXliZz09>

THE BOOK GROUP is reading **The Galapagos Islands** - A Spiritual Journey by Brian McLaren. Our next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 24 at 7pm via Zoom. We will discuss chapters 8-11.

FIRST BAPTIST HIKES! This time to Mount Philo in Charlotte! Join us at 9:45am on Saturday Nov 15 at the Mount Philo parking lot. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and snacks. Contact Rev. Mendes for more information. Sign up in the Narthex.

PLEDGE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 16. Our theme for this coming year is Bearing Witness, Living Joy. Thank you for your participation in our many ministries.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANS! Calling all angels, shepherds, magi, Holy Families, directors, and crew! The main cast will begin rehearsals on Saturday, Nov. 9. Full cast rehearsals will happen on Sunday, November 23 after worship and on Saturday, Dec. 20, time to be announced. Please speak with Rev. Mendes or Lois Lynch, if you are interested in participating in any capacity.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL on Thursdays at 7pm. Come sing with this melodious community! Contact Anna Roy at aroy@fbcburlingtonvt.com for more information.



FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP: All are invited to provide flowers for a worship service. This can be a meaningful way to memorialize a loved one or commemorate an important event and bring God's beautiful creations into the sanctuary to enhance our spirit of praise and joy in worship. Please call the church office to sign up for a particular Sunday.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Beginning on November 3, the church office hours will be Monday: 9am -2
Tuesday: 8am-12pm
Wednesday: Office Closed
Thursday 8am-12pm
Friday 9am-2pm.



PAST WORSHIP SERVICES... are available on our website and our YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0vIptkSAyIRbAilfDbGFIw>

Church School News

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANS! Calling all angels, shepherds, magi, Holy Families, directors, and crew! The main cast will begin rehearsals on Saturday, Nov. 9. Full cast rehearsals will happen on Sunday, November 23 after worship and on Saturday, Dec. 20, time to be announced. Please speak with Rev. Mendes or Lois Lynch, if you are interested in participating in any capacity.



Missions

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 23

This year we will be expanding our Thanksgiving Food offering to include items for the Feeding Chittenden Food Shelf and Anew Place. In addition to traditional Thanksgiving food items, please consider items from the grocery list below. Your contribution of non-perishable food items or money to buy turkeys can be dropped off in the Narthex on Sunday,

November 23.

List from Feeding Chittenden

- Canned proteins (Chicken, Beef, etc.),
- Peanut Butter,
- Cereals and Oatmeal,
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables,
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce,
- Rice,
- Shelf-Stable Juice & Milk,
- Toiletry Items (Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Body Wash, etc.),
- Diapers,
- Baby Food & Formula,
- Menstrual Hygiene Products,
- Cooking Oils & Spices



Mission News

I-89 Fundraiser:
We earned
\$338.97!!!!



We thank all goodie providers/shift workers who made it possible to have another successful I-89 Fundraiser on October 4. A big thank you to Lynn Blodgett, Ginger and Jim Calder, Lois D'Arcangelo, Deb Holonitch, Cindy and Dave Little, Lois Lynch, Bill McCormick, Marie Morton, Bev Nichols, Brenda Perkins, Karen Pope, Iris Roy, Pat Reasoner, Peni Saulnier, Fern Sparks and Jessica Wright.

We also thank our many soup, treat makers and volunteers for The Share our interfaith dinner with First United Methodist Church every Sunday at 430. We serve about 25-45 persons who are homeless or have food insecurity. We now need 3 soups every Sunday. Recent soup, treat makers and volunteers include Cindy and Dave Little, Deb Holonitch, Ginger Calder, Lois D'Arcangelo, Karen Pope, Jamie Burke, Debby Tate, Fern Sparks and Beth Gamache. We thank Fern for having a presence also in the dining room conversing with our guests. If you would like to make a soup or volunteer feel free to speak to Lois or Beth.

WARM CLOTHES FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED If you have an old coat in your closet that could benefit a visitor in our church yard or at ANEW Place, please bring it to church and it will be given as needed. More info in Green Steeple Weekly.





UGB Meeting



UGB Minutes October

FBC UGB Meeting Minutes October 20, 2025

Stu and Jeneva Burroughs volunteered to attend the ABC RGR Delegates Meeting on Zoom, November 1st. Karen will also attend. She has been nominated to join the ABCRGR Executive Board.

Reports were submitted in written format prior to the meeting.

