

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:

M: 10-12, Tu: 9-2, W: 10-12, Th: 9-12 & 1-5, F: 10-12

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: By Appointment

Monday is Pastor Jessica's Sabbath.

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.

READER: Kent Gramm

ACOLYTES: Mykala Pryor & Ada Sanders



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

AUGUST 11, 2024

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

GUEST PREACHER: KENT GRAMM

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Centering Words:

“Contrary to what we may have been taught to think, unnecessary and unchosen suffering wounds us but need not scar us for life. It does mark us. What we allow the mark of our suffering to become is in our own hands.” — bell hooks

❖ 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

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)

Everlasting God, we come before you at this moment in time. We bring the concerns of the day, the burdens of our hearts, gratitude for your presence, and hope for the future. We gather as people in need and with abundance, in despair and with joy, in uncertainty and with confidence. We rest in the

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 nonperishable food items.

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
- ➔ Congregational Church of So. Hero
- ➔ Our local Girl Scout Troop
- ➔ As well as other churches and businesses that have donated to the Initiative.

WH works with local housing case workers from:

- F/GI Community Action
- Voices Against Violence
- Samaritan House
- Restorative Justice Center
- Pathways
- Reach-Up
- Spectrum Youth and Family Services

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.

assurance that wherever we are on life's journey, you receive us with love, compassion, and acceptance. Embolden us to be as welcoming and hospitable to one another as we gather in your name, to hear your voice, and to give you praise. Amen.

HYMN*

“Holy, Holy, Holy” 277 (1,2,3)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Redeemer, forgive us. We confess to our words and actions that grieve you. We speak words that divide and alienate rather than words that heal and invite dialogue. Help us to move past bitterness, anger, and resentment toward reconciliation, gratitude, and hope. Make us new not only for ourselves. Renew us for life in community with our neighbors, friends, and foes. Guide us in the path of life and love. Forgive and release us from the bonds of guilt and shame so that we can be free to change and grow, free to receive your power and new life, and free to be your agents of transformation in the world. Holy One, in your mercy, hear our plea. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Snow in August #2. Mrs. Kamai S. Conrady

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6: 28-47

MORNING REFLECTION

Whoever Believes Has Eternal Life

HYMN*

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You" 410

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*

"Beautiful Jesus" 44 (1,2,3)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Impossible Dream

M. Leigh

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Thank you Kent Gramm and Sandy Cristman for helping with the preaching this week.

Music Notes:

"On August 9TH, Mr. Tanimoto was still working in the park. He went to the suburb of Ushida, where his wife was staying with friends, and got a tent which he had stored there before the bombing. He now took it to the park and set it up as a shelter for some of the wounded who could not move or be moved. Whatever he did in the park, he felt he was being watched by the twenty-year-old girl, Mrs. Kamai, his former neighbor, whom he had seen on the day the bomb exploded, with her dead baby daughter in her arms. She kept the small corpse in her arms for four days, even though it began smelling bad on the second day. (...) Once, he tried to suggest that perhaps it was time to cremate the baby, but Mrs. Kamai only held it tighter..." from "Hiroshima" by John Hersey

Clock Winders Wanted!

There is a signup sheet on the door to the Bridal entrance. This sign up sheet is for clock winding volunteers. If you are interested but have never wound the clock before, please talk to Park Newton or Greg Beeman for more information.

Martha's Kitchen Food Drive

We are collecting the following items for Martha's Kitchen to be delivered in September. Last day of collection is September 8:

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

July 29 - August 17

Pastor Jessica's Vacation - Rev. Preston Fuller will be providing emergency pastoral care

Online Giving:**Wi-Fi:**

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

