

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:**

**APRIL 19, 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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[WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG)

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

“Mister! He said with a sawdusty sneeze, I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.” – *The Lorax*, Dr. Seuss

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE            *Something Beautiful*            W. Gaither

## 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 PRAYER <sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**Holy God, We come this day with praise in our hearts and songs on our tongues. We join all creation - from the sun, moon, and stars to the wild animals, mountains and trees - in praising your holy name. Holy Spirit, through this worship, move in us and through us. Strengthen our connections to each other and to the natural world so that we recognize creatures great and small, and rivers, hills, and trees as our siblings.**

**Embolden us to be doers of justice in our local communities and to the ends of the earth so that all people and all creation may know your love and mercy. In the name of the incarnate Jesus we pray, 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:**

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Stephen McLaughlin

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

**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>CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES: THE CANOPY OF CREATION

**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:

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.

HYMN\*

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

NCH 28

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (UNISON)

OJIBWAY PRAYER

**Grandfather,  
Look at our brokenness.  
We know that in all creation  
Only the human family  
Has strayed from the Sacred Way.  
We know that we are the ones  
Who are divided  
And we are the ones  
Who must come back together  
To walk the Sacred Way.  
Grandfather,  
Sacred One,  
Teach us love, compassion, and honor  
That we may heal the earth  
And heal each other.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

ANTHEM *Flower Carol* arr. Peter Amidon  
from *Pia Cantiones (13th cent.)*

SCRIPTURE READING

EZEKIEL 47:1-12

CONTEMPORARY READING

*The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

REFLECTION

*Unless*

HYMN\* *All Things Bright and Beautiful* NCH 31

## 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\* *Let There Be Peace on Earth* BB 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Koyaanisqatsi* arr. Conrady P. Glass

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Paula Kane, Rich Guzman and Chauncey Scates - Thank You for all your help pulling together our presentation for the Kelley Group.
- ★ Park Newton - Thank You for fixing the Sanctuary door that had been damaged.

### CLEANING CREW: April 20-24

**Zone 2:** the Welcome Home area, main entrance of the Sanctuary, the balcony stairs and the windows.

Many hands make light work!

Sign-up sheet will be out during Coffee Hour.

**FILMS: at the Welden Theatre (104 N. Main St., St. Albans)**  
**"Earth's Greatest Enemy" - April 27 at 6 pm** - A new film by Abby Martin exposing the world's biggest polluter: the US military.

**"All That's Left of You" - April 28 at 6:30 pm** - This award-winning film by Cherien Dabis follows a Palestinian family across three generations from the 1948 Nakba (Catastrophe) to the 2020's under Israeli occupation.

### Mindful Awareness with Jonathan:

**Thursday mornings 8-9am - Free**  
 Explore present-centered awareness and insight through acceptance and letting go. All are welcome.

### ZOOM Bible Study:

**Wednesdays 7pm, April 22**

### Wifi:

Sanctuary: sanctuary123

