

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 -12:30pm

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: Nancy Holland

ACOLYTES: Kaia Newton, Mykala Pryor, and Ada Sanders



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

APRIL 6, 2025

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, 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:

In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.

— Sun Tzu

THE PREPARATION

The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit
of prayer and community.

PRELUDE *Danny Boy* arr. Conrady

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 (Litany)

One: Holy One,

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

All: We long for community.**We long for God.****We come to worship because we need a good word.****We need connection. We need moral reminders.**

One: We come to worship because we are in between:

**All: hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing,
curiosity and conviction.**

One: So we come to worship and God meets us here.

**All: Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting
us in the middle! Amen.**

HYMN*

In Christ There Is No East or West NCH 394

Welcome to all visitors: We are delighted that you chose
to worship with us today and are strengthened by your
participation in our service!

**After the service please join us for fellowship,
conversation, coffee, and refreshments.**

Announcements:

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

- ❖ Maria Barresi; Mary Bostwick; Ray & Sue Brown;
Bryon & Lauren Burzynski; Rachel Carr; Sandy
Cristman; Alice Drislane; Shae, Tony, & Valerie
Odrechowski; Jessica Pecor; Ada Sanders: **Thank
You** for hosting and helping with Coffee Hour this
year! (If we have omitted anyone, we apologize . . .)

APRIL 13 Palm Sunday in the Sanctuary**APRIL 20 EASTER!**

**6:30am Ecumenical Sunrise Service @ Hard'Ack
10am Traditional Easter Service in the Sanctuary**

Breakfast Club**April 12, 9am @ Maple City Diner**

Everyone is welcome! RSVP Sue Brown

Online Giving:

Wi-Fi:

Fellowship Hall; fellowship123



*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹SANCTIFIED ARTS

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

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

THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF ASSERTIVENESS

As mentioned in last week’s “Nugget,” situations that require us to assert our concerns call on both our emotional maturity (remaining calm and respectful) as well as our intelligent application of the assertiveness formula steps.

People frequently wrestle with whether to risk sharing their concerns or simply suffer in silence while holding on to resentment.

I recently heard a story of a lady who was filled with resentment and spend a great deal of her time in backbiting gossip and spreading rumors about those she disliked.

The lady became alarmed when one night she had a vision of a large hand pointing down at her. Filled with guilt she told her priest of her nastiness to so many and begged for forgiveness.

The priest replied, “Not so fast. First you must take your pillow, and a knife, to the roof of your building. Cut open the pillow and return to me to report.”

She followed the instructions. The priest asked what had happened, and the lady replied, “Feathers! Feathers everywhere.”

She was then instructed to go back and gather up all the feathers, to which she replied, “I can’t. I can’t bring them back. I don’t know where they all went.” And the priest replied, “And that my dear lady is GOSSIP!”

When we choose to criticize and spread verbal resentment it can do irreparable harm and pain to relationships, even to people you don’t know.

That is why Respectful Assertiveness can truly be a gift of both courage and love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Merciful God,

When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.

When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.

Again and again, bring us closer to you.

Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

ANTHEM

Flower Carol

Pia Cantiones

Arr. Peter Amidon.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:1-10

CONTEMPORARY READING

Call Me In

Rev. Sarah Speed

MORNING REFLECTION

I See You, Do You See Me?

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*

Lift High the Cross (1, 2, 4) NCH 198

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Remember Lorraine* S. Conrady