

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: 2pm-4pm; Tuesday 8am-2pm; Wednesday 9am-Noon; Thursday 8am-2pm; Friday 10am-Noon.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: Tues. & Wed, 9am-12pm, and by appt.

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: Nancy Holland



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC & CHORAL DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

We don't choose our talents; but we needn't hide them in a napkin because they are not just what we want.

— Louisa May Alcott

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* R. Willis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP *Come and Fill Our Hearts (Taizé)*

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone, O God, are holy.***

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Al-le-lu--ia!***

Call To Worship

All: Within this community

One: We experience God's unconditional love

All: Within this community

One: We rejoice in the risen Christ

All: Within this community

One: We awaken to the Holy Spirit

All: Within this community

One: We join together in worship

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

¹UCC, 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. Including, Adorn Aprons and Franklin County Quilt Guild.

WH works with local housing case workers from:
F/GI Community Action
Voices Against Violence
Samaritan House
Restorative Justice Center
Pathways
Reach-Up

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)

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Amen.

HYMN*

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don’t always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world’s problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace, over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

BAPTISM: MYKALA JANE PRYOR

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM *CELTIC LAUD* CRAIG COURTNEY/P. MARTIN

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 25:14-30

MORNING REFLECTION
“Investments”

HYMN*

“In the Midst of New Dimensions” (1, 2, 3) NCH 391

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Hear Our Prayer, O lord D. Welpton

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

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*

“We Gather Together” NCH 421

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* J.Hughes

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Jenny Parke, Thank you for joining the Board of Deacons! And Kent Gramm, Thank you for joining the Board of Trustees! We appreciate your time and talents!
- ★ To Returning Board Members –both Deacons and Trustees Thank you for your continued service and ministry at FCC!
- ★ Everyone who attended the Annual Meeting in-person and online, Thank You for taking your time and care, your involvement is important for the community’s future!

Deck the Halls: Sunday November 26

We’ll be decorating the Sanctuary for Advent after a short worship service and Coffee Hour to get fueled up for it–spiritually and physically!!

Mitten Tree:

We are currently collecting mittens and scarves to be distributed to local organizations and schools, who will in turn distribute them to individuals for the upcoming cold weather. Knitting instructions are available--just ask! Purchased items are also being accepted.

Zoom Bible Study

There is no bible study this week (11/22).

Music Notes:

This morning’s anthem is a great favourite of the choir. It gives us fond memories of the late Don Barber, a choir member and cellist who would often accompany this piece. The composer and his family attend The Church at Mill Run in Ohio, where he directs the choir and plans and leads worship at several services each Sunday.