

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

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.

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:

AUGUST 23, 2026

10 A.M.

DOUG KLETTE, GUEST PREACHER

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

STEPHEN McLAUGHLIN, OFFICE MANAGER

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

— Leo Buscaglia

❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE *Morning has broken* Gaelic Melody

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP *Here in This Place*

Holy One, may your presence here open our minds.

May your Spirit among us help us to find

You are rising up now like a fountain of Grace

From the Holy Ground.

Here in this place. Here in this place.

MORNING PRAYER ¹ (UNISON)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me 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.

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:

DEACON OF THE MONTH: Valerie Odrechowski

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH: Paula Kane

SCRIPTURE READER: Mara Vijups

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

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹ UCC WORSHIP WAYS

² Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church, USA

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*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (1,2,4) NCH 43

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION ² (UNISON)

Sovereign God, we often forget important truths and lessons the past offers us, devalue the relationships brought to us, and misuse the power given to us. Help us to live in truth, with integrity, and for peace. May love and compassion guide us in all our actions and interactions. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *Klartraum* (lucid dream) S. Conrady
from: *Ten Ephesian Rites*

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:33

First Corinthians 13

REFLECTION

The Choice Is Yours . . .

HYMN*

Amazing Grace (1,2,5) NCH 547

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

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*

Go Now In Peace

Insert

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended C.C. Scholefield

❖ END OF SERVICE ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- ★ Greg Beeman - Thank You for your continued ministry of Open-Mic Night!
- ★ Paula Kane, Alice Drislane, Sandy Cristman, Maria Barresi, Bonnie Bosley - Thank You for supporting and the behind-the-scenes help with Open Mic!
- ★ Doug Klette - Thank You for preaching today and sharing your thoughts on love, acceptance, and courage!

Going Deeper: Spiritual Conversations

August 29; 10am -noon

What is faith? How can we live a more Christian life? What is the meaning of Life, the Universe, and Everything . . . The spiritual path is best traveled with companions. Join us for open, explorative conversations on faith as we go deeper together!

Champlain Youth and Community Choirs Concert

August 25

7 P.M.

In the Sanctuary!

The 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:
In the Sanctuary on Thursday 8am**

ZOOM Bible Study:

On break for the summer

Online Giving: QR Code

Wi-Fi

Sanctuary

sanctuary 123

