

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](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

For urgent pastoral matters call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

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**OUR WORSHIP SERVICE** IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.

**READER:** Mara Vijups

**ACOLYTES:** Mykala Pryor & Ada Sanders



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

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

**10 AM**

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

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**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Centering Words:

“Tradition becomes our security, and when the mind is secure it is in decay.” — J. Krishnamurti

**❖ 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 Prayer<sup>1</sup> (Unison)

**Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one another. You are the God who makes all things new and who redeems our past. In life, we find the fullness of life—from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus. We acknowledge your sovereignty and express our bold trust that hope is our**

**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

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

- ★ Thank You Sue Powers for filling-in in the office while Monica was on vacation.

**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 Sept. 8:

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

**Breakfast Church Sept. 8**

Praise and Pot-Luck! Everyone is welcome for this casual worship service! We will worship in the Chapel while sharing breakfast. We will pray, praise, share, and sing over delicious food and coffee! All ages welcome!

**Congregational Information Meeting Sept. 8: After church**

Friends and members are welcome to attend to find out everything that's happening at FCC. This is a great time to ask questions, raise concerns, and share new ideas!

**Church Street Sounds of the Season returns!**

**Sun Sep 8 @ 3pm**

Organ & more! David Neiweem (organ) and guests Katie Oprea (oboe) and Erin Grainger (mezzo-soprano) join to include Bach Cantata 170 on the program. Other program details forthcoming.

**Online Giving:****Wi-Fi:**

Sanctuary  
sanctuary123



portion and assigned position in your everlasting and incomparable realm. Amen.

HYMN\*

***"For the Beauty of the Earth"*** NCH 28

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

Eternal God, may we break from the bonds of unaltered, unexamined, and unimaginative traditions. At the same time, may we be released from the compulsion to discount everything that has been a source of life and faithful formation across generations. Help us to discern what needs to be left in our past with honor, recognition, and gratitude, what needs to be eradicated with lament, repentance, and repair, and what needs to be envisioned, imagined, and created for the future. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

SPECIAL MUSIC      *The last Days of Summer*      S. Conrady

SCRIPTURE READING      James 1:17-27 & Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

MORNING REFLECTION

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~

## 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"*** BB 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Wir glauben an den Einen Gott German Hymn

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