

First Congregational Church of St. Albans (FCC) is a welcoming community of spiritual seekers, believers, and doubters.

Please know that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

To create an open and loving community that encourages a joyous exploration with God.

To work together to care for and nurture the wider community.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission as a community resource church is to provide a safe place for spiritual exploration and personal growth. To affirm the value of each person and to meet them where they are.

To connect to the community through personal service, giving, and pastoral care.

Please feel free to contact us:

Administrative Office: 8 AM to 11 AM weekdays.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: T-W-F, 9am-12pm

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.

SCRIPTURE READER: ALAN SHANNON



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

JULY 17, 2022

10AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

SUE POWERS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

"If it could only be like this always – always summer, always alone, the fruit always ripe..." — Evelyn Waugh

THE PREPARATION

The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.

Prelude *We gather together* Dutch Folk Song

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: Let us gather in spirit and truth to worship the Holy One!

Many: We come as green olive trees, fragrant with life and vibrancy.

One: Let us praise the God who reveals, questions, and listens.

Many: We come as green olive trees, ripe with possibilities.

One: Let us give thanks for God's abiding and faithful love.

Many: We come as green olive trees, proclaiming the goodness of God and creation..

Welcome to all visitors: We are delighted that you chose to worship with us today and are strengthened by your participation in our service!

If you are new to First Congregational Church of St. Albans, please sign the guest book in the narthex (main entrance of the church).

If you would like more information about our church and its programs or would like to receive our Morning Reflections, and weekly e-newsletter, "From the Manse," please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the Offering tray (be sure to include your email address).

After the service please join us for fellowship, conversation, coffee, and refreshments.

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹UCC, WORSHIP WAYS

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Mission Highlight

The Welcome Home Initiative:

First Congregational Church of St. Albans is a founding member of the Welcome Home Initiative (WH). WH provides people transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties of Vermont with new- home essentials (mop, broom, dishes, cleaners, trash can, pots & pans, etc.), personal items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.), and a full pantry, fridge, and freezer stock of food.

The Welcome Home Initiative is a collaboration among:

- Franklin/Grand Isle CVOEO- Community Action
- First Congregational Church of St Albans
- Grace Episcopal Church, Sheldon
- Sheldon Methodist Food Shelf
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton
- As well as other churches and businesses that have donated to the Initiative.

WH works with local housing case workers from:

- F/GI Community Action
- Voices Against Violence
- Samaritan House
- Restorative Justice Center
- Pathways

First Congregational Church functions as the fiscal agent, collection center and pick-up hub for the program. WH serves on average 6-7 individuals/families to be housed a month.

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

Divine Gardener, we need your care and nurture. Fertilize our soil and our souls. Plant seeds of wisdom, inspiration, and discernment. Prune us today for more abundance tomorrow. Refresh us with living water. Revive us again. Amen.

HYMN*

“O God Our Help In Ages Past”

NCH 25

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

Creator, we seek the transformative power of your grace that chastens, convicts, and challenges us to change. Make us new in the pruning of bitterness and resentment, jealousy and comparison, apathy and indifference. Liberally water us in grace that we would bear fruit. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC *SONG WITHOUT WORDS* S. CONRADY

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 8:1-12

Luke 10:38-42

MORNING REFLECTION

“Busy, Busy, Busy”

HYMN*

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

NCH 388

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

NCH 394

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

AWAKE, AWAKE TO LOVE AND WORK

KENTUCKY HARMONY

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:

- Mary Bostwick, Sandy Christman, and Hadley Shannon a.k.a. The Deacons! Thank you for ALL you do throughout the year to help make FCC a place of spiritual growth and renewal!
- Mara Vijups Thank You for hosting the Bible Study end of the “school” year pot-luck!

Pastor Jessica’s Vacation August 2-22

Emergency pastoral care will be covered by Rev. Preston Fuller of St. Paul’s Methodist Church (802-524-5632)

Summer Music

Do you, or a friend, sing or play an instrument? You are invited to “pray twice” and share music during Sunday worship! Contact Erin during coffee hour or during the week through the office or firstcongregationalmusic@gmail.com

Bible Study is on Summer Break!

We will resume in the September.

**JUSTICE – and Poetry – FOR ALL
CELEBRATING**

Indigenous Poetry of New England

People of the Dawnland: Voice of Today and Tomorrow

Featuring Poet: **Suzanne Rancourt**

Friday, July 22nd at 5:30 PM food and music. **Main event at 6:30 PM.**

For more details go to www.sundogpoetry.org
or call 802-585-8502.