

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

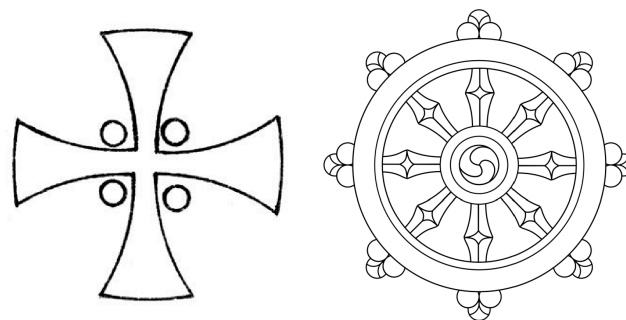
Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

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: Louise Haynes



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

MARCH 3, 2024

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

DR. KEVIN DIRTH, CHOIR DIRECTOR

MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS: "To be fully alive, fully human, and completely awake is to be continually thrown out of the nest."
— Pema Chodron

❖ 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

Morning Prayer (**Unison**) The Prayer of Saint Francis
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
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*

“Praise to the Living God” (1, 3, 4) NCH 8

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Holy God, there are times when we have brought our folly and the many reckless ways of exploiting the poor into your house, sometimes without our even knowing it. And so, when our houses of worship need change, or when we have wandered from your ways, help us to turn towards you. Not because of what we can gain from you, but because your love is a gift unearned and unwavering. Grant us your grace Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

ANTHEM *Be Glad in the Lord, and Rejoice* Russell Pascoe

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 2:13-22

DHARMA TALK

Rev. Bradley Beukema

HYMN*

“O for a World” NCH 575

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*

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" Blue Binder 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

- ★ Brad Beukema Thank You for leading the interfaith discussion yesterday. It was interesting and expansive!
- ★ Sue and Ray Brown, Hadley Shannon, and Greg Beeman Thank You for working on the t-shirts for the Capital Campaign and the Eclipse!

**This Morning We warmly Welcome
Special guest, Rev. Bradley Beukema**

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

Rev. Bradley Gendai Beukema is a priest and teacher at Treetop Zen Center, near Waterville, Maine, in the White Plum Asanga lineage. He received dharma transmission (formal sanction to teach) in January of 2024 from Peter Joryu Harris, a teacher at Treetop and a retired professor of poetry and English at Colby College. Prior to moving to Maine in 2016, Brad worked as a hospice chaplain and pastoral counselor in the Washington, DC, region, where his patients and their families taught him spiritual care at end of life and deepened his experience of and commitment to the interfaith path of many threads, one heart.

Music Notes

The writer of today's anthem is a contemporary composer from Great Britain, Russell Pascoe.. Born in 1959 in Cornwall, he continues composing choral music for the church.

Wi-Fi:

Fellowship Hall
fellowshiphall123

