

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 24, 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:

The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention.  
When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom  
like flowers. — Thich Nhat Hanh

**❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖****THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *It Only Takes a Spark*      K. Kaiser

## 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 the Sabbath, you make this day holy. As we gather in  
your name, redeem the days when our focus wandered and  
draw us back to you. Let your wisdom, justice, and  
compassion guide us. Slow our pace to attend to those  
things that matter. Open our understanding to the good that  
needs to be done. Sustain us for the challenges we face,  
Make your name known among us and through us. We  
glorify and honor you in spirit and in truth, in word and in  
deed, in season and out of season. 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:** Doug and Carol Klette

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Rich Guzman

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:** Chris Guzman and Jan Johnson

**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\*

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (1,2,4) NCH 1

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

**Holy God, we confess that we have trampled the sabbath. We claim your name and not your way. We cling to excuses to avoid discomfort or sacrifice in service of our neighbor. We turn from human suffering. We keep silent in the face of wickedness. Transform us, O God, that we might be saved from the vise of evil and the lure of inaction. Rebuild us with righteousness and hope and redeem us for your kin-dom. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Bridge over Troubled Water*

P. Simon

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17

CONTEMPORARY READING

*On Seeing & Being Seen*

Christy Sharshel

MORNING REFLECTION

*Notice Anything?*

HYMN\*

*Amazing Grace*

(1,3,5)

NCH 547

## 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\**

*Let There Be Peace On Earth*

BB 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Toccata (from Ten Ephesian Rites)*

S. Conrady

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ❖ Malik Pratt - Thank You for glazing Fellowship Hall's windows, and keeping up with the flowers and tomato plants!

### 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.**

**We will be back on September 10!**

### Wifi:

Sanctuary  
sanctuary123

