

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: Monday: 10am–Noon; Tuesday 8am–2pm; Wednesday closed; Thursday 8am–2pm; Friday 10am–Noon.

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:** DOUG KLETTE



**“WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH.”**

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**JULY 30, 2023**

**9AM**

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

[INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](mailto:INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG)

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



**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road” — Martin Luther

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*  
Jamaican Folk Song

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

One: O Creator of the Cosmos, who knows what the kin-dom of God is like, but also remembers what it was like before.

**All: Before creation and kin-doms, before mustard seeds and fine pearls, before yeast and bakers to make bread.**

One: So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them into being,

**All: And it is from this longing for your kin-dom and for you that we enter our worship.**

One: Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise.

**All: Let us rejoice in the Good News together—how nothing can separate us from the presence of God. Amen.**

**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>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

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>

O Spirit, who helps us in our struggles, and teaches us how to pray when we don't know what to say or how to feel, we call on you from a sigh too deep for words. Within that sigh, we wonder, we question, and we hope that all things do, indeed, work together for your good. And in this experience of being here together, in this time set apart to be side by side in community, we are reminded how connected we already are. Let us open ourselves to your presence here. Let us seek first, the kin-dom of God, and in our searching, may we be found by you, Beloved, the One who searches for us first. Amen.

## HYMN\*

***"For the Beauty of the Earth"*** (1, 2, 4) NCH 28

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (Unison)

**We call upon our ancestor, Solomon, who knew to ask God for the wisdom to discern between what is in the spirit of God, and what is not. Like Solomon, we admit that we don't always know how to make our way through life—in its nuances, violence, chaos, and unexpected burdens. We also admit that in our struggles, we've made the wrong choice, hurt others, and clung to our shame. Forgive us, O God of Wisdom, and teach us your ways of repair. Amen.**

## PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

## Special Music:

Be Thou My Vision

TRAD/SLANE ARR. E. GRAINGER

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 29: 15-28

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

## MORNING REFLECTION

“Out of the Ordinary”

## HYMN\*

**“We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed”** (1, 2, 4) NCH 540

## THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORS' PRAYER~

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**

## 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\*

**“Go Now In Peace”** BB 14

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE This Is the Day of New Beginnings C. Young

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### A Special Note of Gratitude from All of Us at FCC:

- Alice Drislane, Paula Kane, Sandy Cristman, Jo Ann Chambers, Mara Vijups, Greg Beeman, Stephen McLaughlin Thank You for all your help with the Church Street Festival!
- Sandy Cristman Thank You for organizing the Ice Cream Social at the Church Street Festival.
- Jo Ann Chambers Thank You for getting the generous donation of ice cream from Ben & Jerry's
- Paula Kane Thank You for being part of the Church Street Festival planning team!
- Our friends at Ben & Jerry's THANK YOU for the ICE CREAM!

### August 12 @ 1pm - Cookout at the Beeman's in Fairfax!

Bring your favorite picnic dish to share, relax with friends, and enjoy the beautiful gardens and pool!

416 Buck Hollow Rd, Fairfax

Sign-up at coffee hour!

### Open Mic

August 15

7-9pm

Theme: Surf and Summer!

Summer is still here . . . let's make the most of it!

Join us for poetry, singing, storytelling, refreshments and fellowship!

Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone

### Pastor Jessica's Next Vacation August 14-29

### Music Notes:

Special thanks to our soloists this morning, Alice Drislane and Dianne Kaseoru, accompanied by Stephan Conrady. Alice and Dianne are both longtime members of our choir who enjoy a little extra challenge now and then. We are blessed to receive their musical offering!