

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

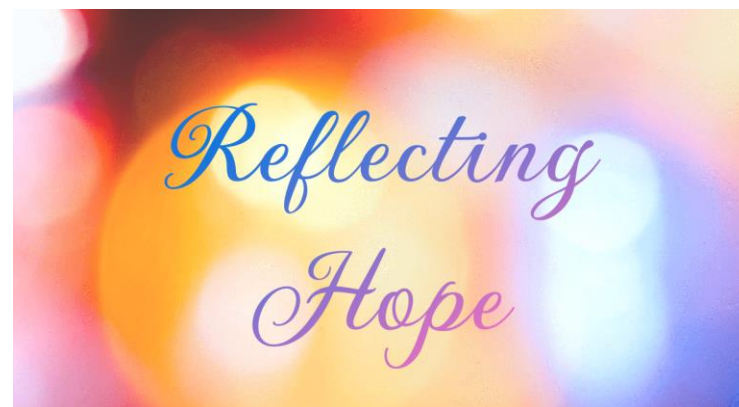
Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: T-W-F, 9am-12pm

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: Nancy Holland



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

NOVEMBER 27, 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

REFLECTING THE SACRED THIS ADVENT:

The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

"I have never been separate from God, nor can I be, except in my mind." Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ*

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: GUIDED MEDITATION

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your Spirit come, fall upon me now

Let your Spirit come, fall upon us now.

Let your rain fall down, pour upon our souls

Come and wash us now, come and make us whole.

Let your Spirit come, fall upon me now

Let your Spirit come, fall upon us now.

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

FROM WORSHIP DESIGN STUDIOS: REFLECTING ADVENT

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Park Newton Thank You for replacing the thermostats in the Sunday School Wing!

Music Notes: Our musical guest, Pat Grainger, is a retired church musician and music educator, visiting us from the Ottawa area. Coming from a musical family she was educated at the University of Western Ontario and in Suzuki teaching methods. Pat has taught in K12 schools and private piano studio, accompanied countless theatrical productions, and directed many choirs over the years. Now, she enjoys participating instead of being in charge!

Bible Study

Next meeting is Wednesday November 30th on Zoom – please let Pastor Jessica know if you'd like to join in!

Free Open Mic, Coffee House is scheduled here on **Saturday, December 17th, from 7 PM – 9 PM.** The theme is Happy Holidays. Burgers, dogs and snacks will be available. Music: instrumental, acapella, bands, sing alongs as well as spoken word, storytelling and skits. Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone in between. The performance space will be open for practice on **Thursday, Dec. 15, from 6 to 8 PM.** For information and if you would like to sign up ahead of time call Greg at 802-324-0308.

Rides for Sunday service and other special events – If you are able to provide a ride for someone who no longer drives, please call Jessica or the church office (802-524-4555) to be put on the list.

Mitten Tree – We are currently collecting mittens and scarfs to be distributed to local organizations and schools, who will in turn distribute them to individuals for the upcoming cold weather. Purchased items are also being accepted.

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE ADVENT CANDLE

THE WALDEN-ODVECHOWSKI FAMILY

One: We pray for Hope this day.

All: We pray for Hope this day.

One: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

All: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

One: We open to see each moment

All: We open to see each moment

One: as a gift of holy presence.

All: as a gift of holy presence.

One: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

All: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

One: lighting the way to hope.

All: lighting the way to hope.

REPEAT

Let your Spirit come, fall upon me now

Let your Spirit come, fall upon us now.

MORNING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Hope,
we give you thanks for this holy moment together.**

**As we take in the hope you offer,
may we be a reflection of your light,
expanding the sacred time of “right now”
into the sacred time of “always and for all time.”**

Amen.

HYMN*

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

NCH 122

ENCOUNTERING THE SACRED

The busy-ness of the holiday season can overrun the sense of the sacred. The irony is that setting apart time for connection with the sacred gets pushed aside in order to create the trappings of what is supposed to be the season of celebrating the presence of the Holy! We will begin our Advent journey toward Christmas by emphasizing the gift of being awake to the “now”... the gift of sacred time with God, with each other, and with those in need of hope. **Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 13: 11-14

ANTHEM *O LOVING FOUNDER OF THE STARS*
TUNE: CONDITOR ALME LM
MATTHEW 24:36-44

MORNING REFLECTION: “AWAKENING TO THE SACRED”

HYMN*

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (1, 3, 5) NCH 116

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD D. WELPTON

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

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

*“THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED
ON THEE.”* SCOTTISH PSALTER, 1615

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

“O God of Love, O God of Peace” NCH 571

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE