

March, 2023

The

BANNER

College Street Congregational Church

*An open and affirming congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

A Note from the Pastor

- Reverend Ken White

This month, I have no words left.

Instead, I will borrow words from Nick Cave. These are the lyrics of the last two songs from his recent work, *7 Psalms*. They flow together as one prayer, because that's what they are: a prayer of loss and dependence and maybe, just maybe, hope.

Such things should never happen but we die
The swallow finds an oak to nest her young
Defenseless between the earth and the sky
Uncounted beneath a vast, indifferent sun

A mother holds her baby to her breast
She trusts in you, yet does not dare to breathe
As the baby sparrow falls from its nest
As the mighty oak does not appear to see

Such things should never happen but they do
Beside a little box, a mother cries
The swallow seeks to build its nest anew
The oak tree lifts its branches to its eyes

I come alone and to you, Lord, in sorrow
Thirsty for your refuge, I cannot breathe
I kneel among your stars and in the morrow
I have nothing more to offer but to leave

Deep calls to deep, the silver waters flow
Winding through the gardens damp with dew
Deep calls to deep, I have nowhere left to go
But to you, Lord, breathless, but to you

During seasons of Lent and during seasons of Joy, in all of the beautiful mess that God gives us to love and nurture, I'm so very grateful to be your pastor.

Ken

Did you know... - Carole Carlson

That right now there are eight Congregational/UCC churches in Vermont who are seeking pastors and cannot find candidates? What must that be like for those members?

The reason: the positions are now part-time. A portion of the money we forward through OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission) goes to assist our two Conference Ministry staff as they seek creative solutions for these congregations. Possibilities may include recruiting a pastor who is willing to serve two churches or seeking out a bi-vocational pastor willing to work another job (not always possible in a smaller community.) The intensive work requires hands on time and relies on extensive knowledge of the available pool of pastoral candidates. Even harder challenges for the VT Conference are the numbers of churches that now cannot afford a pastor at all. Working with those churches may require training lay people to conduct their own services.

Think about a rural town you know where the Congregational Church (the only church in town) sits in the middle of the green. That church may house the food shelf or a small nursery school. "If your church were to disappear, who would miss it?" Our OCWM budget item helps support these partner communities of faith.



One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

In Galatians, the Apostle Paul encourages followers of Jesus to generously help and care for others. Though there is great need in the world and we can grow weary because we do not know how to help, God's Spirit energizes and re-energizes us in every season.

We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.

If you would like to share, there will be **"One Great Hour of Sharing"** envelopes in your bulletins on the fourth Sunday of Lent, March 19th. Or you can mail a **contribution payable to CSCC: 256 College St. Burlington, VT 05404.** Please write **OGHS** in the memo line of your check.

**YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES
ALL THE DIFFERENCE.**

Children's Ministry - Jessica Titcomb

The children's ministry this year has been full of joy, learning and growing. We have offered nursery and Sunday School classes every Sunday morning, as well as making comfortable

spaces in the sanctuary and Thomas Study for folks who want to sit with their children upstairs.

We planned many fun events for various occasions, and have tried to find ways to integrate the children into the church family as much as possible.

Some of the highlights of this year have

been: making gingerbread churches, passing out cake to the congregation, listening to Ken's time for kids messages, gifting bibles to incoming youth group members, participating in Peace Camp, hosting an ice cream social, making holiday cards to send out, and simply playing and praying together.

Thanks for your continued support in our Children's Ministry Program!



Youth Ministry - Jason Vanderlaan



What happens when a childhood favorite game comes to life? Life-size Hungry Hungry Hippos! Plus, NiteBall was a lot of fun too!



We also had a great time bowling at St. Mark's, as well as playing in their Game Room!



In our Faith Formation time, we've explored the stories of Jacob & Esau (the smooth one vs. the hairy one haha) and Joseph (what a rollercoaster!!). Sometimes what looks like bad luck and bad choices can be turned into something good by God.

Community Connections - Lisa Northup

Every week News From The Pews has a link to sign up to make a meal for the Outright VT youth. CSCC has been a supporter of the Friday Night Group for the Outright youth for several years.

Outright VT provides a safe space for LGBTQ youth where they can gather and support each other. Our church, as an Open & Affirming Church, wants these youth to know we love them, and God loves them.



OUTRIGHT
VERMONT

To sign up to prepare a meal for Outright youth click: [Outright](#)

To learn more about this ministry, [click here](#).

The link in NFTP provides an easy sign-up process with lots of meal suggestions. Making a meal is really easy and so greatly appreciated. They love chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, and veggie nachos. If you never have done it, please consider. You will be so glad you did!



If making a meal is not possible you can always donate to the pizza fund. Just send a check to the church office with "Outright Meals" in the memo line.

There will be an Open House at Outright VT MARCH 8th at 6:30 pm

Their location is 241 N. Winooski Avenue in Burlington
at the Multigenerational Center

You are invited to come and see the wonderful work that is done for LGBTQ youth. Supporting youth is an important part of what CSCC does and your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

MARCH

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Feb 26 10 am - Worship | 27 | 28 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm - Deacon's Mtg. 7 pm - Media Small Group | March 1 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 2 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 6 pm - Bell Choir 7:30 pm - CSCCC Choir | 3 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 4 |
| 5 10 am - In-Person & Online Worship 11:30 am - Soup & Bread 11:30 am Strummers, pluckers, and strikers practice | 6 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 7 pm - Lenten Book Group | 7 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm - Deacon's Mtg. 7 pm - Media Small Group | 8 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm - Outright Open House | 9 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 12 pm - Bible 101 6 pm - Bell Choir 7:30 pm -CSCC Choir | 10 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 11 2 am Day Light Savings |
| 12 10 am - In-Person & Online Worship 11:30 am - COTS Lunches 11:45 am—Soup & Bread 11:45 am - Caring for Loved Ones | 13 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 7 pm - Lenten Book Group | 14 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm – Trustee's Mtg. | 15 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 16 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 12 pm - Bible 101 6 pm - Bell Choir 7:30 pm - CSCC Choir | 17 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 18 |
| 19 8:30 am - Confirmation Meeting 10 am - In-Person & Online Worship 11:30 am - Soup & Bread 11:30 - Prayer Shawl Group 11:30 am Strummers, pluckers, and strikers practice | 20 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 7 pm - Lenten Book Group | 21 8 am - Men's Group at Panera Bread , S. Burl. 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm – Council Mtg. 7 pm - Media Small Group | 22 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 23 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 12 pm - Bible 101 5:30 pm - Community Connect. 6 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 - Christian Development 7:30 pm -CSCC Choir | 24 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 25 |
| 26 9 am - Strummers, pluckers, and strikers practice 10 am - In-Person & Online Worship 11:30 am—Soup & Bread | 27 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 7 pm - Lenten Book Group | 28 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 7 pm - Media Small Group | 29 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | 30 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer 12 pm - Bible 101 6 pm - Bell Choir 7:30 pm - Choir | 31 9 - 9:15 am Morning Prayer | April 1 |

The Banner is the monthly newsletter published by College Street Congregational Church.

Email: caltobelli@collegestreetchurch.org

Church Council:

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Custodian: Audrey King

College Street Congregational Church
265 College St.
Burlington, VT 05401
www.collegestreetchurch.org