

**First Congregational Church**  
**38 South Winooski Ave. Burlington, Vt. 05401**

*Our bi-weekly newsletter formatted for the Internet.*

All personal announcements have been removed to maintain privacy. To obtain a complete newsletter please contact our church office at 862-5010 to have one mailed to you.

**Vol. XIX No. 11, June 15, 2010**

*The church newsletter is published on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. All information should be submitted by noon the Tuesday prior to publication. Our newsletter committee assembles the newsletter on Fridays and the newsletter is generally mailed on that day. For more information, contact Wendy Whaples Scully in the Church Office.*

**HOSPITALIZED?** Please let the church office know if you are in the hospital. Federal regulations prohibit the hospital from calling worship leaders to notify them of members who are admitted. We want to be there for you- but you must let us know that you are there! Thanks.

**YOUR OFFERING** pays for our operating expenses as well as mission programs. Please consider mailing your pledge in if your Sundays get too busy to be in church. (Though we'd rather see you here in the pews.) The pledge year goes from May 1 to April 30.

Our membership to the United Church of Christ is paid regardless if you don't reimburse us. This money is drawn from our mission budget. Please help us out by submitting your \$12 per member per capita as soon as possible.

**NOT TOO LATE TO CONSIDER CHURCH CAMP**

Children from First Church have been attending Covenant Hills Christian Camp in Cabot, VT - and at Skye Farm Camp across the lake in NY - for many years. There are still a number of openings at both camps this summer - take a look online: <http://www.covenanthillsvt.com> or call the Church Office for a brochure. You will find that there are a wide variety of camps - from soccer and crafts, to travel camps that head to the ocean or kayaking on rivers for older campers. Summer programs are varied for a wide age range - grade 2 (3 day camps) through grade 12 and all are geared around special themes and interests. Scholarship assistance is available through Children's Ministries. Please contact the Church Office for more information. Thank you!

**PUBLIC CONTRA DANCE**

The Mad Robin Callers Collective has rented our dining room for Friday, June 25 at 8 pm. and is inviting the public! This group consists of Contra Callers who are developing their craft and hoping for feedback. Everyone from first timers to experienced are welcome to come. A beginners workshop is held at 7:45. You must wear soft soled shoes or heavy socks. The fee is \$8 (to offset the live music) for three hours of fast paced fun for the family. Children are welcome. Questions? Contact point person Peter Johnson at 864-7660.

**SUMMER CHANGES**

Officially summer doesn't arrive until June 21, but we have already begun our summer changes. Our summer program will be led by Laura Elder Connors with childcare and programs offered for infants through 8th grade from now until September. Worship Bulletins for children are also offered during the 10:00 service along with books of interest should your child prefer to remain in worship.

Our office hours are from 9 to 4 Monday through Friday. The Possibility Shop and JUMP will keep their regular hours.

Reverend Lee is on vacation for the month of July. Reverend Carr takes a vacation during the month of August, after which she will take a sabbatical till the end of November.

**HYMN SING SUNDAY** is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>. Every summer we have an opportunity for more music and less worship during one Sunday. Please place your choice in hymns in the pew register or collection plate up till July 11<sup>th</sup>. Adrienne Carr will try to add your favorite to the lineup on Hymn Sing Sunday. Then make sure to bring a friend to come sing along!

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** will gather to watch the DVD "Frida" on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Come join us for an evening of entertainment. Bring in your suggestions for summer reading on a personal level. Better yet, bring in the book you don't mind passing along. We will meet again in September for an organized book discussion- title to be announced.

**STANDING COMMITTEES** take a break in July and August. If you are new to your committee, expect to hear from someone in the fall. The following staff members are liaisons to certain committees in case you have questions:

**Rev. Bob Lee:** Prudential, Stewardship, Investments and Trust, Nominating, and the Board of Deacons

**Rev. Adrienne Carr:** Adult Education, Communication and Membership, Fellowship and Hospitality, Library, and Ushering

**Outreach Ministries Director:** Mission Committee and Christian Action Committee

**High School Youth Director:** Youth Ministries

**Children's Ministries Director:** Youth Ministries, Scholarship Committee, and Children's Ministries Committees

**Director of Music:** Music Committee

An Annual Report with the complete slate of members in our committees is available through the Church Office or in our worship space on Sunday.

Our 2010-11 church officers include Suzanne McKegney, President, Tyler Atwood, Past President, Carl Herzog, President elect, Janice Clements, Church Clerk, and Pat Heise, Treasurer.

