

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-2:30pm and by Appointment

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: Valerie Odrechowski

ACOLYTES: Sophia Gagnon, Kaia Newton, Mykala Pryor, and Ada Sanders



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

MAY 25, 2025

10 A.M.

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC AND CHORAL 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:

I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world.

— Rainer Maria Rilke

❖ 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 ANNOUNCEMENT

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's love is our nourishment
God's truth, our liberation
God's words, our wisdom
God's peace, our home
Welcome to the love of God
Amen**

HYMN*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise NCH 1**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

¹FROM UCC 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
- St. Martins of Tours Inclusive Catholic Community
- Our local Girl Scout Troop

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 CONFESSION¹

We have not yet learned to love as you love; we have spoken praise in our mouths, when our hearts were far from you. The gifts you gave for our peace we have weaponized. Yet, even in our failings, your love has never failed us. Even when we turned you away, you still choose to make your home among us. Our hearts are troubled - we are enmeshed in fear.

Creation needs you; our families need you; our streets need you; our cities need you; the soil needs you; our souls need you.

Heal us,

Forgive us,

Make us whole again. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Simple Gifts

arr. by Peter Amidon

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14: 23-29

MORNING REFLECTION

The Peace Advocate

HYMN*

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

(1,2,4) NHC 286

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD

D. Welpton

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

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* ***Some Glad Morning*** NCH 595

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

- To everyone who came to the Informational Meeting on Sunday–Thank You! Open communication is so important to the well being of FCC's community.
- Sandy Cristman and Valerie Odrechowski, Thank You for planning and hosting Mara's Birthday Party.
- Kristen Worbel, Tony Odrechowski, and Stephen McLaughlin- Thank You for sharing your musical gifts at Mara's Birthday party.
- B.J. Flagg Thank You for leading the charge and getting us going on redesigning the website!

Migrant Justice**Tuesday, May 27****6:30pm**

Critical Response training. Rachel returns to share ways in which we can support our migrant siblings. Hope to see you there. Caring for immigrants is a Biblical call:

Leviticus 19:33-34

"When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don't take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own."

June 7 Pride Celebration

Volunteers wanted to help person FCC's information table in Taylor Park AND to help with an Open House at the church.

June 14**All Church Picnic**

**@ The Brown's Camp in Swanton
noon-4pm**

Wifi:

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

