

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 Tues. & Thurs.

9am-12pm Wed. & Fri.

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.

---

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

**SCRIPTURE READER:** JEAN VANSLETTE

**GUEST PREACHER:** TONI GRAY



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**APRIL 30, 2023**

**10AM**

**REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR**

**ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR**

**STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST**

**MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER**

**27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478**

**802-524-4555**

**INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG**

**WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS “Which gate to enter? Which path to choose? Which stairs to take? Which direction to go? These questions can be very depressive! And sometimes the solution lies in being bold, in being imprudent!” — Mehmet Murat ildan

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *Lift every voice*      *J.W. Johnson*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

You are welcome here, **You are welcome here.**  
No matter who you are, **No matter who you are.**  
No matter where you are, **No matter where you are**  
on life's journey, **on life's journey.**

You are welcome here, **You are welcome here.**  
No matter who you are, **No matter who you are.**  
Come and join with us, **Come and join with us,**  
We're united in the church of Christ. **We're united in the church of Christ.**

MORNING PRAYER<sup>1</sup> (UNISON) 23 PSALM      TOKI MIYASHIRO

**The Holy One is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush; God makes me stop for quiet intervals. And provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity; leading me in the ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, And the blessed guidance is peace.**

**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

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

This morning we are honored to welcome First Congregational Church member Tonja Gray to the pulpit.

Tonja “Toni” Gray is a native of St. Albans, VT, and has previously served as a lay speaker and worship leader. She has been a math teacher for thirty-one years, spending the last twenty-five at BFA-St. Albans. In August, she will be moving to Maine to marry the love of her life, the pastor of a church in Leeds. She is currently involved in the discernment process of the United Church of Christ and is enrolled in their Pathways’ Program which leads to ministry. She is hoping to explore many varied ministries in the years ahead, and looks forward to serving God anywhere the Spirit leads her.

**Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for God’s presence is here. God’s timelessness, and all importance, will keep me in balance. Refreshment and renewal are found in the midst of my activity by anointing my mind with the Holy oils of tranquility. My cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours, For I shall walk in the pace of my God, and dwell in their house forever.**

HYMN\*

**“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (1, 2, 4) NCH 1**

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

ONE: God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our brokenness.

**ALL: Holy Merciful Creator, we confess that at times we have turned our backs on You, our fellow Children of God, and Creation.**

**Salvation belongs to you, O God. Forgive us. Renew us and help us rebuild our lives so that they are reflections of your love for all people. Amen**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM BROTHER JAMES’ AIR - JAMES LEITH MACBETH BAIN, ARR. M. WILBERG

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-18

JOHN 10:1-10

MORNING REFLECTION: May We Be Like Sheep

HYMN\*

**“Be Now My Vision”**

NCH 451

## 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

## OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessing flow  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, all heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

## THE DEPARTURE

HYMN\*

**“Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

NCH 505

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *GRACE ALONE* *J. NELSON*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Mara Vijups Thank you for your altar flower ministry, fresh flowers add so much to our sacred space and worship service.
- Sue and Ray Brown Thank you for cleaning up the garden’s around the church!

### Edith Steinhorst’s Memorial Service

**May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**

Edith’s family invite all friends and members of FCC to celebrate Edith’s life.

\*\*Are you able to help with refreshments after Edith’s service? If so, please sign-up during Coffee Hour.

### Green-Up Day May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am

We’ll meet at church at 8:30am get our assignment and hit the road by 9am. We’ll return to church for a cookout around 11:30am!

Please bring gloves, pickers, tick protection.

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on May 3

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

Text: John 14:1-14

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

**May 10 Bible Study will beginning meeting in person for a special series, The Stories of Luke with Kent Gramm!**

### Save the Date

**Circle of Security with Camelia Maianu**

May 20; 10:00am -12:00pm

Details to come

**Music Notes:** This morning’s anthem is the text to Psalm 23, also known as “The Lord’s My Shepherd”. The original composer was a Scottish hymn writer, religious minister and author who became known to his peers as Brother James (hence the title “Brother James’ Air”).