

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: Tuesday - Friday 9am-2pm

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: Friday 9:30am - Noon

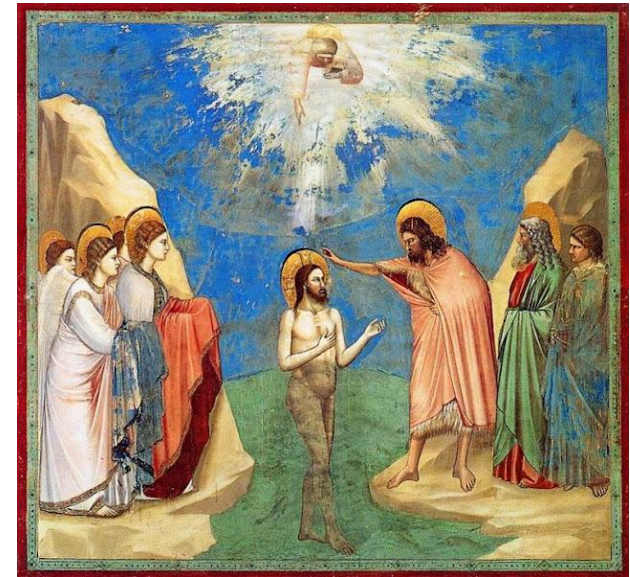
Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

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: Chris Guzman

Acolytes: Mykala Pryor and Ada Sanders



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

JANUARY 12, 2025

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, CHOIR & MUSIC DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

"And I am all the things I have ever loved: scuppernong wine, cool baptisms in silent water, dream books and number playing."

— Toni Morrison

❖ 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

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP Come and Fill Our Hearts (Taizé)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

Al-le-lu--ia!

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You. Amen.

HYMN*

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped (1, 3,4) NCH 22

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
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church, St. Albans
 Sheldon Interfaith 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.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION¹ (Unison)

Loving God, let me enter again Your baptismal river of grace. Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of my life and longings. Submerge me in You again and again and again. Cleanse every distracting impulse luring me away from You, my heart's deepest desire. Let no urgency be more important than Your forgiving love, always transforming. Today, help me choose you above every tempt ation that lures me to worship lesser things. Forgive me, renew me, and grant me the grace promised by You in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM SONNET

WORDS BY ELIZABETH BISHOP AND MUSIC BY MARY ALICE AMIDON

SCRIPTURE READING LUKE 3: 15-17; 21-22

CONTEMPORARY READING Hidden Belonging John O'Donohue

MORNING REFLECTION

Doorways

HYMN*

We Are One in the Spirit BB 57

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*

Go Now in Peace

*Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will be with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ❖ Sandy Cristman Thank You for your decluttering efforts in the Office AND for decluttering and organizing Fellowship Hall in preparation for winter worship AND for taking down Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary AND for ongoing cleaning and organizing in the kitchen!
- ❖ Peter Kaseoru Thank You for installing the flap on the Parking Lot door to help keep the cold outside!

Altar flowers today are given with love by Mara Vijups in honor of Doris Hughes.

Open Mic and Coffee House

January 18; 7-9pm

Music, Spoken Word, Story Telling, Skits!

Sing Along, Listen, and Enjoy!

****Pot-Luck Dinner and Snacks*****

The space will be open for practice Thursday, January 16 from 6:30-8pm

Call Greg Beeman for more details: 324-0308

Zoom Bible Study: Companionship on the Road

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm

John 2:1-11

Contact Pastor Jessica for the link.

Online Giving:**Wi-Fi:**

Fellowship Hall
fellowship123

