

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](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

Please note that Monday is Pastor Jessica's day off.

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**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:**

**AUGUST 17, 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**

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[WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG)

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

Love, like fire, goes out without fuel.

— Mikhail Lermontov

**❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖****THE PREPARATION***The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.*PRELUDE *Like a Child*

## 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 PRAYER<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**God of Fire, we recognize the spark that you bring into our gathering. Let it ignite within us as we worship you in the company of siblings. We honor your power and remain in awe of your glory. Let it fall again as Spirit dwells among us. May the warmth of your presence give us courage for these days, and the clarity of your light give us discernment toward a future with hope. Be pleased by our worship, Eternal God, and be glorified in our praise. 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:** John and Jonah Boomhover

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Louise Haynes

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

**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

<sup>1</sup>UCC 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\*

*Praise to the Living God* (1,3,4) NCH 8

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>1</sup> (Unison)

**Transforming One, forgive us for dampening your fire, for our failure to recognize your movement among us. Help us to follow in the path of living life abundantly for our neighbors and ourselves. Make us instruments of your kin-dom as we encourage and uplift one another, as iron sharpens iron. Surround us, as a community of accountability and support, to transform us in your image, character, and nature. We receive the gift of new grace, new mercies, and new life that you offer to us each day. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC *You've got a friend* C. King

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 12: 49-56

CONTEMPORARY READING

*Division* Steve Garnaas-Holmes

MORNING REFLECTION

*Fallout*

HYMN\*

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

## 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\**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

NCH 506

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Somewhere* arr. Conrady L. Bernstein

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Ray and Sue Brown; Valerie and Tony Odrechowski; Maria Barresi; Kristen Wrobel; BJ Flagg; John and Jonah Boomhover; Chris and Rich Guzman; Jonathan; Alice Drislane; Hadley Priebe; Doug and Carol Klette; Marina Perron; Stephen McLaughlin; Paula Kane – Thank You All for being Greeters this summer!!
- ★ Sue Powers- Thank You for organizing the Greeters!

### Nature's Bible with Kent Gramm

**Sept. 6 and 13th; 10- noon**

The two sessions will use Nature's Bible: The Old Testament through the Eyes of Creation to look at some biblical passages from a different perspective. How might some of our fellow creatures react to such stories as the Great Flood, the Exodus from Egypt, and to selected psalms and prophecies? What would a bear think about the tale of Elijah and the disrespectful children? These stories raise issues concerning biblical inspiration and historical accuracy.

### Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:

**Thursday mornings 8-9am; Free**

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

**Sept. 6; 3-6pm**

**Pot-Luck Garden Party**

**@ Hadley and Alan's**

**Bible Study:**

**On holiday for the summer.**

**Wifi:**

Sanctuary  
sanctuary123

