

# **GREEN STEEPLE MESSENGER**

**First Baptist Church  
81 Saint Paul Street Ste. 1  
Burlington, VT. 05401**

**VOLUME NO. 5**

**May 1, 2024**

**GREEN STEEPLE, GRATEFUL PEOPLE, GROWING IN FAITH, PROCLAIMING GOD'S LOVE**



## **REFLECTIONS**

10 years ago this month, I was installed as First Baptist's 24th permanent pastor. My life as part of First Baptist began much earlier. As a child, First Baptist was my church home. It is from this life-long perspective that I reflect on the ministries of the First Baptist community of faith.

We Green Steeple people take seriously Jesus' call to share the Good News of God's love to the world. We have welcomed New Americans and fed the hungry. We have worked with other downtown churches to provide services for those in need. We have filled our beautiful sanctuary with glorious music. We have worshiped together, learned together, served together, and had fun together. We are a community that welcomes everyone in recognition that God's love is more expansive and more powerful than anything we can imagine.

Church in 2024 is different from when I was a child. Society at large is quite different. But the loving, welcoming spirit at First Baptist remains the same. This Spring has been difficult following the death of Sarah Dopp. We are in the midst of regaining our equilibrium as we fill the many roles that Sarah held for us. We are working on reestablishing our agreement with the parking lot next door. We are looking forward to the completion of the CityPlace project and the many new neighbors it will bring. As wonderful as our history has been, the Holy Spirit leads us to look toward the future with enthusiasm and hope.

This newsletter is full of opportunities for learning, fellowship, and service. It is a great joy to be in ministry with you.

~ Karen

Rev. Karen A. Mendes  
Pastor

## **First Baptist Church Staff**

Rev. Karen A. Mendes ..... Pastor  
Pastor Thee Say ..... Karen Baptist Pastor  
Carrie Perkins ..... Interim CE Director  
Adam Chamberlain ..... Church Administrator  
Evan Allen ..... Organist  
Anna Roy ..... Chancel Choir Director  
Brenda Perkins ..... Youth Choir Director  
The Karen Baptist Community Team ..... Sexton  
Hto Lwee Wah ..... Tech Support

### **Officers of First Baptist**

..... Moderator  
Mark Paulsen ..... Assistant Moderator  
Cindy Little ..... Clerk  
Beth Gamache ..... Assistant Clerk  
Chris Thompson ..... Treasurer  
Frank Swasey ..... Assistant Treasurer  
Marilyn Siple ..... Financial Secretary  
Marie Morton ..... Asst. Financial Sec'y  
..... Historian  
Andy Farrington ..... Parliamentarian

### **Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:00**

Office Phone: (802) 864-6515

Conference/Kitchen Phone:  
(802) 864-4721

Office Hours: M, W, F (9-1) T, Th (9-3)

Email address:

welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com

**Web Site Address:**

**www.fcburlingtonvt.com**

**Visit us on Facebook**

**First Baptist Church, Burlington, Vt.**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
FOR JUNE  
IS MAY 15th**

**GIFT OF TIME  
VISITATION  
AND  
*Caring***

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](http://Instantchurchdirectory.com) or through the Instant Church Directory App. Try phoning someone you might not otherwise call, but miss seeing in church!

**CHECK OUT OUR  
UPDATED WEBSITE**

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

Many thanks to Carrie Perkins and Elena Littlebug.



May 01 – Chris O’Brien  
Bob LeSuer  
04 – Andrew Farrington  
Dylan Couture  
05 – Francis Swasey  
06 – Chris Swasey  
07 – Khadijah Jenkins  
08 – Moira Allard  
James Soter  
10 – Rod Scott  
12 – Kevin Chu  
14 - Bev Nichols  
15 – James Munn  
Edward Jalbert  
16 – James Calder  
Linda Hayes  
18 – Matt Leahy  
20 – Isabelle Hanbridge  
23 – Georgia Hendrickson  
26 – Vicki Gaylord  
27 – David O’Brien  
29 – Shirley Logan  
30 – Gladys Laura  
31 – Sara Zuanich

May 28 – James & Bethany Munn 19yrs.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**SERVICES**

May 5 - Communion  
John 15:9-17  
Ask the Pastor

May 12 - Mothers' Day  
John 17:6-19  
Jesus Speaks to God

May 19 - Pentecost  
Combined Worship  
Acts 2:1-21  
Annie Field preaches

May 26 - Memorial Day  
Remote Worship  
John 3:1-17  
The Puzzle of Faith

## UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN MAY AND JUNE -

You won't want to miss any!

- May 5 - Ask the Pastor Sunday - On the 10th anniversary of Rev. Mendes' Installation, we will have the opportunity to ask questions about Scripture, Faith, and American Baptist Life. (This is also the Fire Drill Day!)
- May 12 - Mothers' Day and Baptisms - We will have the joy of welcoming new members through the powerful experience of believers' baptism.
- May 19 - Pentecost Sunday - We will have combined worship with the Karen Community and welcome back Annie Field as our preacher for the day.
- May 26 - 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 2 - Music Appreciation Sunday
- June 9 - Church School Sunday
- June 16 - Fathers' Day

**A SHORT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will happen after worship on May 12 to vote on the nomination of Bill McCormick to the TPF for the remainder of 2024.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING**

**There is more to Church than  
Sunday mornings!**

**THE SPRING BOOK GROUP** is reading *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's So Good About the Good News?* by Peter Gomes. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 6 at 7pm on Zoom. The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86392397962?pwd=ZEdnWXA5Y0NNNGFkK3d1b0lPd0JBdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 9239 7962

Passcode: 972707

Dial by your location • +1 646 558 8656 US  
(New York)

## **MONDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study meets in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom each Monday at 11:30am. We are exploring Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. The Zoom link is

<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)

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**BIBLE "CHAT"** - Come join Carrie on Wednesday evenings 7pm for a time to discuss your favorite bible verse, a verse that you don't like, or come for a time to chat and recenter yourself with fellow people of faith!