- 1. Outreach Team** - Discussion if we should reconsider the I-89 fundraiser Fall of 2026. Will discuss closer to date.
- 2. Fellowship** - We have had several new visitors recently. We have a volunteer to organize the Children's library.
- 3. Music** - Steve shared that they are planning for the upcoming holiday season.
- 4. CE** - CE Committee has met regarding the part time position for the combined CE/Mission position. Up to 20 hours weekly/ \$25.00 /hr. Position will need to be voted on by UGB. Missions may fund their share of position (\$8,000.00) from the Dinwiddie fund. CE will need to access the Dinwiddie fund and Shaub/Whitney fund. A motion was made to advertise for the position. All were in favor. CE had \$533.43 remaining in backpack money. 19 backpacks were purchased for next year.
- 5. Property team** - Security Camera system approved on 10/12/25 by congregational vote. The right sided refrigerator failed. Gary Marcotte of Marcotte Appliances donated a gently used refrigerator on 10/21. A thank you note was sent. Front railing has supports in place until concrete work can be completed in the spring.
- 6. 139 Bank St Team** - See report - no questions/comments.
- 7. Church Historian** - Pat shared that the committee has not met in the last month.

UGB Meeting

UGB October Minutes Continued

FBC UGB Meeting Minutes October 20, 2025



Financial Reports: We received money from the Ann Hall estate.

TPF: Sarah Wright will offer a Stewardship moment 11/2 or 11/9.

Pastor's Report - Justice has resigned, last day 11/6/25. Position posted on Indeed and we have received 12 applicants; now thinned down to 6 applicants. The Dopp Recital was attended by 25 persons. Plan to request help with publicity for the Fall 2026 concert. Karen shared that Christmas Eve services last year were at 5 PM and 10 PM. She will speak with the Karen community and the choir to consider the possibility of one early service.

On 11/23, we will have the Thanksgiving processional and donations for those in need.

The next meeting is Monday November 17th at 7 PM via Zoom.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025 at 7pm

Admin's Corner

First Baptist Church,

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and warm hearts. I have to admit when I first started this job, I had no idea what to expect. I am grateful that the staffing team said yes to me because I feel like I gain more members in my Vermont Family. I have truly enjoyed all the talks, laughs and waving at you all through the church office window. Although, I am stepping down as administrator - I am not leaving the community. You'll see me around 😊. On my last day, I walked Pierre through FBC happenings & I am confident - you all are in good hands. **Keep God first, Love each other well, & Laugh A LOT!**

With Love,

Justice ☺





ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the Season with your Family of Faith

EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

Sunday, Nov. 23

“Greening of the Church”

Decorate the Sanctuary for
Advent & Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 7

“Christmas Tree Sunday”

Bring an ornament from home
to decorate our Sanctuary tree.

Sunday, Dec. 14

“Advent Stories and Songs

following worship”

Our Second Hour will be filled
with music and story.

Sunday, Dec. 21

“Christmas Sunday Worship”

Wonderful music and the
Christmas Pageant to celebrate
the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Sunday, Dec. 21, 4:00pm

“The Longest Night Service”

A Christmas service for those
who mourn.

Thursday, Dec 25

“Christmas Day Worship”

Celebrate Christmas Day with
our Karen Speaking Church
Family

Wednesday Dec. 24

“Christmas Eve Service”

Candlelight Service - 10:00pm

Afternoon of Dec. 28

“Christmas Caroling”

Bringing Christmas cheer to
our homebound members and
friends.

Sunday, Jan. 4

“Epiphany Party”

Join us for Three Kings Cake and
other treats as we celebrate the
Magi’s visit to the Christ Child.

For more information, contact the church office. 802-864-6515,
welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com

CONTACT US

Church Staff Directory

Rev. Karen A. Mendes - Pastor
Pastor Thee Say - Karen Baptist
Pastor
Pierre Compere - Church Administrator
Evan Allen - Organist
Anna Roy - Chancel Choir Director
Brenda Perkins - Youth Choir Director
The Karen Baptist Community - Sexton Team
Dazzling Diadem - Tech Support

Church Contact

Office: 802-864-6515

Conference: 802-864-4721

Email:

welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Website: www.fbcburlingtonvt.com

Visit Us On Facebook:

First Baptist Church, Burlington, VT.

Officers of First Baptist

Cindy Little - Moderator
Mark Paulsen - Assistant Moderator
Beth Gamache - Assistant Clerk
Frank Swasey - Treasurer
Daz Diadem - Assistant Treasurer
Marilyn Siple - Financial Secretary
Marie Morton - Assistant Financial Secretary
Pat Reasoner - Historian
Mark Paulsen - Parliamentarian

Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Tuesday: 8 AM - 12 PM

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 8 AM - 12 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 2 PM

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

The church office - welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Karen Mendes - revkamendes@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Evan Allen - eallen@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Anna Roy - aroy@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Financial Secretary - financialsecretary@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Karen Baptist Community - KBC@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Treasurer - treasurer@fbcburlingtonvt.com