

Green Steeple Messenger



FINDING GOD IN BOSTON AND IN BURLINGTON

9 youth and 3 adults spent 4 days in the Boston area doing service in Jamaica Plain and exploring Boston and Newton, MA. It was a powerful trip with new experiences leading to new ideas about living out our faith.

During the month of May we will be stretching our imaginations as we prepare to participate in the Thriving Congregations Initiative from ABCRGR. We will ponder new ideas and perspectives about First Baptist's ministries. We will look at our strengths and our challenges. We will consider new uses for space in our building. We will discuss new ways to reach out to people and partners in our neighborhood. In this way we will get ready to do a survey this summer and discern a project for the coming year.

It will be important to think deeply and expansively as we discern together our calling for the future. This is an exciting opportunity for us to grow together in faith and service.

Yours in Christ,

~ Karen

Rev. Karen A. Mendes
Pastor



WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Easter 5, Communion, May 3rd

Sermon Title: "Show Us -"

Scripture: John 14:1-11

Easter 6, Mother's Day May 10th

Sermon Title: The Advocate

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Ascension, May 17th

Sermon Title: We Are Witnesses

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53

Pentecost, May 24th

Sermon Title: Pentecost Power

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Trinity Sunday, May 31st

Sermon Title: In the Beginning

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:4a



UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN MAY AND JUNE

You won't want to miss any!

- **May 3** - Guest preacher - Rev. Steve Jewett
- **May 10** - Mothers' Day and Mission Trip reflections - The youth will share short reflections about the Mission Trip during worship
- **May 25** - Pentecost Sunday - Due to the Vermont City Marathon, we will have our Worship Service at Veterans Park in South Burlington at 10am.
- **June 7** - Music Appreciation Sunday
- **June 14** - Church School Sunday and Fathers' Day - The Youth will share a slide show from the Mission Trip.

Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

There's more to Church than Sunday mornings!

ABCRGR ANNUAL MTG - Saturday May 2 - Rev Karen will be attending this meeting in person. Those who would like to participate remotely can contact Cindy Little for registration information.

THE COTS WALK - On May 3rd, FBC will join the COTS Walk which will start off at Battery Park on Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 pm. Our team, led by 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 welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS - The Christian Education Team plans to award modest scholarships again this year. Applicants should have an ongoing relationship with one of the two church communities, should be enrolled in a post-high school educational program, a college, or training program either full or part time. Applications are available at the table in the Narthex. Applications may be mailed or emailed to applicants who call the office and request a form. The deadline for applications is May 30th. We also encourage college students to apply for assistance through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation as soon as possible.

ARCHIVES EXHIBIT - Sundays May 10 and 17 there will be a display in the narthex of a few interesting items from our archives. The exhibit will include items related to the Hook organ, Katherine Dopp, letters related to American Baptist foreign fields, Dr Clara Leach's work and memorabilia, albums of photos, vital records, etc. We would encourage everyone to stop by and touch our history as an American Baptist Church. Since this time last year many records have been transferred to the archives at UVM, others to the VTNH Region and some to the ABCUSA national archives at Mercer University. The display is arranged by the archives team: Mary Swasey, Cindy Little, Jeneva Burroughs and Pat Reasoner.

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

Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning Continued

NOODLES FOR BURMA FUNDRAISER – In February 2021 Myanmar's democratically elected government was overthrown by the Myanmar military. Since then thousands of people have been killed and many more have been injured in protests and resistance against the coup. Join us at First Baptist Church, 81 Saint Paul St., Burlington on Sat, June 6 for delicious takeout Burmese noodles. Noodle options are vegetarian or chicken with vegetables. All proceeds will go to help folks in Burma (Myanmar). RSVPs can be made at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48ADAA2DA4FE3-63815040-noodles> for pickup between 4:30 and 7:30pm. For more information, please email welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com.

PENTECOST - OUT IN THE WORLD - Pentecost is May 24, and because of the VT City Marathon, we will be worshipping that morning at Veterans Park in South Burlington. We have reserved their Band Shell and Covered Pavillion. We will sing, pray, read Scripture, ponder the Word, and feel the winds of the Spirit moving around us. Stay tuned for more details about this special day.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! This year, VBS will run from Mon August 10th to Fri August 14th. Our theme is "What Every Living Thing Needs" based on Psalm 104. We are looking for adult and youth volunteers.

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>



An Update from the Office

Hello Friends,

I hope each of you is well in this season of opening and renewal. It has been many years since I have lived through a Vermont Spring. What a joy! I am struck by the parallel movement between my environment and my internal world. It feels like the world itself becomes my teacher. It seems to beckon me along in my own growth.

I wanted to share a few updates with you all. From **May 25th to August 7th**, I will be continuing my training in Interfaith Chaplaincy at the UVM Medical Center. I will be taking an intensive summer course for my second unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education). Karen, Cindy, and the Staff Relations Committee have generously agreed to support this process by allowing me to complete my tasks as Administrator more remotely.

Between May 25th and August 7th, Office Hours will be held **Fridays from 9am to 2pm**. If you need access to the Church at another time, please send an email and I will make an effort to facilitate requests on a case-by-case basis. While I will be working full time at the hospital, I will be regularly checking emails, sending out the Green Steeple Weekly, preparing the bulletins, and generally keeping the office running smoothly. Please note that the Green Steeple Weekly will be sent out on Friday rather than Thursday during the summer months.

I am deeply grateful for this community, and am honored to support it in whatever small ways I can. Your faith informs me. Your generosity heartens me. Your hearts speak for themselves - individually and collectively.

