

# Green Steeple Messenger



## **The Easter Season 50 Days of Celebration!**

The Easter Season is a 7 week-long party in which the Church Universal celebrates the joy and power of Christ's resurrection. This season is 1/7 of the year and so it can be thought of as a Season of Sabbath in which we lay aside our burdens and rest in the joy of God's love shown to us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Christ's resurrection from the dead is the heart of Christianity. Without the early church's experiences of the Risen Christ, no one today would remember the itinerant preacher from Nazareth named Jesus. None of the Gospels, none of Paul's letters, would have been written and shared. The small community who knew Jesus would not have continued.

HOWEVER, we do remember Jesus. His grace and power has transformed the world. We experience Christ in our midst today, just as the church has experienced him throughout the ages. We join with our sisters and brothers in faith to proclaim his victory over evil and death which reveals God's love for all.

SO, on Easter Sunday and for the next 7 weeks, let's share in this celebration. Even in the midst of all the grief and turmoil of today, let us claim the joy and courage that Jesus brings. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,  
~ Karen  
Rev. Karen A. Mendes  
Pastor



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE at FIRST BAPTIST

Maundy Thursday - April 2 - 6:00pm - Gather at the table with those who choose to be with Christ and his disciples.

Good Friday - April 3 - 12:00pm at First Congregational Church in Essex Jct. - We will gather with folks from 9 congregations in reflection as we honor Jesus' final hours on the cross.

Easter Sunrise Service - April 5 - 6:30am - at Petersholm Farm, Williston - Join us on the hill to welcome the rising sun (and Son!). Be sure to wear your boots!

Easter Worship - 10:00am - A glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection!

# WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Easter Communion, April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Sermon Title:** Fear and Great Joy

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:1-10

Easter 2, April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Sermon Title:** Peace Be With You

**Scripture:** John 20:19-31

Easter 3, April 19<sup>th</sup>

**Sermon Title:** Risky Business

**Scripture:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Easter 4, April 26<sup>th</sup>

**Sermon Title:** Acts 2:42-47

**Scripture:** What Do We Have in  
Common?

*The Rev. Steve Jewett will lead worship on April 19, 26, and May 3. Rev. Jewett was the pastor at Memorial Baptist Church in Middlebury and is a long-time friend of First Baptist.*

## Lenten Bible Readings

*From now until Easter we will follow Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew. Reflections on the texts can be shared in our Facebook group; First Baptist Burlington VT*

### Holy Week

Monday, March 30 .....	22:1-46
Tuesday, March 31 .....	23:1-39
Wednesday, April 1 .....	24:1-51
Thursday, April 2 .....	25:1-46
Friday, April 3 .....	26:1-75
Saturday, April 4 .....	27:1-66
Easter Sunday, April 5 .....	28:1-20

# Photos and Reflections



*Photo shared by the Archives Team!*

In this season of regeneration, let us take a moment to appreciate our roots. The First Baptist Church of Burlington was organized on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1834. It had an original congregation of five men and six women. While they had prior worship spaces in the city, our physical Church was dedicated on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

It saw the city grow around it. It stood the test of time.

We are a continuation of those efforts. This Spring, may our history support us in opening to novelty and rebirth. Together, let us continue the work of Preparing the Way for Love. In our city, in our Church, in our own hearts.



# Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

## There's more to Church than Sunday mornings!

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP** - On April 23-26 our Youth (with 3 adults) will travel to Boston to serve at the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain's Food Justice Program. We will be boxing up groceries and helping with a community meal. We will sleep at the First Baptist Church of Newton (where Rev. Mendes worked from 1996-2001). We will also have an opportunity to go into downtown Boston and learn about the history and the needs of the city. **We are looking for sponsors to support the trip.** Sponsors will receive a photo from the trip and a very grateful thank you. Speak to Rev. Mendes if interested.

**UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY** - This Spring, we will be updating the Church Directory. Two copies of the 2022 Directory are displayed in the Narthex. Please check to see if your information is up to date! If it is not, please fill out a First Baptist Church Directory Form in the Narthex and leave it in the Completed Forms Box. Alternatively, updated contact information can be emailed to [welcome@fbc Burlingtonvt.com](mailto:welcome@fbc Burlingtonvt.com). Robert Gillespie will be offering to take updated photos of members on April 12th and 19th after service, or you can email your photos to the office along with updated information.

**STEVE LEWIS' MEMORIAL SERVICE** will be Saturday, April 11 at 2pm. Marie is organizing the reception and If you feel you could help out with baking or buying cookies, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or you can contact Marie.

**MISSION TRIP MEETING** - Sunday, April 12 - All participants (and youth parents/guardians) will gather at 11:15 in Fellowship Hall to finalize plans, receive a packing list, and answer any questions.

