

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY - ISSUE #4



GREEN STEEPLE MESSENGER

GREEN STEEPLE | GRATEFUL PEOPLE | GROWING IN FAITH |
PROCLAIMING GOD'S LOVE | SHARING CHRIST IN BURLINGTON AND BEYOND



FIRST BAPTIST HERE AND AWAY



On April 24, 12 First Baptist folk drove to Massachusetts for a 4 day mission trip. We stayed at the First Baptist Church in Newton and we worked with the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain. Our group of 9 youth and 3 adults explored Boston, packed food bags at the JP Food Hub, helped out with a community meal, and did community outreach, among other tasks. The youth sang during the Sunday worship service at FBC Newton. It was deeply gratifying to see our group approach every event and task with energy, faith, commitment, and good humor. We experienced God's grace as we made new connections and new friends. We were blessed.

In this Season of Easter we are inspired to share the power of Christ's love with the world. We are living in challenging times, but with energy, faith, commitment, and good humor, we live out our conviction that Christ's love is far greater than any negative circumstance. Christ's resurrection reveals God's victory over evil, sin, and death. We experience God's grace as we worship and serve together.

This newsletter contains opportunities for service, learning, and fellowship. After spending 4 days with other First Baptists, I am glad to be home with our First Baptist community. It is a great joy and blessing to be in ministry with you.

Yours, in Christ, Rev. Karen A. Mendes

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.

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



May 28 – Happy Anniversary
James & Bethany Munn 20 years

May 1

- Chris O'Brien

May 4

- Andrew Farrington
- Dylan Couture

May 5

- Francis Swasey

May 06

- Chris Swasey

May 08

- Moira Allard
- James Soter

May 10

- Rod Scott

May 12

- Kevin Chu

May 14

- Bev Nichols

May 15

- James Munn

May 16

- James Calder
- Linda Hayes

May 20

- Isabelle Hanbridge

May 26

- Vicki Gaylord

May 27

- David O'Brien

May 29

- Shirley Logan

May 30

- Gladys Laura

May 31

- Sara Zuanich

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

May 4

Easter 3 (Communion) | John 21:1-19| *Breakfast with Jesus*

May 11

Easter 4 (Mothers' Day) | Acts 9:36-43| *Rising with Tabitha*

May 18

Easter 5 | Acts 11:1-18| *Dreaming with Peter*

May 25

Easter 6 (Memorial Day)| Acts 16:9-15| *Praying with Lydia*

Online Worship Only



✦ **MAY 11**

MOTHERS' DAY & MISSION TRIP SLIDES - AFTER WORSHIP, WE WILL SEE AND HEAR ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR YOUTH IN BOSTON.

✦ **MAY 25**

REMOTE WORSHIP - DUE TO THE VERMONT CITY MARATHON, WE WILL HAVE A FULLY REMOTE WORSHIP SERVICE VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK ON SUNDAY AT 10AM.

✦ **JUNE 1**

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

✦ **JUNE 8**

PENTECOST SUNDAY- WE WILL COMBINE WORSHIP WITH THE KAREN COMMUNITY AND NEW ALPHA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

✦ **JUNE 15**

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY AND FATHERS' DAY

Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

There is more to Church than Sunday mornings!



MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study meets in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom each Monday at 11:30 am.

We are reading the Gospel of Luke. The Zoom link is

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430309219?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430309219?pwd=MFlvR2Rpem9qYi8vSVRoMndvMk1Sdz09)

[pwd=MFlvR2Rpem9qYi8vSVRoMndvMk1Sdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430309219?pwd=MFlvR2Rpem9qYi8vSVRoMndvMk1Sdz09)

Meeting ID: 844 3030 9219

Passcode: 303940

To Dial in +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



FBC ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Meets on Thursdays, from 10-10:30 a.m. All are welcome for informal chatting!

The zoom link is

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1Vldz09)

[Vldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1Vldz09) **Meeting ID: 898 5556 4406**

Passcode: 993539

To Dial in +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

CHANCEL CHOIR

Meets on Thursdays at 7pm. All singers are invited to join this merry and melodious group! For more information, contact Anna Roy at

aroy@fbcburlingtonvt.com

SACRED HARP SINGING

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for shape note singing from The Sacred Harp, a shape note hymnal in continuous use since 1844! The Burlington Sacred Harp Singers meet regularly to sing traditional early American, 4-part harmony, and cappella hymns. All are welcome; you don't need any experience or audition. We welcome singers of all levels and backgrounds, as well as listeners, any week. Free; donations are welcome. If you have any questions, contact

BSHsteeringcommittee@gmail.com

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

From late June through August, we have opportunities for Special Music in worship each Sunday. This is a wonderful time for people of all ages to share their musical gifts and skills. If interested, please contact the church office.

APRIL UGB MEETING

4.27.2025



Board approved Transcription and Events

The UGB approved the use of AI for transcribing meetings. They updated the calendar, confirming Music Sunday on June 1st and Church School Day on June 15th. For Memorial Day weekend, they decided to hold a remote service on Sunday, May 25th. The Board also discussed creating a new church logo and potentially migrating the website to a new platform. They voted to appoint Stu and Jeneva Burroughs as delegates, along with Rev. Karen, for the upcoming ABCRGR Delegates meeting on May 3rd.

Investing in the Region

The Board discussed investing funds from Sarah Dopp's estate into ABCRGR. They agreed to have the Trustees of Permanent Funds (TPF) research the details, including how the investment would work and what interest, if any, the church would receive. The UGB plans to review this information at their May meeting.

