

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:

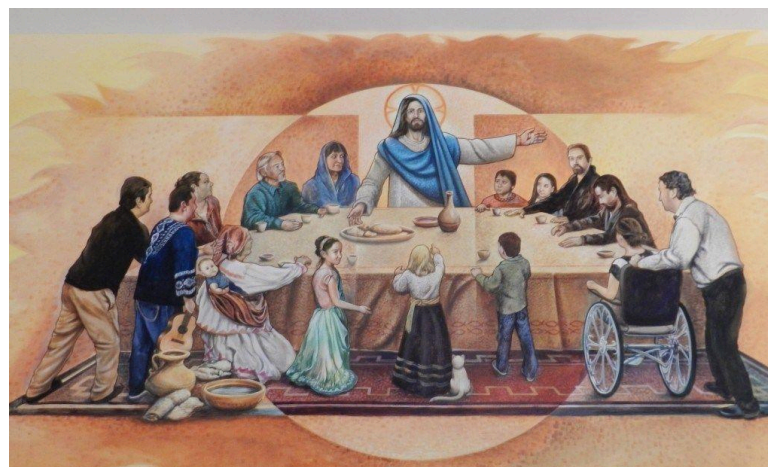
Friday 9:30am-2:30pm and by Appointment

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

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

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

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 31, 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

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have.
— Abraham Lincoln

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE *The Tyler Song* S. Conrady

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 of Glory, we acknowledge your presence among us as we gather. You have knit us together as a community. In your kin-dom, the first will be last and the last will be first. We only exalt, you yet you come near to us. Dwell in the praises we voice, in the hope to which we cling, and the love that persists. Reveal yourself to us, Great One, and we will declare and spread your goodness in the land of the living. 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: Paula Kane and Hadley Priebe

SCRIPTURE READER: Mara Vijups

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Sue Brown and Jessica Pecor

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*

O God Our Help In Ages Past (1,3,4) NCH 25

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (Unison)

Righteous God, forgive us for the positioning we do. We seek elevated places and too often fail to notice the absences at your table. Our tables are segregated by the ways we diminish the beautiful distinctiveness you celebrate among us. We live in complacency while the world around us weeps in pain, suffering, and despair. Move our spirits to propel us to reshape the world into your vision of the beloved community—repaired, restored, and reconciled. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ol' Man River

J. Kern

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14

CONTEMPORARY READING

I Am Somebody

Jesse Jackson

MORNING REFLECTION

A Place At The Table

HYMN*

Be Now My Vision

(1,2,4)

NCH 451

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

Ted's Song

S. Conrady

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Rich Guzman, Thank You for thoughtfully designing a new Communion service- we can't wait to try it out next Sunday.
- Sandy Cristman, Thank You for creating a beautiful Communion Table.

Nature's Bible with Kent Gramm

Sept. 6 and 13th; 10- noon

Space is limited: sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour

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

Sign-up sheet and directions at Coffee Hour

Bible Study:

On holiday for the summer.

We will be back on September 10!

Wifi:

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

