

BEARING WITNESS, LIVING JOY



I have always loved the month of September. Despite being the 9th month of the year, it is a time of new beginnings as we dive into the activities of the school year and our regular life with “the enthusiasm of the rested”. September is a month for reconnecting with folks after vacation. It is a month of excitement and anticipation of new activities. It is a month full of potential.

This year, September feels different as we learn about and respond to dramatic changes in our nation. Our calling is to pay attention and respond as needed while also resting in our faith traditions and community. Jesus calls us to bear witness. Jesus also calls us to live with joy. Our life together will strive for balance between caring for others and caring for ourselves. We must not turn away from the suffering we see but we must also pay attention to the joy and peace that we can find in our daily lives. Our worship services and our ministry opportunities will encourage, support, and challenge us as we follow Jesus' call.

On September 14, we will have a special worship service followed by our Ice Cream Sunday and Ministry Fair where we can peruse our many opportunities for ministry while eating delicious ice cream! Please plan to join us and invite your friends and neighbors.

The Holy Spirit is moving here at First Baptist. We look forward to seeing you.

**YOURS, IN CHRIST,
REV. KAREN A. MENDES
PASTOR**

Anniversaries

09/03 – David & Diana Hall 31 years

09/07 – Dan & Kathy Browne 43 years

09/13 – Faith & Debbie Landry 11 years

09/25 – Eric & Rachel Little 9 years



Birthdays

09/02 Karen Mendes

09/04 Edson Bigelow

09/04 Alex Bergeron

09/04 Robert Klandl

09/05 Nathan Hayes

09/05 Justin Hayes

09/08 Beth Gamache

09/08 Blu Ozone Wah

09/09 Steven DeRestie



09/10 Deborah Hayes

09/11 Nicholas Mendes

09/11 Lindsay Hayes Bergeron

09/12 Max Balderas

09/17 Galen Perkins

09/17 Joan Taylor

09/22 Sarah Joly

09/22 Steve Lewis

09/24 Kyle Chu

09/29 Jesse DuRona



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.

Making 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 (which is new).

Thank you for your participation in sharing the love of God in our community and our world.



Worship services for September



Sept 7

Communion

Psalm 139:1-18

Still With You

Sept 14

Ice Cream Sunday

Luke 15:1-10

Rejoice With Me

Sept 21

Luke 16:1-13

Faithfulness (or not)

Sept 28

Luke 16:19-31

Just Deserts (not a sweet treat)

Sept 7 -Biennial Sermon - Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard

Sept 14 - Ice Cream & Ministry Fair

Sept 21 - Biennial Sermon - Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula

Sept 28 - Biennial Sermon - Rev. Dr. Zau Sam Lahtaw

Opportunities for Fellowship & Learning

New and Returning Study and Fellowship Groups:

There is more to Church than Sunday mornings! Signup and information about all of these groups and opportunities will be available on September 14 at our Ministry Fair or through the church office.

Weekday Bible Study - Mondays at 11:30am - beginning Sept. 22:

We will be continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke. Please join us in person or remotely and feel free to bring your lunch. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024135383?pwd=b1pWcXRqZVo1Yjl2Zmh3Q2x5MXliZz09>

Zoom Coffee Hour - Our Coffee hour will move to Tuesdays at 10am beginning on Sept

16. Zoom link is [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024135383?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024135383?pwd=b1pWcXRqZVo1Yjl2Zmh3Q2x5MXliZz09)

[pwd=b1pWcXRqZVo1Yjl2Zmh3Q2x5MXliZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024135383?pwd=b1pWcXRqZVo1Yjl2Zmh3Q2x5MXliZz09)

All Church Hike - Saturday, Sept 20 we will hike together to a beautiful summit.

Vote for your choice location at the Ministry Fair.

Seekers' Book Group – At the Ministry Fair we will have the opportunity to choose our next book from among these three choices; The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Galapagos Islands by Brian McLaren, or The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory; American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism by Tim Alberta. The Book Group will meet on Monday evenings via Zoom at 7pm starting on October 6.

Spring Youth Mission Trip - We are beginning to make plans for our return to Boston on April 23-26, 2026. We have been invited back to the Food Hub of First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain.

DOPP ORGAN RECITAL: We are thrilled to continue the Dopp Organ Recital in memory of Katherine and Sarah Dopp. The recital will take place in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 12 at 3pm. Our featured organist will be Peter Berton, the Director of Music and Cathedral Arts at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Burlington. The program will include works by J. S. Bach, Peter Berton, Frank Bridge, Louis-Nicolas Clérambault, Gerre Hancock, Julius Reubke, and Billy Strayhorn, with an audience-participation hymn "O Praise ye the Lord."

