

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: Doug Klette



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

AUGUST 14, 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

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

Those who place their trust in God are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season and with leaves that are evergreen. (Jeremiah 17:8)

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *"Under a tree"* S. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: We cry out—

Many: Restore us, O God!

One: We petition—

Many: God, may your face shine upon us!

One: We lift our voices—

Many: We turn toward you, O God and call on your name!

AMEN.

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)

Holy God, You offer such goodness to us. You give so much to us, blessing us with resources that many go without. Despite your goodness, humanity has collectively responded selfishly, taking what we can get, using it for our own gain, and not thinking of the consequences. Forgive us for producing rotten fruit when you've given us everything we need so that ALL people can thrive. May we learn to be more like you, bringing forth goodness and care so that good fruit may come to the world. Amen.

HYMN*

"This is the Day"

NCH 84

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

Holy God, You offer such goodness to us. You give so much to us, blessing us with resources that many go without. Despite your goodness, humanity has collectively responded selfishly, taking what we can get, using it for our own gain, and not thinking of the consequences. Forgive us for producing wild grapes when you've given us everything we need so that ALL people can thrive. May we learn to be more like you, bringing forth goodness and care so that good fruit may come to the world. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has reached out to us once again, offering salvation, making us whole, drawing us into community where life is integrated and filled with meaning. The Spirit comes to us, making holy the commonplace. We are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC Prelude for Organ and Mellotron
S. Conrady

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

MORNING REFLECTION “Sour Grapes”

HYMN* **“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”** (v. 1 & 4) NCH 286

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory, forever, Amen**

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN* **“I Need You Every Hour”** NCH 517

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Mercy” arr. Conrady M. Richter

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please Welcome Guest Worship Leader: Robin Genetti,
who will be leading our Sunday worship today. She is a
member and Lay Leader of the Waterville Union Church. She
resides in Waterville with her husband and works for the
Lamoille North Supervisory Union.

A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:
Thank You, Doug for leading worship on Sunday, August 7th.
How fortunate we are to have you share your thoughts and
talent.

Pastor Jessica’s Vacation August 2-23
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.