

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 -12:30pm

Monday is Pastor Jessica's Sabbath.

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

For urgent pastoral matters 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:

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

[INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](mailto:info@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Centering Words:

Simple, genuine goodness is the best capital to found the business of this life upon. It lasts when fame and money fail, and is the only riches we can take out of this world with us.

— Louisa May Alcott

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE *Wedding Waltz* S. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)

Sovereign God, you are the Potter who has fashioned us into being as a community. Dwell in our midst. Share your wisdom and open every point of receptivity within us. You are holy, gracious, and kind. As we gather, we recommit to accept the joys and the costs of discipleship. May you be glorified in our worship, and may we be transformed as we encounter you and your way anew this day. Amen.

HYMN*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (1,3,4) NCH 4

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: Sue and Ray Brown

READER: Nancy Holland

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Sandy Cristman

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:**A Special Note of Gratitude From the Pastor At FCC:**

- ❖ Hadley and Alan Shannon - Thank you for opening up your home and garden for the Garden Party Potluck yesterday!
- ❖ Kent Gramm - Thank you for sharing *Nature's Bible* with us!

Breakfast Club**September 13****Maple City Diner @ 9am**

Good Food & Great conversation!

RSVP with Sue Brown or the office so Sue can make an appropriate reservation.

Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:**Thursday mornings 8-9am - Free**

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

Nature's Bible: The Old Testament through the Eyes of Creation**With author Kent Gramm****Sept. 13; 10am-noon*****Keep Walking the Walk, with Doug Klette*****Saturdays 9/27 & 10/4, 10am-noon**

If ever there were a time to follow God's message of Unconditional Love, it is now. This fall we shall review and practice skills and attitudes that promote mutual respect, honest dialogue, and personal integrity in the face of tension and disrespect. Please be in touch with the office to register: (802) 524-4555

Bible Study:**Wednesdays 7pm****Via Zoom****Next: Sept. 10****Luke 15:1-10**

Online Giving:

Wi-Fi (Sanctuary):

Sanctuary123

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)**

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. We pray in the assurance that your mercy, O God, is available and near to us. And we also pray in hope that your mercy will release us from inaction, apathy, and being overwhelmed, so that we may be your instruments of redemption, reparation, and restoration in the world. Forgive us, perhaps most of all, for simply seeking your mercy for the ills of the world rather than your miraculous power to rise in us to overcome them. Grant us grace to pray boldly with our words and our actions in your name.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Carry the Light

Debbie Moylan

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Luke 14: 25-33

MORNING REFLECTION

*Reformed***THE COMMUNION**

Come to the table! Not our table, God's table.

Come in your brokenness, in your fear, and in your doubt.

Come in hope. Come in silence. Come to the table where we are filled up and poured out. Come knowing that, in this

community and through this sacrament, our hearts can be realigned with God's Love. Here, we can be made whole and gather strength for the journey.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pause

All: Loving God, recalling Christ's gracious life and death, and proclaiming the resurrection, we offer this bread and cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ Jesus, and being built up by this precious sacrament of grace, we may receive the gift of eternal life in the blessed and heavenly realm.

One: We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, praying the prayer taught to the disciples:

All: 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.

One: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And Jesus took the juice and said, "This is my blood, poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Distribution of the Bread and Cup: An Usher will invite you forward to be served Communion at the Table. If you would prefer to be served at your seat please notify the Usher.

COMMUNION TAIZÉ:

Let all who are thirsty come, let all who wish receive the water of life freely.

Amen, come Lord Jesus, amen come Lord Jesus.

One: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we thank you for refreshing us at your table. May we who share Christ's bread live his risen life. May we who drink Christ's cup bring abundant life to others. May the Holy Spirit who lights the world also enlighten our lives. Strengthen in us the hope you set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and so that the whole earth may live to praise your name. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD D. WELPTON

PASTOR'S PRAYER~

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

"THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON THEE."

SCOTTISH PSALTER, 1615

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

Go Now In Peace BB 14

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on a theme by Marcello S. Conrady