

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:**

**MARCH 15, 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**

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**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

When we were children, we used to think that when we were grown-up we would no longer be vulnerable. But to grow up is to accept vulnerability... To be alive is to be vulnerable.

— Madeleine L'Engle

❖ 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 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 (UNISON) from the Prayer of St. Francis

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
Amen.**

## HYMN\*

***For the Healing of the Nations*** NCH 576

**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:** 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

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

ORIGINAL ART WORK BY B.J. FLAGG

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**Mission Highlight****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
- NCSS

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)**

**God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them." Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

**Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

**God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow." We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

**Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them." We confess, we have kept the good news only for ourselves**

**Forgive us. Redeem us. Amen.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 24:17-22

CONTEMPORARY READING

*Unwritten Agreement*

Sarah Speed

REFLECTION

*Toxic Empathy?*

HYMN\*

*This is My Song*

NCH 591

**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) M. DeMore

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:**

- Sue Brown Thank You for your continued ministry of the Breakfast Club!
- Rich Guzman Thank You for your leadership in Sanctuary Discussion.
- Everyone who participated in the Sanctuary Discussion yesterday - Thank you for your dedication and love for FCC

**TODAY: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. Thank you for your gifts

**Open-Mic: March 21 7-9pm**

Music, Storytelling, Spoken Word, Poetry and More!  
Pot-luck super

**HOLY WEEK:****March 29, 10am:** Palm Sunday in the Sanctuary**April 2, 6:30pm:** Maundy Thursday Pot-Luck and Tenebrae Service in the Fellowship Hall.**April 5, 6:30am:** Sunrise Service @ Hard'ack**April 5, 10am:** Traditional Communion Service in the Sanctuary.

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

**ZOOM Bible Study: Wednesdays 7pm****Next: March 18; Text: John 8:2-11****Wifi:**

Fellowship Hall; fellowship123

