

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:

NOVEMBER 23, 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

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

— Mother Teresa

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP *Here in This Place*

**Holy One, may your presence here open our minds.
May your Spirit among us help us to find
You are rising up now like a fountain of Grace
From the Holy Ground.
Here in this place. Here in this place.**

MORNING PRAYER¹ (LITANY)

One: In this present time, no matter what passes before us,
Many: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,
Many: God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.

One: As the world trembles in fear and worry,
Many: May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

HYMN*

We Gather Together

NCH 421

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: Chris and Rich Guzman

SCRIPTURE READER: Valerie Odrechowski

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

ACOLYTES: 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. Martin's 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.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (Unison)

Divine Grace,

Jesus promises paradise to his neighbor on the cross. No matter what transgression the person had carried out, Jesus still promised a future filled with hope, mercy, and filled with your love. And yet, even when we pray “your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we like to limit paradise for our neighbors. We quietly ask: What have they done in their lives that they must ask for help, receive assistance, and lack health? Yet what we don't realize is that their misfortunes are not for us to judge. Beloved God, open our hearts wide to mercy – both in receiving and in extending it to others. May we shun judgment and open our hearts to a paradise here on earth where all your children can abide in peace and wholeness. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM *Thanksgiving Eve* Bob Franke
arr. Peter Amidon

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:33-43

CONTEMPORARY READING

Sister Karen Klimczak's letter to her would-be murderer

MORNING REFLECTION ***Grace is No Meritocracy***

HYMN*

God of Grace and God of Glory (1,3,4) NCH 436

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD D. WELPTON

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

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

SCOTTISH P SALTER, 1615

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*

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (1,3,4) NCH 417

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ❖ **Thank You Again** - To everyone who made Pastor Jessica and Stephen's respite getaway possible!

A Funeral Service for Ken Wade is planned for Friday, November 28, at 2 P.M. in the Sanctuary, with a reception to follow.

The 2025 Mitten Tree

Please consider making or donating the following items: hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, skeins of yarn or blankets. Patterns for mittens, gloves, and hats are available on a display table outside the FCC kitchen.

Donations can be accepted from October 20 through December 12, 2025.

Please contact Chris Guzman (chrich717@gmail.com) or Maria Barresi (mom.barr@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting this mission.

Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:

Thursday mornings 8-9am; Free

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

ZOOM Bible Study: Wednesdays 7pm

Next: November 26; Luke 1:5-13

Wifi:

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