**SIGN UP TO TEACH !** We are in the process of recruiting Church School volunteers for the Nursery through 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade for the three terms in the 2010-2011 program year. To volunteer, sign up on the flip chart during Fellowship Hour, or contact the Church Office. Thank you!

**JUMP NEEDS SUMMER FOOD SUPPLIES** Our Church takes two turns a year - along with many other churches - to supply bags of food to those in need through JUMP, the Joint Urban Ministry Project. Our months are June and September. The JUMP Food Bag Shopping List has been revised - the new assortment offers higher nutritional value at about the same or lower cost. The list now includes: 2( 1lb) bags of rice; 3 (1 lb) bags dried beans (kidney, small red, pinto, red or black), split peas, chick peas or lentils (please include at least one bag of lentils); 3 (15 oz) cans beans; 2 (28 oz) or 4 (15 oz) cans of tomatoes (stewed, crushed or diced); 2 pounds dry pasta (prefer whole wheat); 2 (26 oz) jar pasta sauce; and 1 box low-sugar cereal (Cheerios preferred).

You can pick up a reusable grocery bag at Church - they are on the bulletin board at church, complete with the shopping list attached - and return it filled during the month of June. If you shop without one of our donated reusable bags, please consider buying one OR pack the items in a paper bag and set that bag inside two plastic grocery bags. Thank you! The Christian Action Committee

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** With a legacy of sixty years, our annual all-church, ecumenical, international emergency relief offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, has many powerful stories to tell. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we work together to recognize in suffering and take effective action, assisting refugees, supporting sustainable development, and assisting worldwide with emergencies - carrying love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. Visit the UCC website to learn more: <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/> . Our offerings have responded to the ravages of natural and human disasters, built and staffed orphanages, homeless shelters, health clinics and schools, delivered food to the hungry, removed land mines, and equipped thousands of refugees with the tools to rebuild their lives.

Every donation to OGHS makes a difference. If you can make a gift, checks should be made payable to: First Congregational Church of Burlington, MEMO:OGHS. Thank you! *T h e Mission Committee*

**SUMMER SCHOOL CHANGE:** For a change, we are inviting all children to attend our summer program during the 10:00 worship service. Adult helpers are needed to make this happen; won't you consider volunteering for one Sunday this summer? Please contact Laura Elder-Connors through the Church office, or at home at 655-6345. Together, we will be celebrating the theme "caring for God's creation" and "making our world more beautiful" by planting some herbs, planning and making a banner for the Sunday School room, sharing stories, and maybe learning a new song or two. We'll gather in the 4th grade room across from the nursery. Come and enjoy a summer Sunday at our church!

**POSSIBILITY SHOP** is a volunteer run thrift store set up in our basement. We serve the greater community by providing clothing and goods at affordable prices. On Monday mornings, volunteers come in to prep for the week by sorting through donations and pricing. On Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays volunteers are needed to do more of the same as well as tidy up and put goods out for sale. If you can help for a few hours or the day, please contact the Church Office. The Possibility Shop is open from 10 to 3 on Wed. and Fri. and 10 to 1 on Saturday.

Please call in advance if you plan on donating your discarded yard sales items or a large donation of clothing, etc. It is helpful to us to be able to make room for your generosity....

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH TAKE A GREAT ESCAPE TRIP**

On Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Middle School Youth traveled to the Great Escape & Splash Water Kingdom, an amusement park in Lake George, NY. This annual trip is a result of the group's Superbowl sub fundraiser in January. (In addition to the trip, proceeds from this fundraiser also provide a meal at the Burlington Emergency Shelter.) For the first time, the group visited the indoor water park. It is a giant collection of indoor water slides. The Lazy River was a very big hit, along with the water tunnel rides. The group didn't have to worry about the weather turning poor or getting a sun burn! It was a fantastic adventure in relationship building for which we thank the congregation for your annual support!

**HIGH SCHOOLERS PLAN FOR SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** We are offering two special service opportunities for our high school students this summer. In late June, a group of students will head to Boston University with Lucy Samara and Amy Young for a four day UCC Regional Youth Event. The students will participate in a wide variety of workshops, worship experiences, social gatherings and urban service experiences.

In early July, several of our high school students will be joined by Suzanne McKegney, Laura Elder Connors and Lucy Samara for a week of local service in our new "YES - Youth Experience in Service Program." YES is working in partnership with the New Arrival Summer Camp Program at the Sara Holbrook Community Center (SHCC). Serving the summer educational and recreational needs of many area refugee children, the SHCC New Arrival program has a long and joyful history. We are participating during the week that the New Arrivals Program goes to Shelburne Farms each

morning. Imagine the fun we will have with the kids and animals, hiking on the grounds and learning from the agricultural and environmental education mission of Shelburne Farms.