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707739198>

**FBC COFFEE HOUR** meets on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome for informal chatting! The zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855564406?pwd=R2FtbC9tRnoyU1R1cXJTRmRsY1VIdz09>

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@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:aroy@fcburlingtonvt.com)

## **FIRE DRILL**

We will be having a fire drill on May 5, 2024 following the service. It is Communion Sunday so we encourage everyone to come. We are making it as easy as possible. The elevator will not be in use during the drill but the people who would normally use it, will simply make their way to the front door and stand to the sides while others exit. We know we would be able to get you out in the event of a real fire so we see no need to have you go beyond the door that day. At the conclusion of the fire drill, we will ask everyone to come back in for refreshments. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Karen, Cindy or Adam.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Christian Education team, teachers, and children were all busy with Holy Week Activities. The Senior High class helped lead a Palm Sunday class with crafts focused on holy week.

Carrie prepped activity bags for children to use during the Easter Service. Jenny and MooJuly helped at the end of service with handing out treat cups that looked like bunnies to all the children. The treat cups were put together for CE by the senior high class!

Easter Sunday, also saw the nursery being used. Hser Ku and MooThay kept our youngest congregants busy and happy, allowing their parents to enjoy the service upstairs.

The Tea to Celebrate Women was a wonderful afternoon full of good food, good tea and great conversation!

## **APRIL UGB MEETING**

The minutes of the April UGB meeting are available from the church office.

## **MISSION NEWS**

### **JUNE 2 ANEW PLACE MEAL**

First Baptist prepares a meal to feed 12-15 people at Anew Place on North Street. If you are moved to make a meal or part of the meal, call Betty Capponi. Her phone number is in the church directory.

### **JUST A REMINDER....**

We give to our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering during the month of June which helps with disaster relief around the world.

### **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 8 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-noodles2>

for pickup between 4:30 and 7:30pm. For more information, please email

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

## THE SHARE

A big thank you to Joan Taylor and Cindy and Dave Little for contributing delicious soups to The Share last month.

Please reach out to Lois D'Arcangelo, Steve DeRestie or Beth Gamache if you would like to prepare soup, cookies or volunteer a Sunday from 4-6 at our dinner for those who are homeless or have food insecurity.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

to Carrie Perkins for the recent spring tea celebration. It was a lovely event and enjoyed by all.

- Beth Gamache

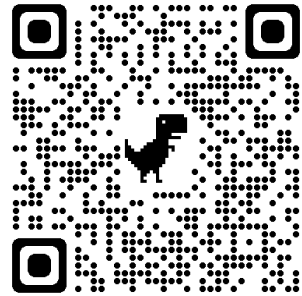
## MAKING YOUR FINANCIAL DONATION

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.fcburlingtonvt.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.



## SACRED HARP SINGING

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm 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, *a cappella* hymns. All are welcome, no experience or audition necessary. We welcome singers of all levels and backgrounds, as well as listeners, any week. Free; donations welcome. Any questions, contact [BSHsteeringcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:BSHsteeringcommittee@gmail.com)

## **PAST WORSHIP SERVICES...**

are available on our website and  
our YouTube Channel.

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

## **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.





**Help us find staff to support individuals struggling with homelessness.**

“... Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39

In 1982, the simple words noted above motivated an interdenominational collective of Christian Churches in and around Burlington to create the Burlington Emergency Shelter, now known as ANEW Place. We are rooted and centered in Christ’s unconditional love, and propelled forward by a deep commitment to each and every person that we serve. Without judgment, we welcome each person into our caring and sober community, regardless of their history, struggles, and trials, and we offer each person the support they need to rewrite their stories and to start ANEW.

Churches have historically been and continue to be a vital network and resource in our success serving those in our community who are homeless. Churches have gathered congregants to make meals, dine with and mentor our guests, organize and complete community service projects and yes, even provide financial support to the organization. **Today, we ask for something different.** Like many organizations involved in our work, staffing is a challenge. ANEW Place is looking for people with a calling to work in the social work field: assisting those in our community who are unhoused. We are looking for both direct service, and program development and management staff.

If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting our most vulnerable neighbors through employment at ANEW Place, please visit [www.anewplacevt.org/employment.html](http://www.anewplacevt.org/employment.html) to see a listing of available positions and learn how to apply.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR MAY ARE -**  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9-1  
Tuesday/Thursday 9-3

**CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES**

The church office (Adam Chamberlain)- [welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:welcome@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Karen Mendes - [revkamendes@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:revkamendes@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Carrie Perkins - [cperkins@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:cperkins@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Evan Allen - [eallen@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:eallen@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
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Financial Secretary - [financialsecretary@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:financialsecretary@fcburlingtonvt.com)  
Karen Baptist Community - [KBC@fcburlingtonvt.com](mailto:KBC@fcburlingtonvt.com)