APRIL UGB MEETING

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Fellowship Report

Beth will be the co-officiant for communion on May 4th, with Frank and Mark serving. Cindy will be the Lay Reader for the April 27th pancake breakfast and hymn sing, and Mark will emcee the hymn singing part. Mark mentioned that Ray Vega was well received on Easter, with 90 attendees, including some new visitors.

New Staff Position Discussion

The group discussed the job description for the combined role of Coordinator of Education and Outreach Ministries. After discussing it, a motion was made to begin the hiring process using the existing job description. The UGB voted to approve this proposal, with a plan to advertise the position at \$15 per hour, funded equally from the Christian education and missions budgets.

Pastor's Report

Karen reported on the upcoming mission trip, which starts Thursday and runs through Sunday. She thanked the sponsors and noted that Cindy will shop for supplies on Wednesday. Regarding the parking lot issue, Karen shared that the judge denied ICV's petition for summary judgment to dismiss the church's case, which is seen as positive news for the church. However, no timeline for further proceedings has been provided yet.

The group discussed the bell-ringing event commemorating Paul Revere's ride.

(This summary was put together using the AI notes and the meeting minutes.)



Classes continue through May. The last day of Sunday classes and the Church School celebration is June 15th. With regret, the CE team has determined that we do not have enough teaching help or program support to hold a Summer Bible Camp this year. We hope there will be opportunities for our church family to get together for fun. The CE team is planning for next year by researching curriculum resources and recruiting teachers and substitutes. Please take a look at the announcement about opportunities to join the teaching team. It's a meaningful ministry for our wonderful kids. The team will be receiving and reviewing scholarship applications. The firm deadline is May 30. Scholarship awards will be announced by June 15th. In addition, the UGB has given the CE and Outreach teams approval to recruit a half-time staff person for a joint position supporting both teams. That would mean the CE team would have 10 hours per week of staff leadership time focused on our Church School and Youth ministry. That will be a big help. This is likely to take a while. Keep us and the children of our church families in your prayers. Cindy Little, Bev Nichols, and Lois Lynch

SCHOLARSHIPS: The Christian Education Team plans to award modest scholarships again this year. Applicants should have an ongoing relationship with the English speaking and/or Karen Baptist communities, should be enrolled in a post-high school educational program, a college or training program, either full or part time. Applications are available on the table in the Narthex. Applications may be mailed or emailed to applicants who contact 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.

Mission Trip Recap

The Youth will share a slideshow and reflections about the trip after worship on May 11. We had a wonderful time and have been invited to come back next year! Special thanks to Steve Lewis, Karen Mendes, and Sarah Wright for being the adults on the trip. Great thanks also to those who sponsored us.



MISSION NEWS



International Ministries has sent an initial grant of \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief to partners who are providing humanitarian relief to the victims of the earthquake that caused widespread devastation in central Myanmar on Friday, March 28th, 2025.

International Ministries (IM) is deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of its global servants, partners in the region, and the communities they serve. All IM personnel have reported they are safe, and we are assessing the needs of our partners in Myanmar and their communities as the situation unfolds.

While the earthquake caused localized damage and loss of life in Thailand, this appeal for emergency relief funds will be focused on the relief and recovery ministry in Myanmar.

IM calls for urgent prayer and support for all those affected by the earthquake. Financial gifts can be through your American Baptist church. Designate to OGHS- Myanmar Relief in the memo of your check. All money will be forwarded to International Ministries. Thus far we have collected \$390.

MISSION NEWS



An update last week from Ann and Bill Clemmer in Goma shared the Easter story of MGH/Harvard Doctors and nurses arriving recently with supportive ventilators for premature infants through their “Heal Africa” program. Easter Monday a premature baby was brought to Heal Africa with challenges breathing. The baby was placed on the “new breathing machine” and the response was immediate. A now healthy baby! You are the God who works wonders! Psalm 77.14

Our Mission Outreach team is looking for some cooks to prepare a meal for and drop it off at ANEW Place on June 1st. They are currently hosting 20 people and the meal is to be delivered between 6:00 and 6:30. Consider teaming up with a friend to make this easier. Please contact Betty Capponi at 802-651-0784 for more information.

JUMP Auction/Fundraiser

You still have time to participate online until May 9th. Additional information on the large square table in the back of the narthex.

The Share Updates

We continue to serve 25-35 people who are homeless or have food insecurity Sunday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 at the First United Methodist Church. We thank our April soup-makers Cindy and Dave Little, Deb Holonitch, Lois D’Arcangelo, Pat Reasoner and Beth Gamache. Please reach out to Lois or Beth if you would like to volunteer serving with us.

NOODLES FOR BURMA FUNDRAISER – On March 28, 2025, Burma was hit with a 7.7 magnitude earthquake that devastated a nation already suffering tremendously due to the 2021 coup. For the past 4 years we have served delicious Burmese noodles and raised funds for the people of Burma. The date of this fundraiser will be in late May or June. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Mendes.



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 or sign up in the Narthex

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 Admin- welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com
Karen Mendes - revkamendes@fbcburlingtonvt.com
Evan Allen - ecallen@fbcburlingtonvt.com
Anna Roy - aroy@fbcburlingtonvt.com
Financial Secretary - financialsecretary@fbcburlingtonvt.com
Karen Baptist Community - KBC@fbcburlingtonvt.com
Treasurer - treasurer@fbcburlingtonvt.com

CONTACT

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Conference: 802-864-4721

Email: welcome@fbcburlingtonvt.com

Website: www.fbcburlingtonvt.com

Visit Us On Facebook: First Baptist Church, Burlington, VT.

Past Worship Services are on our website and youtube channel.

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

CHURCH HOURS

Monday: 9 AM - 12 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM - 12 PM

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 9 AM - 12 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 12 PM