

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

info@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

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

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

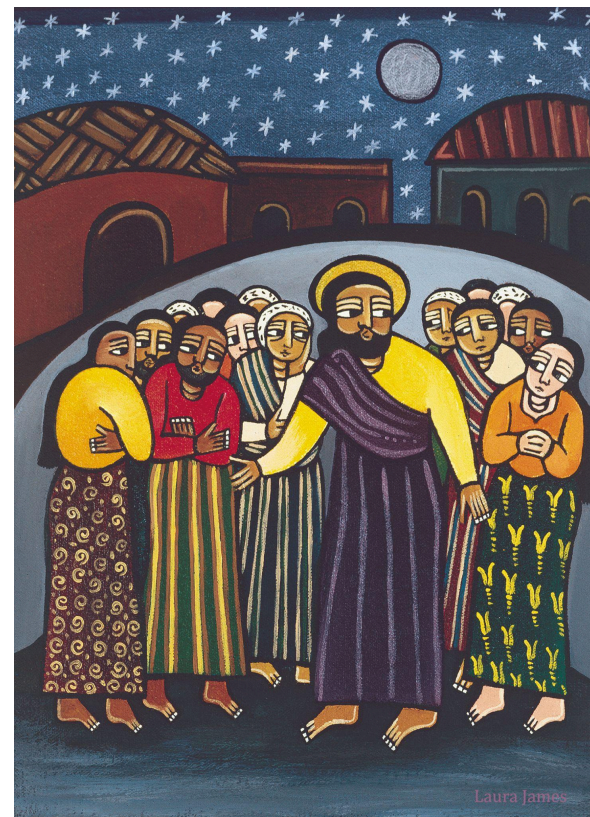
Pastor Jessica takes her Sabbath on Mondays.

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: Mara Vijups

Acolytes: Mykala Pryor, Ada Sanders, and Kaia Newton



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

FEBRUARY 16, 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

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

*... when it comes down to it, that's what life is all about:
showing up for the people you love, again and again, until you
can't show up anymore. — Rebecca Walker*

❖ 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)

**Righteous God, you create us for community, and you
commune with us. May we seek your presence anew this day
and in the time to come. Help us to recognize you in the
sound and feel of our own breath and in the movement or
noise of those around us. Embolden us to faith that
surpasses understanding and ministry that reflects radical
trust in you and the path of abundance, compassion, and
connection. Let our worship in song and prayer be a
foreshadowing of our worship in action and witness.**

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

COVER ART:

JUST AS WE ARE ONE ©LAURA JAMES, 2000 USED WITH PERMISSION

Laura James, featured artist:

Originally captivated by the Ethiopian Christian Art form, Laura James' sacred work employs this ancient way of making icons, and expands on the collection of stories traditionally painted in this style. James is pleased to help black people see themselves in their sacred texts, in African religions and Christianity, a place where racialized people have curiously been excluded in the west. To that end, James was delighted to illustrate The Book of the Gospels lectionary, published by Liturgy Training Publications in 2001; the book is used worldwide by numerous Christian denominations and is currently in its second edition. Her religious art is at the forefront of the movement toward a more inclusive representation of Biblical figures.

LTP book designer Anna Manhart writes, "We like Laura's work because it is distinct, memorable, popular and timeless, telling stories in a simple, fresh, and direct way. People respond to the expressive faces, eyes, and gestures, colors, and intricately patterned clothing. Her art appeals to varied ages and cultures. The depictions carry the tradition of Ethiopian iconography to the present day, bridging centuries and continents."

Transform us from despair to hope, complacency to courage, and indifference to love in your name. Amen.

HYMN*

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian

NCH 454

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION¹ (Unison)

Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the glory of God and for the hope of humanity. Amen

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Thanksgiving Eve

Bob Franke

arr. Peter Amidon

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-26

CONTEMPORARY READING

from *The Revolution will Not Be Televised*
(with commentary) by Gil Scott-Heron

MORNING REFLECTION

Not Televised

HYMN*

In The Midst of New Dimensions (1,2,3,5) NCH 391**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*

I Will Trust In The Lord

NCH 416

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

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

- ★ Bailey Brown and Alice Drislane Thank You for folding bulletins!
- ★ Rich Guzman Thank You for getting us started on the Resource Information Center. It's so important to be properly informed!
- ★ Maria Barresi Thank You for volunteering to be a Deacon!
- ★ Thank You to EVERYONE who participated in the Informational Meeting last Sunday. The discussion was deep, honest, and healing.

**Sunday March 2
Breakfast Church!**

We will have Communion, sing, praise, and pray together over a shared meal.

Pot-luck Mardis Gras style!

**March 5
Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service
St. Luke's @ noon**
Zoom Bible Study: Companionship on the Road

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm

February 19

Luke 6: 27-38

Contact Pastor Jessica for the link

Online Giving:**Wi-Fi:**

Fellowship Hall
fellowship123

