

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

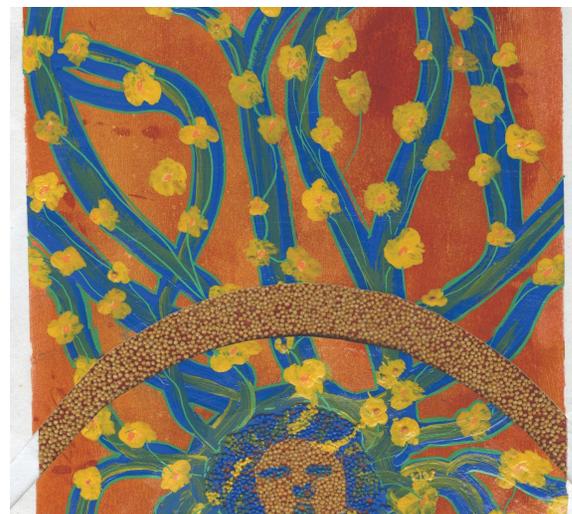
Email: [pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

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:  
FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
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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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS:

Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great,  
because greatness is determined by service.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

**❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE      *Spiritual Music*      arr. 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 PRAYER<sup>1</sup>      (LITANY)

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: manna in the desert, water turned into wine,  
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,  
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to  
friends.**

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste!  
This surprising good news is here for you.

**Amen**

HYMN\*

***God of Grace and God of Glory***      (1,3,5) NCH 436

**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:**

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Louise Haynes

**COFFEE HOUR HOST:** Chauncey Scates and Ira Wilkens

**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

<sup>1</sup>SANCTIFIED ARTS, LENT 2026

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**The Welcome Home Initiative (WH):**

First Congregational Church of St. Albans is a founding member of 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.)

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 LIFE<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)**

**Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.**

**We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.**

**We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.**

**We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.**

**But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.**

**And all of a sudden, we wonder:**

**Can we be like that mustard seed?**

**Can we be faithful and unruly?**

**Can we be playful and curious?**

**Can we be messy and still be yours?**

**We know the answer already.**

**The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.**

**Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace.**

**With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION — ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING John 2:1-11; Matthew 13:31-32

CONTEMPORARY READING \*\*Jesse Jackson

REFLECTION *The Good News Is Surprising!*

HYMN\*

*In the Midst of New Dimensions* (1,2,3,5) NCH 391

## 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 Psalter, 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\***

***Put One Foot in Front of the Other*** (insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *America The Beautiful* art. Conrady

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Thank You - Laurie Gaude for the beautiful Lent/Easter display on the bulletin board outside the office!
- ★ Thank You - Maria Barresi, Sandy Cristman, Rich Guzman, Jonathan, and Dick Thayer for the DEEP CLEANING!
- ★ Thank You - Maria Barresi, Rich Guzman, Jonathan, and Stephen McLaughlin for your help with the Ash Wednesday service!

#### Breakfast Club March 14

Maple City Diner 9am

rsvp Sue Brown or the office

#### Sanctuary Discussion March 14

Fellowship Hall, 1:30-4:30pm

What would you like to see happening in this beautiful and sacred space?

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join the discussion!

#### 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: February 25

Text: John 3: 1-17

#### Wifi:

Fellowship Hall  
fellowship123