Thank you.

Onwards!

Pierre



Christian Education News

As has been announced, Robert Gillespie, our Christian Education Director, resigned after Easter creating a need to regroup and find leadership for planned programs. Thank you to Deb Holonitch who stepped forward to host the Family Game Night on April 24th. Thanks also to Cindy Little who has been leading the effort to organize the Vacation Bible Camp assisted by Beth Gamache, Lynn Blodgett and Lois Lynch. Bible Camp will be held August 10-14, 9:00am to 12:00pm. We plan on classes to include kids from ages 6 through high school. Our Curriculum is "Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs". The team is seeking volunteers for various roles including shopping, transportation, helpers for class support during bible lesson time, physical activity time, music time, snacks and lunch. Your help is so needed and appreciated. Stay tuned for future progress reports and opportunities to support this ministry. Registration forms are on the back table.

In the meantime the youth have gone to Boston to help out with a Food Justice Ministry sponsored by FBC Jamaica Plains, MA. Youth will or already have reported about their experience by the time you read this. Thank you to Pastor Karen Mendes, Hai Blui and Dave Little for driving and chaperoning the trip. Our teens are a great bunch.

Sunday School classes continue with their curriculum and teachers. Now that the weather is better we are hoping for more attendance in classes. Classes will soon begin planning for our June 14th Sunday School celebration. It is already time for the CE team to begin planning for next fall. Suggestions and feedback are sincerely appreciated.

Scholarships: It's time for students and adults who are pursuing post high school training or college education to apply for an FBC scholarship. Applications will be available on the round table in the Narthex. Completed applications may be sent to or dropped off in the office. Awards will be announced in June.

Mission News

Mission Outreach

The annual COTS walk is Sunday May 3rd. Deb Holonitch is our leader this year. Any contributions can be given to Deb. Walkers are welcome to join Deb and her child, Kat. In addition feel free to join the fun over at Battery Park starting at 1pm with the walk scheduled to begin at 2 PM.

We continue to give thanks for our soup makers for The Share. Soup makers in April were Deb Holonitch, Pat Reasoner, Cindy and Dave Little, Jamie Burke, Debby Tate and Beth Gamache. Jamie , Debby, Lois D'Arcangelo and Beth also served at the Share. Sign ups for Sunday evening soups are in the narthex on the round table. If you are interested in participating in this Outreach event please speak to Lois or Beth.

We are looking for volunteers to prepare a Sunday evening meal at ANEW Place. A simple meal for 20-24 people can be delivered to ANEW Place on North St. between 6 and 6:30 pm. ANEW Place opens their calendar 2 months in advance. Our church usually provides 3 meals each year. Speak to Beth Gamache if you could provide a meal or pair up with a friend to prepare the meal.

Thank you all,
Beth Gamache



Community News

May Birthdays!

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Dazz Diadem 05/03 | • James Soter 05/08 |
| • Andrew Farrington 05/04 | • Rod Scott 05/10 |
| • Dylan Couture 05/04 | • Beverly Nichols 05/14 |
| • Francis Swasey 05/05 | • Linda Hayes 05/16 |
| • Christopher Swasey 05/06 | • James Calder 05/16 |
| • Gracelyn Hser 05/07 | • Vicki Gaylord 05/26 |
| • Moira Allard 05/08 | • Gladys Laura 05/30 |

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 from April 20, 2026

Some of the highlights from our monthly meeting were:

- The Archives Team will set up a historical display in the Narthex for May 10th and 17th. A lot of time has been spent going through our church's treasures! Some of the items are related to Dr. Clara Leach, Katherine Dopp and the Hook organ, and various historical mission letters and family resettlements, among other things. Everyone will find this interesting!
- The Guatemalan Consulate used our church on April 17th and 18th and helped 150 Guatemalans living in VT to do a variety of things such as passport applications. They were so grateful for a safe place to host this event and will return in 2 years. They go to churches all over New England for this purpose.
- Mission Outreach sent \$300 on our behalf to America for Christ offering.
- We need volunteers to prepare a meal for ANEW Place. 12-15 people eat a simple meal there and the food should be delivered between 6:00 and 6:30. Speak to Beth Gamache or Joan Taylor if you are able to do that.
- The new stairlift was installed on April 24th. It will be inspected in early May and then be available for use.
- The Christian Education Team is in the planning stage for offering Vacation Bible School this summer, August 10-14. If you would like to help in any way, we can use you! Contact Lois Lynch or Cindy Little. Registration forms are on the back table in the Narthex.
- The Christian Education Team is accepting applications for advanced study scholarships. Applications can be found on the back table in the Narthex.
- Karen has reserved Veteran's Park (Bandshell and Pavilion) for our Pentecost worship service on May 24th. It is on Dorset Street. This is the day of the Vermont City Marathon and it is extremely difficult to have our service that day in our building due to being surrounded by the race.
- Rev. Steve Jewett is covering the worship services for the 3 Sundays when Karen is away.

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

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@fbcbburlingtonvt.com
Karen Mendes - revkamendes@fbcbburlingtonvt.com
Evan Allen - eallen@fbcbburlingtonvt.com
Anna Roy - aroy@fbcbburlingtonvt.com
Treasurer - treasurer@fbcbburlingtonvt.com
Financial Secretary - financialsecretary@fbcbburlingtonvt.com
Karen Baptist Community - KBC@fbcbburlingtonvt.com

CHURCH CONTACT

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PAST WORSHIP SERVICES...

are available on our website and our YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0vlpkSAYlRbAilfDb>

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