

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: Stephen McLaughlin



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

JANUARY 28, 2024

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.
— Émile Zola

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. 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

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.

HYMN*

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies” NCH 27

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

One: God invites us to come to worship with our whole hearts, to inventory our deeds and our works, mindful of our covenant with God. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

All: Gracious and Merciful God, maker of covenant, faithful and just, we examine our lives in light of your righteousness which endures forever. You give us commandments, raise up prophets among us from among our own people. You speak to us, and ask us to become accountable. Yet often we ignore your ways and disdain your works. We close ourselves to your prophets and to the suffering in our world. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in faithfulness to you today, tomorrow, and all days. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 & Mark 1:21-28

MORNING REFLECTION

Resistance is Futile

HYMN*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (1,3,4) NCH 133**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*

“Go Tell it on the Mountain” NCH 154

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:**

- ★ Thank You Greg Beeman, Joel Magnuson, and Paula Kane for making another Open-Mic night a huge success!

Martha’s Kitchen Collection**Due by February 11**

- Shopping List:
 - Coffee
 - Iced Tea Mix
 - Sugar
 - Powdered Creamer

Informational Meeting

February 11, 2024

Notice is hereby given that an Informational Meeting of the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, Vermont will be held on February 11 th, 2024 immediately following the Sunday service. This notice is given in accordance with the by-laws requiring three Informational Meetings a year, one of which is to be held in February and two weeks prior notice for such meetings.

Come-As-You-Are Choir!**9:30am in the Chapel**

Every Sunday morning at 9:30am Stephan will review and help us practice the hymns for the service. Everyone is welcome!

Bible Study**7:00-8:00pm****Wednesday via Zoom****Mark 1:29-39**

Let Pastor Jessica know if you are interested and she’ll send you the Zoom link.

No Bible Study February 7