**ABCRGR VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGIL** - Wed, April 15, 2026 on Zoom - Come together to lift up prayers for peace, dignity, compassion, and the protection of God's children's safety and dignity. We call upon our faith to give us strength and courage to stand together in hope. Register and receive the zoom link at <https://www.abcrgr.org/event-details/abcrgr-virtual-prayer-vigil-april-15-2026>

**GAME NIGHT!** Save the date for our Intergenerational Dinner and Game night on Friday, April 24th, 2026 at 6:30 PM. We will start with pizza followed by board/card type games for all ages. Bring your favorite game and be ready to learn some new ones!

**ABCRGR ANNUAL MTG** - Saturday May 2 - Save the date for the opportunity to worship, learn, and make decisions with our region churches via Zoom. Schedule and registration information will be forthcoming.

# Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning Continued

**NEW NEWSLETTER FROM BILL AND ANN CLEMER** - View the new Newsletter from Goma posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

**THE COTS WALK** - On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, FBC will join the COTS Walk which will start off at Battery Park on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm. Our team, Led by Robert Gillespie and Deb Holonitch, will be helping to raise funds to support COTS, Vermont's largest provider of services for Vermonters who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or marginally housed. To join the walking team, you can register with COTS online. Our team name is First Baptist Church, Burlington. For more information, email Robert at [rgillespie@fbc Burlingtonvt.com](mailto:rgillespie@fbc Burlingtonvt.com).

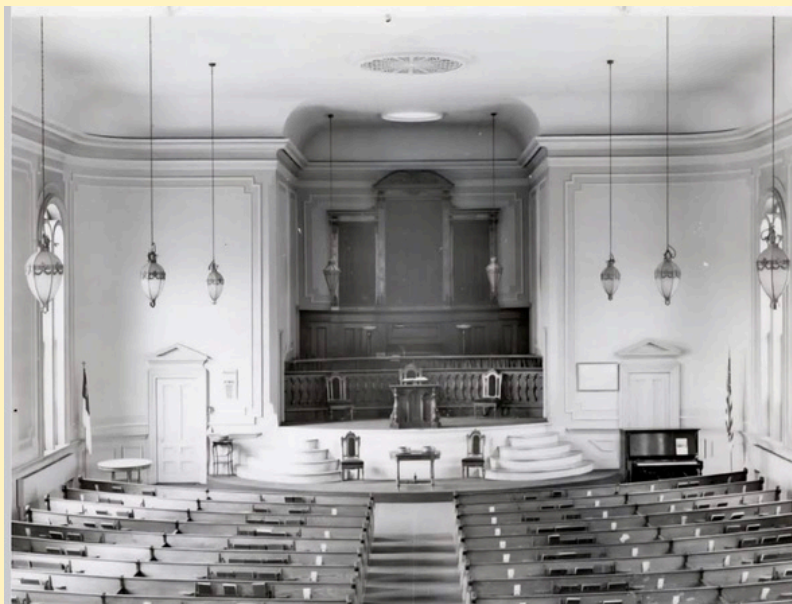
**FIRST BAPTIST HIKES** - Join us for a hike up Mt. Philo on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!** This year, the VBS will run from Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR** - Our Coffee hour happens on Tuesdays at 10am. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406?pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1Vldz09>

**WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY** - Mondays at 11:30am. We are exploring the Gospel of Mark. Please join in person or remotely and feel free to bring your lunch. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024135383?pwd=b1pWcXRqZVo1YjI2Zmh3Q2x5MXliZz09>

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL** on Thursdays at 7pm. Come sing with this melodious community! Contact Anna Roy at [aroy@fbc Burlingtonvt.com](mailto:aroy@fbc Burlingtonvt.com) for more information.



*Photo Shared by the Archives Team!*

# Christian Education News

We have several activities we are planning for April and May that I would like to bring to your attention. I also want to thank you again for your support with the Feb 27-28th Retreat to South Hero.

We are planning an Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 and under on Easter Sunday, April 5th. There will be no Church School that day, so we will begin the "hunt" after our 10:00AM service throughout the church.

There will also be another Game Night on Friday April 24 at 6:30PM. Join us for pizza and snacks! Bring a game, share a game, and enjoy fun with friends!

Our high school students will be leaving for their Mission trip to Boston on Thursday, April 23rd. Similar to last year, we are looking for sponsors that would be willing to contribute a gift financially. Sponsors will receive a heartfelt thank you note, and picture of the kids in Boston.

On Sunday May 3rd, starting at 1:00PM, First Baptist will have a team participating in the annual COTS walk, starting at Battery Park. Please contact me for our team username and password if you are interested in signing up.

All Scholarship applications for students planning post-secondary school or training in the fall are due by May 1st.

The dates for Vacation Bible School will be July 20-July 24, from 900AM-1200PM. More information to follow.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [rgillespie@fbc Burlingtonvt.com](mailto:rgillespie@fbc Burlingtonvt.com) or 802-363-4949. Thank you. - Robert

# Mission News

We thank Anne Tewksbury-Frye from JUMP for joining us March 8th for a Mission Moment and second hour discussion. JUMP is having their annual Online Auction April 8-17. If anyone would like to contribute to the online auction, they need to go online to obtain a donation form by April 1. <https://bit.ly/jumpauction2026>. Mission Outreach will be considering other ways to help JUMP in addition to our budgeted \$8,000 contribution in 2026. See announcements and inserts.

