

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:**

**MAY 17, 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:

*Not in entire forgetfulness,  
And not in utter nakedness,  
But trailing clouds of glory do we come  
From God, who is our home.*

– William Wordsworth

**❖ 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 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 Love, our Companion and Source, shower us with your presence, shelter us in your sanctuary, shield us with your peace. Open our receptivity to your word, wisdom, and way. May our worship honor your name and draw us nearer to you and to our neighbors. Be glorified in our midst as we exalt your Many Names. Amen.**

HYMN\*

***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** (1,2,3) NCH 25

**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:** Sandy Cristman

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

**After the service please join us for fellowship,  
conversation, coffee, and refreshments.**

\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

<sup>1</sup>UCC, WORSHIP WAYS

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

**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.

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION <sup>1</sup> (UNISON)**

**Righteous God, you offer the newness of life, and we cling to dry and desolate places. We withhold our trust and cling to the ways of the world while retreating from bearing witness to your goodness in the world. We allow hopelessness to reign in our lives and direct our attitudes and actions. Help us, O God, to believe that resurrection is not a one-time event but a way of being we commit to living. Let the resurrected life in us transform our being, thinking, and doing in the world. 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 17: 1-11

CONTEMPORARY READING

*Poem of the One World*

Mary Oliver

REFLECTION      *In the World. United.*

HYMN\*

*They'll Know We Are Christians* (1,2,3) BB 57

## 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\* *I'll Fly Away* NCH 595

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Pentatonic Thoughts* (for Keith Jarrett) S. Conrady

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### A Special Note of Gratitude from All of Us at FCC:

- ★ Greg Beeman - Thank You for hanging the new banner!

**Informational Meeting today after church.** Everyone is welcome; no need for membership.

#### Martha's Kitchen collection for May 17

Shopping List: ground coffee, dry creamer, hot-chocolate packets, sugar, iced-tea mix, lemonade mix.

#### All-Church Picnic at Hadley and Alan Shannon's.

**June 6, Noon - 3pm.**

Sign-up and directions available at coffee-hour.

#### Ecumenical Pride Service

**June 7 at 10:30 at St. Paul's Methodist Church.**

#### AHA Art Club:

**Thursdays at Noon**

Looking for a creative outlet? Join us. Instruction, materials, and good cheer available. No experience necessary. Donations welcome.

#### 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,  
May 20 - Acts 2: 1-21**

#### Wifi:

Sanctuary: sanctuary123

