

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 9am-2pm; Wednesday 10am-Noon; Thursday 9am-2pm; Friday 10am-Noon.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: By Appointment

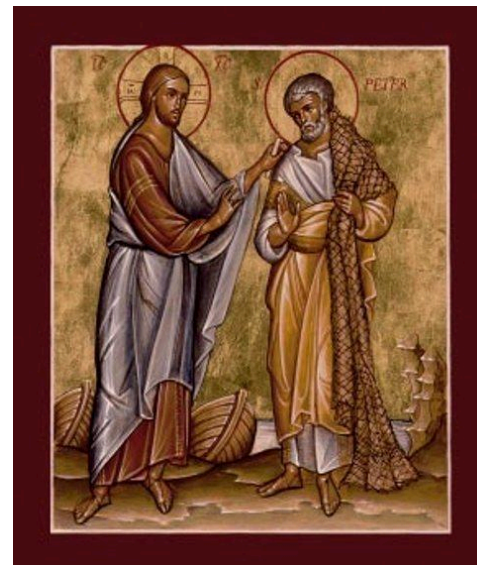
Email: [pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

For urgent pastoral matters 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: Lane McElree



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**FEBRUARY 25, 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](mailto:info@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

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

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

"If we can share our story with someone who responds with empathy and understanding, shame can't survive."

— Brené Brown

**❖ 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

**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

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

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

O God, we are offered every opportunity to embrace the path that helps us gain the world at the expense of our soul. Instead, you have called us to yourself and to follow in the way of love and compassion. Teach us about Jesus' way and lure us away from the paths of self-absorption and greed. You have called us to discipleship, to self-emptying, and embracing your way with courage. May it be so. Amen.

HYMN\*

*"Be Now My Vision"* NCH 451

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

Holy God, like Peter, sometimes we think we know better than you do. We make our own attempts to save ourselves and others from the cross filled path you have called us to walk. Help us to get behind you, because it has become easier to rely upon ourselves, rather than on your strength and presence. Grant us grace and help us to let go of our need for control so that you and your way might be our guide and path forward. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

### THE MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 22:23-31 & Mark 8:31-38

MORNING REFLECTION

Are You Kidding Me?

HYMN\*

*"Lift High the Cross"* (1,3,5) NCH 198**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\*

*"In the Midst of New Dimensions"* (1,2,3) NCH 391

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

- ★ Laurie Gadouas, Thank You for keeping the bulletin board in season and beautiful!
- ★ Dr. Kevin Dirth, Welcome and Thank You for being our interim music and choir director!

**Saturday March 2**

10am -Noon

How Do We Meet The World?

With Zen Priest, Bradley Beukema.

How do we live in light of the divine?

Join the conversation as we explore Zen Buddhism in dialog with Progressive Christianity and what it means to live our faith in the world.

**Sunday March 3**

Special Guest: Rev. Bradley Beukema

In place of our regular sermon, Zen priest, Rev. Beukema will deliver a Dharma Talk.

Everyone is welcome!

**Bible Study**

Our next Bible Study will meet on Feb. 28

Bible Study 7:00- 8:00 pm

Text: John 2:13-22

You can join us at any time, call Pastor Jessica for the link.

**Wi-Fi:**

Fellowship Hall  
fellowshiphall123

**Music Notes**

The writer of today's anthem is a contemporary composer from Great Britain, John Rutter. Written in 1978, his *Gaelic Blessing* is a song of peace. The words are as significant today as they were in 1978.

