

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.

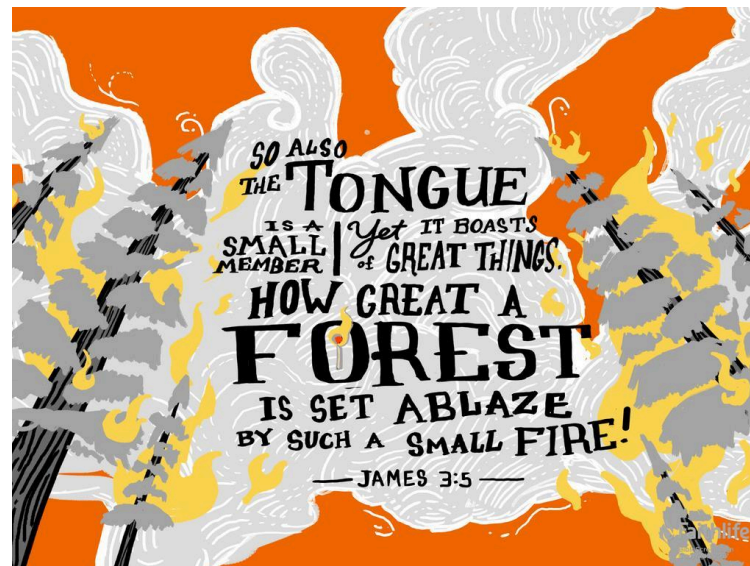
Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

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: Sandy Cristman

ACOLYTES: Mykala Pryor & Ada Sanders



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

SEPTEMBER 15, 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

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Centering Words:

“When I discover who I am, I’ll be free.” — Ralph Ellison

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION***The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.*PRELUDE *Processional* Ernest Bloch 1885-1977**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 worshipMorning Prayer¹ **(Unison)**

Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship you. We have come to be in community with our neighbor. We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. We have come in grief and with hope. We come to gather in your name, to honor your presence, and to give you praise. 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

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 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
- ➔ St. Luke's Episcopal Church, St. Albans
- ➔ 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.

HYMN*

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (1,2,4) NCH 1

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION ¹ (UNISON)

Loving God, we confess that you are a God of transformation and a solid rock. We strive to be like trees planted by the water, steadfast and unmovable at the same time that we embrace your continuing creative acts in the world and in our lives. We struggle at times to know when to remain firm and when to progress forward. Infuse us with your wisdom and discernment along with courage and grace to be fully who you have created us to be.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC

Andante Bloch

SCRIPTURE READING

James 3:1-12 & Mark 8: 27-38

MORNING REFLECTION

Silence is Golden . . . or Is It?

HYMN*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (1,2,4) NCH 43

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*

"O God of Love, O God of Peace" NCH 571

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fantasy in A Minor Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 - 1750

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Everyone who came to the Informational Meeting, Thank You for showing-up and doing the challenging work of a living and loving community!
- ★ David Neiweem Thank You for being our organist this morning! We are blessed to have you here with us!
- ★ David Neiweem, Katie Evans Oprea, and Erin Grainger Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us at the annual Organ Concert. It was spectacular!

OPEN-MIC & COFFEEHOUSE

September 21; 7pm- 9pm

Music, Spoken Word, Story Telling, Skits!

Sing Along, Listen, and Enjoy!

Refreshments* Snacks* Soft Drinks

Pot-Luck Dinner and Snacks

Call Greg Beeman for more details: 324-0308

This morning, we are honored to welcome back David Neiweem as our guest organist. Many of you will recognize David from last week's organ concert--He recently retired from the music program at the University of Vermont and has also served many music organizations in the state as music director.

Walking the Walk

Sept. 28 & Oct. 5 10am - noon

With Doug Klette

When the going gets tough.

The tough get loving!

Bible Study

7:00- 8:00pm Wednesday 9/18

Mark 9: 30-37

Contact Pastor Jessica for details.

Online Giving:

Wi-Fi:

Sanctuary

sanctuary123

