

Green Steeple

Messenger



Preparing the Way for Love

The Season of Lent has the stereotype of being a time when we give up something we enjoy for a reason not always made clear. Today, Lent is an opportunity for all of us to learn and be renewed as we prepare the way for Love in our hearts and in the world. Ways in which we can do this include:

- listening for God's call to us in worship each Sunday.
- filling out "prayer pledge cards" committing to pray everyday.
- following the daily readings of the Gospel of Matthew.
- participating in the activities included in this newsletter.
- attending the special Holy Week services in April.

In addition to these, we can deepen our Lenten experience by intentionally committing ourselves to growth and discipleship. From the following list of Lenten disciplines, choose those to which you are called.

- Spend time in solitude each day.
- Visit a homebound neighbor or church member.
- Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- Keep a Prayer Journal of concerns, questions, and affirmations.
- Give blood.
- Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- Rebuke the spirit of criticism and gossip in yourself.
- Participate in a social cause consistent with the Gospel.
- Give yourself a gift of three hours to do something you always say you don't have time to do.
- Cook for The Share meals.

It is a joy and a privilege to be in ministry with you. I am glad to be preparing the Way for Love with this great community of faith.

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

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Lent 2 Communion, March 1st

Sermon Title: Prepare the way for
Love In the World

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Lent 3, March 8th

Sermon Title: Prepare the way for Love
With our Witness

Scripture: John 4:5-42

Lent 4, March 15th

Sermon Title: Prepare the way for Love
With Truth!

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Lent 5, March 22nd

Sermon Title: Prepare the way
for Love

Scripture: John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday Combined Worship, March 29th

Sermon Title: Hosanna in the Highest Heaven

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

**Second Hours in March - Prophetic Church, Public Witness - a series offered by the
Center for Continuous Learning from American Baptist Home Mission Society.**

March 1 Rediscovering God's Purpose for Governance

March 8 Anne Tewksbury-Frye, President of J.U.M.P. Board

March 15 Discernment as a Public Practice

March 22 Repairing the Breach

March 29 Speaking Truth in Love

The Series will end on April 12 Faithful Action and Hope

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15 following worship to discuss and vote on the purchase and installation of a stair lift to be used in case of elevator issues. The motion to be voted on is as follows: *The UGB makes the motion that the church authorize the expenditures not to exceed \$12,000 on the installation of a stairlift on the southwest stairs from the ground floor to the sanctuary for use only when the elevator is out of commission. The UGB voted to use the Ann Hall memorial gift to cover this cost, the creation and installation of a plaque, and the remainder of the \$13,466.38 gift be turned over to TPF for the memorial fund in Ann's name.*

Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

There's more to Church than Sunday mornings!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY - We are reading *Nonviolence; The History of a Dangerous Idea* by Mark Kurlansky as part of an Interfaith Book Group with other downtown faith communities. We meet on Tuesdays, at 5:30pm, in person and on Zoom. We have 1 copy still available for purchase or you can get the book from your favorite source. For more information, contact Rev. Mendes. The website (which has info and a [registration link](#)) is - <https://bit.ly/ReadingTogetherBTV> .

A COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM is being organized in response to the increased fear of ICE among our New American communities. If you are willing to give rides, pick up groceries, stand with families at bus spots, or otherwise be of support, please contact Rev. Mendes to be added to a confidential list.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY - Mondays at 11:30am. We are exploring the Book of Daniel. Please join 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 happens on Tuesdays at 10am. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406?pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1Vldz09>

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

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM - There are many opportunities in our wider communities to speak out and act on our faith such as vigils and letter writing campaigns. We know that many First Baptist folk are active in these ways. So we are organizing a new Social Justice Team through which those who are interested can receive notice of these community events and perhaps attend together. The Team might also want to organize events for First Baptist or share their experiences with the congregation. If you are interested in being part of the Social Justice Team, please respond directly to revkamendes@fbc Burlingtonvt.com.

JOIN OUR PRAYER CHAIN - First Baptist has an email list of folks who pray for members of our community and the wider world. They receive a weekly prayer chain update and emails for urgent needs. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please email welcome@fbc Burlingtonvt.com or contact Mark Paulsen.

