

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 30, 2026

10 A.M.

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:

Open your eyes, and behold, the whole world is full of God.– Jacob Boehme (1575-1624), *The Way to Christ*❖ BEGINNING OF SERVICE ❖**THE PREPARATION***The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.*PRELUDE *Surely the Presence* L. Wolfe

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 of all callings, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your mission; increase in us true commitment; nourish us with all courage; and bring forth in us the fruit of discipleship; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN*

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder (1,2,4) NCH 558

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:** Valerie Odrechowski**GREETER:** B.J. Flagg

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

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹ SEASON OF CREATION, EPISCOPAL CHURCH² A TRANSPLANT'S ECO-CONFESSION, BY ANA GOBLEDAL, AUSTRALIA

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 ² (UNISON)

God, often, we act out of ignorance, even out of a desire to re-create beauty, not realizing that our actions are harmful to the environment. Forgive us our short-sightedness and selfish designs. Help us recognize the beauty of the world – this Garden of Eden – as you have created it. Forgive us our arrogance, thinking we can make your creation more beautiful by changing it. Forgive us for using this continent's precious water for plants that don't belong. Forgive us for participating in the destruction of the fragile web of your creation.

So too, in our relationships, forgive us when we demand people grow or change to meet our own desires and expectations. Help us see and respect your beauty already in them as they are.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION - ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE P EACE

THE MESSAGE

[illegible]

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-15

CONTEMPORARY READING

“Do not doubt what you see”

Excerpt from *Ladder to the Light*, by Steven Charleston

REFLECTION

The Lovers, The Dreamers, and Me

HYMN*

God of the Sparrow (1,2,5,6) NCH 32**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*

O God of Love, O God of Peace NCH 571

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Shepherd Me, O God* M. Haugan
(for organ and Mellotron, S. Conrady)

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

- ★ Melissa Beeman - Thank You for keeping the altar in fresh flowers all spring and summer. It's a treat to watch the season's change through the flowers in your bouquets.
- ★ Chauncey Scates - Thank You for taking photographs of our newly-available rental spaces!

September 12 and 19th
***Walking the Walk* with Doug Klette**

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 Thursdays at 8am

ZOOM Bible Study:
On break for the summer

Online Giving: QR Code

Wi-Fi
Sanctuary
sanctuary 123