Church School News

August 24 was Backpack Sunday. There was a blessing of the backpacks that day. Both ones we are giving and any coming from home were blessed and given on that day. Dear Congregation, We thank you for your generosity. We have some seed money left over for next year.

Your team and teachers are working joyfully to be ready for the start of Sunday School. There was a teachers meeting on August 21st. Church School begins on September 14th. There will be exuberant kids and noises to brighten our worship. Most students will be in the same classroom as last year.. The Elementary team is Karen Pope, Jamie Burke, Hser Ku and Lois Lynch. The Middler team is Sarah Wright, Sa Lia Moo and her husband, Tho Du Soe. The Youth class will be taught by Brenda Perkins. Don't forget the first day of class will be followed by our annual Ice Cream Sundae social and service opportunities fair.

Mission News

We will again this year host our Fall fundraiser bake sale Saturday, October 4th at the Northbound rest area of I -89 in Williston. The hours are 8 am -4 pm. Joan Taylor will have our signup poster in the church Narthex by September 7th. We need volunteers to make the treats and also volunteers to sign up for 2 hour intervals at the rest area greeting visitors and selling our delicious treats. We thank our August soup makers and volunteers for "The Share". Soupmakers include Fern Sparks, Cindy and Dave Little , Lois D'Archangelo, Deb Holonich and Beth Gamache. We also thank Jamie Burke for providing a meal for ANEW Place on September 7.

Mission News

We are awaiting a fall date from Adam Avery from ANEW Place for an after church luncheon and information session.

Please check out the Mission Outreach bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. There is a handwritten note from Dian Sowards, founder of Friends of Burma thanking us for the \$1,872 contribution. Also there is information on how the money was used in the Karen State of Myanmar.

In June, members and friends of First Baptist gave \$495 to ABC International Ministries One Great Hour of Sharing emergency relief for partners who are providing humanitarian relief to the victims of the earthquake.

Beth Gamache and Joan Taylor

UGB Meeting

UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD - AUG. 11, 2025

New Namuna Anniversary Celebration – Aug 23	Church Picnic – Aug. 24	New Alpha Revival – Aug. 21-23 at 7pm. Rev. Mendes will preach on Aug. 23
ANEW Place – Sept 7	Ice Cream Sunday and Ministry Fair – Start of Church School & Chancel Choir – Sept. 14	All Church Hike – Sept 20
ANEW Place Lunch and Learn – sometime in Oct.	I89 Northbound Rest Stop Fundraisers – Oct. 4	World Communion Sunday – Oct. 5 – New Namuna Nepali Church will hopefully join us.
Dopp Organ Recital – Oct. 12		

UGB Meeting

COMMITTEE/TEAM REPORTS

1. Outreach Team – Noodles for Burma raised \$1872 for Friends of Burma. The I89 Rest Stop Fundraiser will be Oct 4. Volunteers are needed.
2. Fellowship Team - We expressed appreciation to Mark Paulsen and Cindy Little in working with the guest preachers this summer. There was discussion about spiffing up the choir loft and the possibility that the choir might find an alternative location for the Thursday evening rehearsals.
3. Education Team – The Teachers will meet on Aug. 21 to plan Church School. We are thrilled to welcome 3 new people to the team. The Backpack Drive was again a great success with Backpacks given and blessed on Aug. 24.
4. Property Team – Chocolate Thunder Security began nightly patrols on Aug. 20. The Property Team is coming in each morning to assess and clean up any mess. A motion was voted on to look into the cost and process of installing a fence around the property. Other security options were also discussed including cameras. The need for an AED (automatic external defibrillator) was discussed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Treasurer – We are doing fine as our pledges are coming in and our expenses are being contained. Thank you to all who support our ministries.
2. TPF – There was discussion about investing some funds in our new Region of Rochester/Genessee. The Executive Minister is on Sabbatical now so we will reach out to them again later this fall.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Rev. Mendes thanked everyone for their work while she was away. Lots of plans are in the works for this upcoming Programmatic Year. She shared news from the Biennial in Omaha including that the next Biennial will be in Rochester.

Next meeting is 09/15/2025 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Admin's Corner

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS For the month of September, the church office hours will be flexible on Mondays and Tuesdays with set hours on Thursday from 9am-12:30pm. On Wednesdays the Financial Officers will be in the office. On Fridays the office will be open by appointment only. Please call or email before coming downtown during the week so that we can be sure to welcome you into the building.

How to contact us?

Church Staff Directory

Rev. Karen A. Mendes - Pastor

Pastor Thee Say - Karen Baptist Pastor

Justice Elijah - 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 CONTACT

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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/UC0vIptkSAyIRbAilfDbGFIw>