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

Week 1

Wednesday, Feb. 181:1-25
Thursday, Feb. 19 2:1-23
Friday, Feb. 20 3:1-17
Saturday, Feb. 214:1-11

Week 2

Sunday, Feb. 224:12-25
Monday, Feb. 235:1-20
Tuesday, Feb 245:21-48
Wednesday, Feb 256:1-15
Thursday, Feb 266:16-34
Friday, Feb 277:1-12
Saturday, Feb 287:13-28

Week 3

Sunday, March 18:1-17
Monday, March 28:18-9:1
Tuesday, March 39:2-17
Wednesday, March 49:18-38
Thursday, March 510:1-23
Friday, March 610:24-42
Saturday, March 711:1-15

Week 4

Sunday, March 811:16-30
Monday, March 912:1-14
Tuesday, March 1012:15-37
Wednesday, March 1112:38-50
Thursday, March 1213:1-23
Friday, March 1313:24-43
Saturday, March 1413:44-58

Week 5

Sunday, March 1514:1-21
Monday, March 1614:22-36
Tuesday, March 1715:1-20
Wednesday, March 1815:21-39
Thursday, March 1916:1-12
Friday, March 2016:13-28
Saturday, March 2117:1-9

Week 6

Sunday, March 2217:10-27
Monday, March 2318:1-20
Tuesday, March 2418:21-35
Wednesday, March 2519:1-15
Thursday, March 2619:16-30
Friday, March 2720:1-16
Saturday, March 2820:17-34

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 2921:1-46
Monday, March 3022:1-46
Tuesday, March 3123:1-39
Wednesday, April 124:1-51
Thursday, April 225:1-46
Friday, April 326:1-75
Saturday, April 427:1-66
Easter Sunday, April 528:1-20





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE at FIRST BAPTIST

Palm Sunday- March 29 - 10:00am - Join us as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and look ahead to the events of Holy Week.

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!

Christian Education News

We have been actively looking at curriculum presented at First Baptist as well as curriculum being used at other local churches. I've had the privilege of sitting down with representatives from other congregation's education programs and discussing their methods and materials. This will hopefully allow for an opportunity to make certain we are offering the most effective and organized teachings.

We also planned for a youth retreat to South Hero, VT for Feb 27-28, which includes the older students in our classes. The younger groups will be participating in Family Game Night, which is also scheduled for Friday, February 27.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at rgillespie@fbc Burlingtonvt.com.

Thank you and have a great March!

Community News

On February 8th,
Ginger Calder's mother
Peg Randall turned
100.

What a joy to witness
such intergenerational
familial connection!



Mission News

We continue to appreciate our soup-makers and volunteer servers for The Share. Thanks to Dave and Cindy Little, Jamie Burke, Debby Tate, Deb Holonitch, Lois D'Arcangelo and Beth Gamache for the soups. Thank you to Jamie, Debby, Lois and Beth for serving our guests.

We were blessed to receive an extremely generous donation of winter coats from the First Congregational Church in Essex. Beth delivered them to the First United Methodist in Burlington. They were extremely well received and many of our Share guests were most appreciative.

Lois D'Arcangelo has reached out to one of our JUMP coordinators, Anne Tewksbury-Frye who will be providing a Mission moment and second hour discussion March 8.

Beth reached out to our Mission Counterparts at our region, ABC Rochester/Genesee, and we will be included in their upcoming spring Outreach meeting. We will be collecting for the America for Christ Offering in March.

Thanks to all,
Beth Gamache



Mission News Continued

America for Christ Offering

During the month of March we contribute to the America for Christ offering which allows our American Baptist Home Mission Societies to partner with ABC churches, community groups, ABC seminaries and institutions to financially support them in:

- cultivating strong leaders to advance the mission of faith communities.
- equipping disciples to broaden the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- healing communities with the power of Christian love which will change the world.

(100% of your AFC donation is utilized to support and fund our ministries. ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for its own purposes. When you support AFC, you support your community and communities across the US and Puerto Rico. One third of the offering supports our region.)

Lamentations 3:22-23 "Because of God's great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

ABC United Mission Giving....A letter from Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacob/Strain, General Secretary of ABCUSA is posted on our Mission Outreach bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. It lists the many ways our United Mission giving is able to offer ministries and programs that directly strengthen our churches, leaders, and touches lives in ways only God can accomplish. First Baptist contributes to United Missions quarterly from our mission budget.

"Sixty-five percent (65%) goes to our Rochester/Genesee region and 35% is allocated to the office of the General Secretary, the Mission Initiative Fund, national organizations, and career centers."

In 2026, First Baptist has allocated \$8,150 (30% of our total mission budget) for ABC United Mission giving.

Photos and Reflections

For our Church Community, this has been a season of loss. Together, let us continue to honor the lives of Steve Lewis, Jane Glenna Calder Floyd, Shirley Logan, Malcolm Floyd Severance and Barbara Moquin. Their obituaries are posted on the Bulletin Board across from the library.

