

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 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:

MAY 5, 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

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

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CENTERING WORDS:

“Slow down, breathe deeply, and open your eyes because there’s a whole world right here within this one.” Rob Bell

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *Phantastereien* S. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call To Worship

One: Within this community

All: We experience God's unconditional love

One: Within this community

All: We rejoice in the risen Christ

One: Within this community

All: We awaken to the Holy Spirit

One: Within this community

All: We join together in worship

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows, in the blazing fire that does not consume, in the face of the good, in the deep of the unknown.

We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration. We await the change you have in store for us. Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits.

HYMN*

“Praise to the Living God” (1,2,4) NCH 8

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

- ★ Thank you, Sue Powers for helping in the office while Monica is out.
- ★ Maple Festival & Parade Crews: Greg & Melissa Beeman, Ellen Read, Sandy Cristman, Maria Barresi, Alice Drislane, Mary Bostwick, Paula Kane, Newtons: Park, Kia, Milo, Liam, Erica, Angus, Noah T.

Special Guest Preacher: Rev. Paul Sangree

Rev. Paul Sangree is the Associate Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, which is made up of over 100 churches throughout the state that seek to encourage and support one another in their common ministries. He has served in this role since 2018. Previously, he was a pastor of 3 different churches in Massachusetts over a period of 30 years.

Martha's Kitchen Food Drive

We are collecting the following items for Martha's Kitchen to be delivered in May:

- Ground Coffee, Iced Tea Mix, Sugar, Powdered Creamer

Breakfast Club: May 11 @9am

St. Albans Diner. Call Sue Brown at 802-527-6336 to RSVP

Open Mic!

May 18; 7pm-9pm

Zoom Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on May 8; 7-8PM

Text: John 17:6-19

Join us at any time, call Pastor Jessica.

Wi-Fi:

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)**

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that:

**our love isn't always genuine
we forget to consider more ways to serve you
we turn our back on strangers
we do not pray enough for our enemies
we too often fear the "other"
we relish in fantasies of revenge.**

**For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, O God,
we seek your forgiveness.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* Sebastian Temple

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 3:1-5; Acts 3:12-19

MORNING REFLECTION

Endings & Beginnings

HYMN*

"Let Us Break Bread Together" NCH 330

THE COMMUNION

One: The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast. Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul. We receive the bread and juice connected to the ages: to the saint of old who felt unworthy, to the seeker eager to know God, to the one who wonders what it's all about, to the one who eats with unburdened faith. Woven into this time are the hopes and tears of generations. There is great joy here. No one is turned

away for God is the host! May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pause

All: Loving God, recalling Christ's gracious life and death, and proclaiming the resurrection, we offer this bread and cup.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and being built up by this precious sacrament of grace, we may receive the gift of eternal life in the blessed and heavenly realm.

One: We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, praying the prayer taught to the disciples:

All: 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.

One: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And Jesus took the juice and said, "This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Distribution of the Bread and Cup: please hold your cup until we serve all, so that all may drink together.

One: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we thank you for refreshing us at your table. May we who share Christ's bread live his risen life.

May we who drink Christ's cup bring abundant life to others. May the Holy Spirit who lights the world also enlighten our lives. Strengthen in us the hope you set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and so that the whole earth may live to praise your name. Amen.

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*

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" NCH 506

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Pixley's Song

S. Conrady