

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 - Noon

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

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

Pastor Jessica's day off is Monday.

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:

DECEMBER 21, 2025

10 AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

BAILEY BROWN, MUSIC & CHOIR DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

When we choose to love we choose to love against fear -
against alienation and separation. The choice of love is a
choice to connect - to find ourselves in the other.

—bell hooks

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE Emmanuel arr. Conrady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP *Come and Fill Our Hearts* (Taizé)

Come and fill our hearts with your love,

You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your love,

Al-le-lu--ia!

MORNING PRAYER¹ (Unison)

One: Here in worship—

All: we pray together,

One: we stand together,

All: we sing together,

One: we listen together.

All: Here in worship— we are not alone.

One: So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to
worry, remember this moment.

All: We are not alone.

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: B.J. Flagg and Hadley Priebe

SCRIPTURE READER: Louise Haynes

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

¹SANCTIFIED ARTS

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

- ❖ Maria Barresi and Chris Guzman- Thank You for leading the Mitten-Tree Mission! It was the best harvest ever!
- ❖ Mitten-Tree Elves: Mary Bostwick, Sandy Cristman, B.J. Flagg, Rich Guzman, Heather Miller, Valerie and Shae Odrechowski, Jessica Pecor, Ellen Read, Richard Thayer, Mara Vijups, & anyone else who helped - Thank You All!
- ❖ Mylene Poiras Thank You for letting us display your beautiful hand-knit Nativity Scene!
- ❖ Sandy Cristman - Thank You for preparing the Sanctuary for Christmas after the Mitten-Tree Harvest!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**Lessons and Carols: Dec. 24 @ 7pm**

This beautiful service reminds us all what Christmas is really about! Hope to see you there.

Breakfast Church

Sunday, Dec. 28th @10am

Fellowship Hall

Potluck breakfast!

Potluck Carol Sing!

Sunday January 4**10am in the Sanctuary**

Epiphany and New Members' Sunday.

Join us as we welcome: Richard, Bonnie, and BJ as FCC Members! It's also our last Sunday in the Sanctuary for the winter.

Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:

Thursday mornings 8-9am; Free

Zoom Bible Study: Companionship on the Road
No Bible Study next week

Online Giving:**Wi-Fi:**

Sanctuary
sanctuary123

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: LOVE**

Chris and Rich Guzman

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

All: We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.

One: You are right.

Even in a fearful world, love is all around us.

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

Light candles.

All: Thanks be to God for a love like that!

Amen.

HYMN* *In The Bleak Midwinter* (1,3,4) NCH 128

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (UNISON)

**When you were afraid,
did I stay by your side?
Did I offer my hand,
or did I leave you alone?**

**When you were afraid,
did I choose solidarity?
Did I see your fear,
or did I only see mine?**

We are not perfect. We all make mistakes.

Forgive us. Help us to hold others as we are held by You.

Amen.

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 45: 5-10

Matthew 1: 18-25

CONTEMPORARY READING

Tethered

Rev. Sarah Speed

MORNING REFLECTION: *Not Alone*

HYMN* ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand*** NCH 472

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

D. Welpton

PASTOR'S PRAYER~

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 Psalter, 1615

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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*

O Little Town of Bethlehem (1,3,4) NCH 133

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*

arr. Conrady

M. Torme, R. Wells

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