

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](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

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

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

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Stephen McLaughlin



**"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."**

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

**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**

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**[WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG)**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

“Moments of kindness and reconciliation are worth having,  
even if the parting has to come sooner or later.” — Alice Munro

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *Spiritual Meditation*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**  
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**  
Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**  
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now,**

Let your rain fall down, **Let your rain fall down**  
pour upon our souls, **pour upon our souls**  
Come and wash us now, **Come and wash us now,**  
come and make us whole, **come and make us whole.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**  
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**  
Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**  
fall upon us now, **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

<sup>1</sup>FROM UCC 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
- Our local Girl Scout Troop
- 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 PRAYER<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**Righteous God. in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care, redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us, and you recognize your people as we are—fully human and made in your image. You come to us, and we come to you. Let us meet in this time and place. Let us bring our hope and our fears, our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments—the fullness of this glorious and maddening life toward you assured that you meet us here. Amen.**

HYMN\*

**“O God Our Help in Ages Past”** (1, 3, 4, 6) NCH 25

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**Holy God, your fire warms our hearts when they grow cold to the pain of the world, shines brightly to illuminate the shadows where we hide from you, and provides fuel to energize us when we grow weary of the work. Revive us again, O God, revive us. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *A new commandment* Richard Hubbard

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 119: 1-8

MATTHEW 5:21-37

## MORNING REFLECTION

HYMN\*

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** (1, 2, 4) NCH 43

## 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 *Remember Lorraine (Part 2 and end)*  
S. Conrady

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- FCC Choir, Erin, and Stephan, Thank You for the amazing performance from Godspell! Our feet were tapping!

**Music Notes:** This morning's anthem text is technically from the gospel of John ("A new command I give you: Love one another"), which is itself a reiteration from today's lectionary in Deuteronomy: "obey the commandments of the Lord your God...by loving."

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on Feb. 8

Fellowship 6:45pm; Bible Study 7:00- 8:00pm

Text: Matthew 5:21-37

You can join us at any time, call Pastor Jessica for the Zoom link.

**Free Open Mic, Coffee House** is scheduled here on **Saturday, February 18th, from 7 PM – 9 PM.**

The theme is **Love!**

Refreshments 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  
For information, call Greg at 802-324-0308.

### February 12<sup>th</sup> after church: Informational Meeting

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for an open discussion of what's happening here at First Congregational Church. You do not need to be a member of the church—grab a coffee and pull up a chair!

Items for discussion include:

- Brief reports from Deacons, Pastor, Trustees, Treasurer
- Capital Campaign:
  - Getting the ball rolling and next steps.
  - The building needs a lot of work and we need help prioritizing projects. Let your voice be heard!

### Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 10am BREAKFAST CHURCH!

On this last Sunday before Lent we will pray, praise, share, and sing over breakfast and coffee ---what could be better? Bring a friend! All ages welcome!