

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: Alan Shannon



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

NOVEMBER 26, 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

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

"I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do." — Jana Stanfield

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *Chorale* Robert Schumann

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!***

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. Amen.

HYMN*

"To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" (1,2,4) NCH 17

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

Sovereign God, transform us in your image. Your reign is just and righteous. We go our own way and live according to our own will. Make us ambassadors of your kin-dom. Let us represent you through words and actions. May we release our need for anything that creates a barrier to loving you and our neighbor. May we know and bear witness that we are all neighbors. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Thanks Be To You, O God* G.F. Handel

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MATTHEW 25:31-46

HOMILY

Compassion In Action

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

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

"Let There Be Peace On Earth" BB 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Arietta* J. H. Buttstedt

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

★ Doug Klette and Nancy Holland Thank You for sponsoring Mykala in her Baptism.

Deck the Halls: After church today!

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

Wednesday Nov. 29

7pm- 8pm

Luke 1:26-38.

Everyone is welcome and can join at any time— contact pastor Jessica for the Zoom link.

Advent 2023: Meditations on Mary

Beginning December 3rd we'll be spending the Sundays in Advent with Mary as she prepares for Jesus' arrival and we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth.

Church Street Sounds of the Season

December 3rd @ 3pm

The Citizen's Band

Holiday music and a carol sing-along!