A community sometimes feels like a forest. Woven together in ways seen and unseen, we stand up to storm and tempest. We are bound by roots, trunks, boughs and moss. Please know that you are loved, that you are supported, and that you are not alone. May we aspire to reveal the living mystery of God's Love to each other as a community. As a Church.

This is the great gift, let us share it with gratitude, humility and loving hearts.

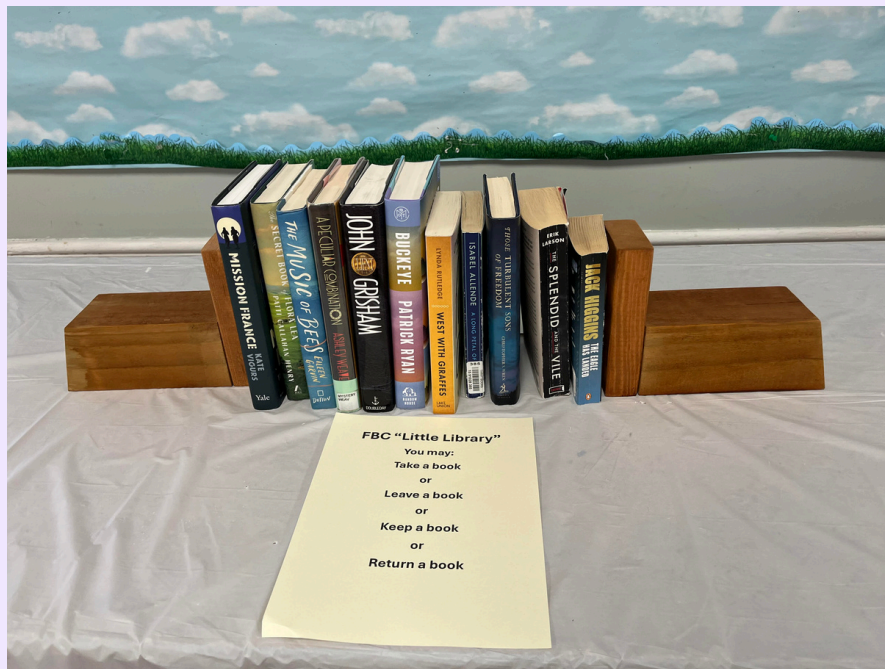


Community News

March Birthdays!

- Betty Capponi 03/04
- Jed Perkins 03/04
- Thomas Couture 03/12
- Jeneva Burroughs 03/14
- Norman Boyden 03/17
- Amelia Briggs 03/19
- Joanne Rittwage 03/21
- Jeneva Stone 03/22
- Melanie McCormick 03/23
- Sarah Wright 03/25
- Heather Cooper 03/26
- Jamie Burke 03/27
- Mary Swasey 03/29
- Faith Landry 03/29
- Evan Smith 03/31

Come visit the “Little Library!”



A "Little Library" has been set up in Fellowship Hall. It is designed for sharing books of all genres: fiction, non-fiction, young adult, children's books, etc. Folks are welcome to contribute, borrow or keep the books.

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.fbc Burlingtonvt.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.



**Transfiguration Worship
was enlived by Jazz music.**

Thank you to Evan Allen, Bill Mason, Steve Perkins, Sarah Joly, Don Spawn and our wonderful Choir for sharing their gifts.



UGB MEETING

UGB Meeting Summary from February 16, 2026

The main focus of the UGB meeting was a presentation from the Property Team, led by David Little regarding the stairlift. At the annual meeting in January, we asked for the team to explore further about the possibility of installing one for use when the elevator isn't functioning.

Dave described the work the team has done to research stairlifts and they have 2 bids. The first is a Stannah stairlift valued at \$6,825 and the second is a Bruno valued at \$8,815. The team is still researching the best option. Additional costs will include electrical work and a building permit.

Steve Perkins made the motion that the church authorizes the expenditures not to exceed \$12,000 on the installation of a stairlift on the southwest stairs from the ground floor to the sanctuary for use only when the elevator is out of commission. Frank Swasey seconded it. After a good discussion and many questions asked and answered, the vote was unanimous in favor of bringing it to a special meeting of the congregation in 3 weeks or so.

Later in the meeting we approved using the Ann Hall memorial gift to cover this cost, the creation and installation of a plaque, and the remainder of the \$13,466.38 gift be turned over to TPF for the memorial fund in Ann's name.

We will need to work to keep children off it. Initially an usher will be needed to assist.

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

CHURCH CONTACT

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Website: 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