We thank our loyal soup makers for The Share: Cindy and Dave Little, Pat Reasoner, Deb Holonitch, Jamie Burke, Debby Tate and Beth Gamache. We also thank our servers Jamie, Debby, Lois D'Arcangelo and Beth.

The COTS walk is Sunday May 3rd. Robert Gillespie and Deb Holonich are coordinating the walk for FBC this year. For additional information, see announcements.

We are looking for one or two people to provide a Sunday evening meal for ANEW Place in September and October. The meal should be delivered to ANEW Place on North St. between 6 and 6:30 Sunday evening. The meal should serve 12-15 people plus a gallon of milk. Please speak to Beth if you are able to provide this meal, perhaps sharing prep with another church member. Adam Avery shared that we are able to select our preferred Sundays at this time.

Thank you  
Beth Gamache





**JUMP's Burlington Outreach Center** has been supporting Vermonters facing economic hardship for 38 years!

**How JUMP Helps:** In 2025, JUMP helped 4000+ adults & children from 33 towns with:

- Utility Assistance
- Bus Passes
- Food and Gas Vouchers
- Toiletries
- Laundromat & Thrift Store Vouchers
- Hospitality & Referrals

### **Who JUMP Helps:**

Anyone facing financial or personal challenges—including people who are unhoused, low-wage workers, people with disabilities, and those struggling to stay housed.

**All are welcome!**

# *Spring in for JUMP 2026*

## **Fundraising Auction**

*Building strong communities together*

**Online Auction April 8<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Help JUMP assist Vermonters in need by donating auction items like:*

- Gift Cards from Vermont businesses.
- Gift Cards from national businesses.
- Memberships... to museums, etc.
- Event Tickets.
- Gift Baskets with themes.
- Services of all sorts.
- Interesting, fun, unique items!

*... be creative, we welcome & need your support!*

*Be an auction business sponsor - JUMP will thank your business via social media, our website & in print.*

**To contribute to JUMP's online auction - use our online donation form by April 1:** <https://bit.ly/jumpauction2026>

**Auction Website:** <https://jumpvt.org/auction.html>

**Mailing Address:** JUMP, PO Box1657,Burlington,VT05402

**Phone:** 802-862-4501

**JUMP Outreach Center:** 38 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT

**For questions or more information please email [auction@jumpvt.org](mailto:auction@jumpvt.org)**

JUMP, The JointUrbanMinistryProject,Incisa Vermontnon-profit and IRS registered non-profit organization (EIN: 20-2055113).

# Community News

## April Birthdays!

- Lois D'Arcangelo 04/03
- Diane Babcock 04/03
- Celia Perkins 04/03
- Paw Wah 04/06
- Michael Lynch 04/07
- Daniel Paulsen 04/10
- Carrie Perkins 04/12
- Adam Schneider 04/17
- Mukho Paw 04/17
- "Pinky" LaCasse 04/19
- Jack Roy 04/19
- James Smith 04/25
- Jessica Wright 04/30

## April Anniversary!

Evan and Priscilla Smith - 53 years

## 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.



# UGB MEETING

## UGB Meeting Summary from March 16, 2026

The main focus of the UGB meeting was the sharing of information between teams:

- The Church Directory is in the process of being updated with new information, and Robert will be offering to take updated photos on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Vacation Bible School dates have been set for July 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 12:00pm.
- FBC has been registered for the annual COTS walk on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Organization continues for the Youth Mission Trip to Boston. We are still seeking two chaperones to accompany the trip.
- The congregational vote passed (03/15/26) to install a stairlift at the back entrance of the Church. The property team will proceed with the permitting process, electrical needs, and ordering the lift.
- Rev. Mendes provided an update regarding the ABCUSA Lawsuit against DHS. Currently, our church is the only church with legal protection against warrantless immigration enforcement in Burlington. Rev Mendes will update her downtown clergy colleagues.

The next UGB Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on Zoom.

# Contact Us!

## Church Staff Directory

Rev. Karen A. Mendes - Pastor  
Pastor Thee Say - Karen Baptist Pastor  
Robert Gillespie - Director of Christian Edu  
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

## 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

## CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

The church office - [welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Karen Mendes - [revkamendes@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:revkamendes@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Evan Allen - [eallen@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:eallen@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Anna Roy - [aroy@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:aroy@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Treasurer - [treasurer@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:treasurer@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Financial Secretary - [financialsecretary@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:financialsecretary@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Karen Baptist Community - [KBC@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:KBC@fcburlingtonvt.com)

## CHURCH CONTACT

**Office: 802-864-6515**

**Conference: 802-864-4721**

**Email: [welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com)**

**Website: [www.fcburlingtonvt.com](http://www.fcburlingtonvt.com)**

**Visit Us On Facebook: [First Baptist Church, Burlington, VT.](#)**

**PAST WORSHIP SERVICES...**

**are available on our website and our YouTube Channel.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0vlptkSAyIRbAilfDb>**

**GFlw**

