

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: Lane McElree



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

AUGUST 28, 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:

“The most sacred invitation that a person can extend to us is to invite us into their pain. But that means that we have to choose to knock on a door that we often prefer to pretend is not there.” — Craig D. Lounsborough

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *Like a Child* D. Damon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

God, we come as this gathering of community where there are no barriers, and all our abilities are celebrated as gifts. We come to receive your hospitality of caring for each one of us and to learn from you how to offer such a celebration to stranger, friend, chosen family, those whose faces are unfamiliar to us, and the face who meets us in the mirror. Amen.

HYMN* **“Praise to the Living God”** NCH 8

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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The Magic Bank Account (exact source unknown- but shared by Tim Rath)

Imagine that you had won the Following *PRIZE* in a contest:
Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 In your private account for your use.

However, this prize has Rules:

The set of Rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend It.
4. Each morning upon awakening, The bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that Day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL... Shocked ??? YES!

Each of us is already a winner Of this 'PRIZE'. We just can't seem to see it.

The PRIZE is 'TIME'

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of Life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

**God, sometimes we say, "I'm too busy,"
to invitations to kindness, friendship, or activism,
or pretend to be "too busy," and avoid
being indebted, pitied, or rubbing elbows
with those who make me uncomfortable.
Sometimes we accept an invitation to be involved,
celebrate with someone, or just have coffee,
but back out or "no-show."**

Forgive us when we skip your parties.

**God, sometimes we are "imperfect guests,"
wanting to be the center of attention,
and other times we insist on
always being host, giver, one in control,
receiver of praise and gratefulness.**

**Forgive us when we fail
in gratitude or generosity. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC *SNOW IN AUGUST* (NAGASAKI 8.9.1945)
S. CONRADY

SCRIPTURE READING JEREMIAH 2:4-8, 13

LUKE 14:1, 7-14

MORNING REFLECTION

“Come One, Come All”

HYMN*

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” (1, 2, 4) BB 57

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

Benediction

HYMN*

“This Is the Day of New Beginnings” NCH 417

POSTLUDE *Wir Glauben an den Einen Gott* German Hymn

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Thank You, **Doug Klette, Robin Genetti, and Sandy Cristman** for leading worship while Pastor Jessica was on vacation.
- Thank You, **Sue Powers**, for running the live stream, and handling the extra duties while Pastor Jessica was away.
- Thank You, **Pastor Preston Fuller** of St Paul’s for providing emergency pastoral coverage.

September 11th Informational Meeting:

Notice is hereby given that an Informational Meeting of the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, Vermont will be held on September 11, 2022 immediately following the Sunday service. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Article V, section 3 providing for three Informational Meetings a year, one to be held in September, and section 5A providing for two-weeks’ notice for regular meetings contained in the By-Laws of the congregation. The business for the Informational Meeting is to 1) inform the Congregation about the affairs of the church, 2) provide the opportunity to ask questions, and 3) to discuss any issues and concerns.

Bible Study is on Summer Break!

We will resume Wednesday, September 7th – please let Pastor Jessica know if you’d like to join in!

Church Street Sounds of the Season starts here in the sanctuary on September 11th at 3 PM with and organ recital. On October 9th the performance will be Music-Comp and on November 13th, Va-Et-Vient. Admission is by donation.