For more information about our High School Youth Programs, please contact Co-Directors of High School Youth Ministries, Lucy Samara and Bonnie O'Day at the Church Office, 862-5010. Thank you!

**OUR YEAR LONG CHURCH THEME** -- "Caring for God's Creation" -- has come to a close. Throughout our year together, with encouragement from the Mission Committee and the Green Team, our congregation found many ways to promote care for creation in the worship, ministry, faith action, and facilities of our church. From planting seeds to singing new songs, from reading books about faith and the environment to enjoying the energy savings of our new church building, from using recyclable cups to reading our church newsletter online, from picking up churchyard trash to removing the toxic soil beneath our parking lot, from watching our youth present *The Lorax* from a Christian perspective to considering the ethical dimensions of global climate change -- together we have learned and grown.

Check out the Caring for Creation bulletin board by the midway water fountain for a more complete list of everything we accomplished this year. Thank you, everyone, for your engagement with this project. Truly we had an exciting year of celebration, education, inspiration, and action in our faith life together as children of our Creator God! In this beautiful season, in this beautiful place, we remember once again the words of Genesis: "And God saw all that He had made, and indeed it was very good." -- The Green Team and the Mission Committee



#### **WE WANT TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES**

*"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms The first is freedom of speech and expression--everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants--everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear--which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world."* Franklin D. Roosevelt

Do you have a family member serving overseas? Please let the Church Office know. We would like to help support these men and women by sending care packages to them and their unit. If you don't know anyone but still want to help- consider written correspondence with a soldier. In speaking to a representative of the Vt. National Guard, there is a certain procedure you need to use to fulfill their privacy requirements. Write a letter or group of letters to "anyone". Place regular postage on it and mail it in a separate envelope to Family Programs, 789 Vt. National Guard Rd., Colchester, Vt. 05446. They will then mail the letter overseas. If your return address is in the letter, and if the person receiving it so chooses, they will respond back. Should you decide to get a group together to write and mail more than twenty letters, it is best to drop them off at the Fort and ask for Family Programs. If you have any questions, you can contact Dineen Roy at 338-3364.

**PRAYER SHAWLS** are available through the Church Office for friends or family members in need of a comforting "soft yarn hug". Call to learn more at 862-5010.

**First Church 2010 Summer Outreach Opportunities** There are many ways to be involved with "First Church" Outreach Ministries - some ideas are listed below - call Lucy Samara, Outreach Ministries Director, at the Church Office to learn more!

- ♡Pack a bag of groceries for JUMP — the Joint Urban Ministry Project - an additional 25 bags are needed to help fill the cupboards for the summer - details are in this newsletter.
- ♡Donate snacks for the Joint Urban Ministry Project that is set up in our Dining Room M-F 9-12.
- ♡Find out more and consider serving as a weekday morning JUMP volunteer - contact Bernice Wesseling at 864-8363.
- ♡Bring dinner to Dismas House - call Christian Action Committee member Al Weldon at 864-2583 for more information.
- ♡Help make sandwiches for Small Potatoes - we especially need help on Friday, July 23
- ♡Sign up to be a substitute driver for the second Wednesday of the month for Meals On Wheels  
Let us know that you are interested in learning more! Complete a volunteer sign-up form - available on the Bulletin Board in the Midway at Church.

**OUR LIBRARY** is open for your summer reading! Stop by and take a look at all our choices in Children's and Adult Fiction, and non-fiction. Directions are available on how to check out a book. Its easy! Please contact Church Librarian, Vickie Harlow, through the Church Office if you have any books you would like to donate that are appropriate for the Church Library. She is also open to suggestions of books that might be purchased to enhance our inventory.

**FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS** are needed for the Sundays that no one has signed up for this summer. Most of July and August have no names on the Flower Signup sheet. While the Women of the Church will step up and provide flowers when no one else has, it is nice to know others are willing to come forward. You do not need to use our florist (Maplehurst) if you'd like to try someone else. Or let the Church Office know you would like to make your own arrangement from your garden. We also need to know if you have plans for the flowers you arrange for, or suggestions for the Flower Committee to send Sunday's flowers to who might need cheering up. Please contact Wendy in the Church Office to learn more.

**HELP!** The Church Kitchen needs pot holders and kitchen towels. Also donations of small disposable containers for leftovers.

**The next newsletter will be dated July 1<sup>st</sup> and after that August 1<sup>st</sup>. We will return to a bi-weekly format in September.**

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