

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: Stephen McLaughlin



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

FEBRUARY 26, 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

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

¹FROM UCC WORSHIP WAYS

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

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 PRAYER¹ (UNISON)

Divine One, we are thankful for the restoration that can be found in you. Your presence is welcomed here. We delight in knowing that you want to be wherever we are. Because you are love, you show up for us. In this space, may we delight in your assurance that all you made is good. Amen.

HYMN*

“Amazing Grace”

(1, 2, 5)

NCH 547

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Source of Grace, we confess that sometimes when we’re tempted, we don’t resist. Sometimes when we could do good, we don’t because it seems too hard. These are the times that we need your grace the most. Instead of giving up on us, you transform us as we open ourselves to you. For grace that abounds as needed, when needed, we give you thanks. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

LENTEN PRAYER PROJECT

Forgiveness Words

ANTHEM

Rain Down

J. Cortez

SCRIPTURE READING

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

MATTHEW 4: 1-11

MORNING REFLECTION:

Rev. Bill Neil

HYMN*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

NCH 506

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*

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

NCH 190

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Greg Beeman, Thank you for another fantastic Open-Mic!
- Joel Magnuson, Thank you for the delicious food you cooked for the Open Mic!
- Sticks & Stuff (via Joel Magnuson), Thank you for donating the lumber and hardware for the shelving for the Welcome Home Initiative.

Welcome to Special Guest: Rev. Bill Neil

Rev Neil is a recently retired UCC (and United Methodist) minister. He has done extensive work on Forgiveness – both academically and personally. This Lent we will be following the four-step path to Forgiveness that Rev Neil created and walked during his last Sabbatical from ministry.

From Rev. Neil’s bio:

I grew up in a mainline Protestant, white collar home. I had a variety of spiritual experiences and developed a strong social conscience.

To paraphrase Teilhard de Chardin, I believe we are spiritual beings having a human experience. Our lives offer opportunities to grow toward the full maturity of Christ. Such a life is characterized by sacrificial love, active compassion, advocacy and action for social and economic justice and spiritual practices that form in us the very mind of Christ. I strongly believe in life after death and in doing all that can be done to make God’s love real on this precious planet.

Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on March 1

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

Text: John 3:1-17

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