

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

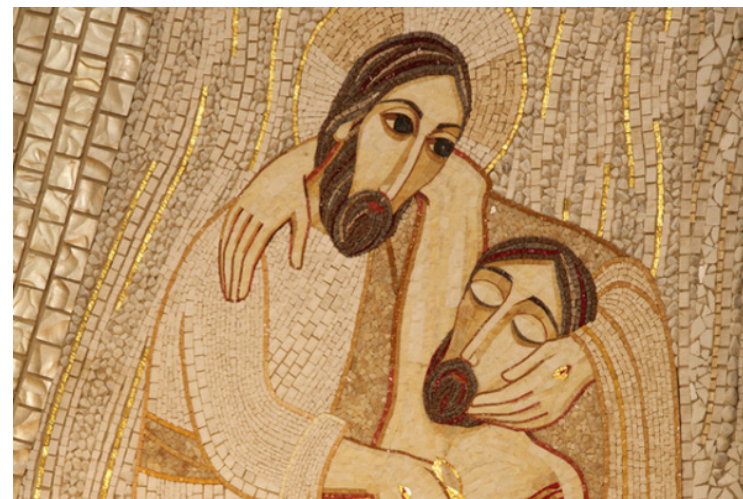
Pastor Jessica's Office Hours:

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.



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

JULY 13, 2025

10 A.M.

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, GUEST PREACHER

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

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand; it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy. — Wendell Berry

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright Gregorian Chant

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)

Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us into community together, onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example. may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.

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).

THIS SERVICE IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS PARTICIPATION OF:

GREETERS: Alice Drislane and Hadley Priebe

SCRIPTURE READER: Valarie Odrechowski

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Paula Kane and Jonathan

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

**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

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.

HYMN*

God of Grace and God of Glory (1,2,3) NCH 436

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (Unison)

God of the oppressed, we confess that it's sometimes easier to ignore those in need than it is to help them. We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves, "what will it cost us?" "what will others think?"—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors, whether we think they "deserve it" or not. Forgive us. Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need, and turn instead toward empathy and compassion. We pray this in the name of your son, who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Theme from Schindler's List J. Williams

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 9: 51-62

CONTEMPORARY READING:

MORNING REFLECTION *Love, Actually*

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

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

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* BB 14

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Have no Fear (from Karol's Carols) S. Conrady

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Mara Vijups - Thank You for the altar flowers, which are given today in honor and in memory of **Doris Hughes**.
- ★ Stephen McLaughlin - Thank You for preaching while Pastor Jessica is away.
- ★ Jonathan - Thank You for starting the new Mindfulness Group!

Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:

Thursday mornings 8-9am

Free

Explore present-centered awareness and insight through acceptance and letting go. Everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

July 26

Church Street Festival: ice cream scoopers, tour guides, friendly faces, chit-chatters and more – we need you! Let's show FCC off to the community with all our love and humor! See Paula or Sandy

NEXT Sunday, July 20

3:30pm

Highgate Manor

La Bella Incgnita

Vivaldi * Purcell * Corelli

Donations accepted and will go to the "Raise the Floor" fund for St. John's Church in Highgate

Bible Study: On holiday for the summer.

Wifi:

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

