

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:** SANDY CRISTMAN



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**AUGUST 13, 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:

"A seed neither fears light nor darkness, but uses both to grow." — Matshona Dhliwayo

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE                      *Auld Lang Syne*                      Scotch Air

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

One: God moves among us.

**Many: We welcome your presence, Lord, no matter by what means you arrive.**

One: Reach out your hand and I shall always be with you.

**Many: We reach for you, Jesus, and trust that you are present when we fear or ache.**

One: Your presence, Oh Lord, calms the seas as it calms our hearts.

**Many: May we rest assured that you are ever present with us, assuaging our worries as you love our anxieties into softness.**

**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>

God of so many names, you command us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey. We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you and walk alongside those who need companionship. Show us how to be children of God who can set skepticism down and take up the mantle of faithful presence.

HYMN\*

***“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” (1, 2, 4) NCH 4***

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

**God our gentle parent, bring calm to the storms that batter us and blow us off course. We do not need to walk on water; we need only walk through our lives as whole and holy children who recognize that your love unites us, buoys us, and carries us forward to face miraculous challenges in a complex world. Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence in order to focus on what is most important: love, compassion, faith, and connection. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC:

*Claudia's Lullaby*

S. Conrady

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 14:22-33

MORNING REFLECTION

“Mountain Climbing”

HYMN\*

***“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”*** (1, 2, 3) NCH 17

## THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTOR’S 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\*

***“Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*** NCH 77

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE My Country, 'tis of Thee (unknown c 1740)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Thank You: Doug Klette, Robin Genetti, and Rev Darcey Mercier for filling in while Pastor Jessica is away.
- Melissa and Greg Beeman Thank You for hosting an all church cookout! It was a wonderful time in a beautiful spot!

**Open Mic  
August 19  
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

- **Special Guest Preachers:**
  - August 20: Robin Genetti
  - August 27: Doug Klette
- **Emergency Pastoral Care:**  
Rev. Darcey Mercier from St. Luke's and Grace Episcopal churches: 802 393-0363