

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: Sandy Cristman

Acolytes: Mykala Pryor, Ada Sanders, and Kaia Newton



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

MARCH 9, 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:

Listening is where love begins: listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors.

— Fred Rogers

❖ 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 Bless the Lord, My Soul (Taizé)

***Bless the Lord, my soul
and Bless God's Holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
who leads me into life.***

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

God meets us in the night— before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure

God meets us in the light— where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.

God meets us in between— at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

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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Walking the Walk Nugget: This Lent FCC member, psychologist, and communication expert, Doug Klette will be giving us communication “Nuggets”—practical steps to help us better love our neighbor.

As Christians we study the scriptures and strive to apply their direction to our daily lives. God’s offering of Unconditional Love, God’s direction to “Love our neighbor,” even to “Love our enemies,” are examples.

Most Christians buy into these concepts, yet we are often at a loss as to how to conduct God’s word. Two years ago, First Congregational began a series of training/discussion groups, for the purpose of learning specific, practical, skills that help us to live in the spirit of God’s messages.

For those who participated, these “Nuggets” are designed to refresh your awarenesses of some of the skills discussed. For those who might be curious, or even interested in attending future presentations, this will give you a better idea of the Walk the Walk effort.

Conversations:

In our effort to help the people we love, feel better and more at peace we often talk with them. That is a great start and is the essence of Unconditional Love.

Unfortunately, during this process, we often use two approaches, with the best of intentions, so we can make them feel better: #1 “Oh, I know just what you mean; that happened to me too. **[Turning the focus away from them to yourself.]** or #2 “How long has this been going on?” “What time did this happen?” “Didn’t you know you couldn’t trust her?”

[Asking Questions.]

These common **ROADBLOCKS TO COMMUNICATION** can leave the person we are speaking with feeling abandoned or confused and frustrated. So, what can we do?

Listen: give your full attention. Ask yourself, “What are they talking about?” “How are they feeling?” (NOT you and not how you think they should feel.)

This Week: Pay attention to the roadblocks you send.

Next time: Practical Steps for Deep Listening.

And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us everywhere— at the water’s edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call. We are not alone.

God is all around. Let us worship the God of everything.

HYMN*

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

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION¹ (Unison)

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING AMOS 7:7-14
 Luke 10:25-37

CONTEMPORARY READING *Never Met a Stranger* Sarah Sped

MORNING REFLECTION

Stranger No More

HYMN*

Help Us Accept Each Other (1, 2, 4) NCH 388**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*

Let There Be Peace on Earth BB 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:**

- ❖ Park Newton Thank You for replacing the broken kitchen faucet at the Manse!
- ❖ Sandy Cristman Thank You for setting-up and decorating the Fellowship Hall for Breakfast Church– it was beautiful and very Mardi-Gras!!
- ❖ Doug Klette Thank You for providing us with *Walking the Walk* Nuggets this Lent. Healthy communication is critical for walking the Christian walk!

March 15**7-9****Open Mic Night**

Come sing, play, listen, enjoy!
Pot-luck community dinner.

Zoom Bible Study: Companionship on the Road

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm

March 12

Luke 10:38-42

Contact Pastor Jessica for the link

Online Giving:**Wi-Fi:**

Fellowship Hall
fellowship123

