

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: 8 AM to 11 AM weekdays.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

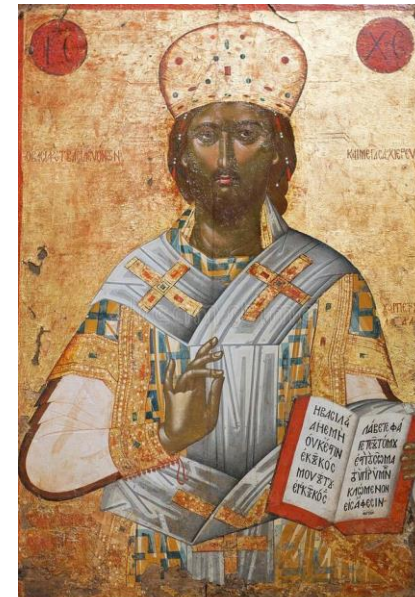
Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: T-W-F, 9am-12pm

Email: pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.

SCRIPTURE READER: MARA VIJUPS



“WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH.”

WORSHIP WITH US:

JULY 24, 2022

10AM

REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR

ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR

STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST

SUE POWERS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478

802-524-4555

INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

“In the end, though, maybe we must all give up trying to pay back the people in this world who sustain our lives. In the end, maybe it’s wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generosity and to just keep saying thank you, forever and sincerely, for as long as we have voices.”

— Elizabeth Gilbert

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: We gather to rejoice in the Holy One.

Many: Revive us, O God, make us alive in Christ!

One: We assemble as people called to community by and with the Redeemer.

Many: Restore us, O God, make us alive in Christ!

One: We come open to the possibilities made new by the Creator.

Many: Revive us, O God, make us alive in Christ!

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).

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

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹UCC, WORSHIP WAYS

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Mission Highlight

The Welcome Home Initiative:

First Congregational Church of St. Albans is a founding member of the Welcome Home Initiative (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.), personal items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.), and a full pantry, fridge, and freezer stock of food.

The Welcome Home Initiative is a collaboration among:

- Franklin/Grand Isle CVOEO- Community Action
- First Congregational Church of St Albans
- Grace Episcopal Church, Sheldon
- Sheldon Methodist Food Shelf
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton
- As well as other churches and businesses that have donated to the Initiative.

WH works with local housing case workers from:

- F/GI Community Action
- Voices Against Violence
- Samaritan House
- Restorative Justice Center
- Pathways

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.

MORNING PRAYER¹

Compassionate One, your love sustains us, molds us, and empowers us. May we dwell in that love as you dwell in us—faithfully, joyfully, abundantly. Renew us as your people grounded in you and flourishing with you. Amen.

HYMN*

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

NCH 277

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

Just God, we sense your anger at the injustice that thrives in the world. We share your grief at the discord that rages among your children, the rejection of those who bear your image, and the oppression of those you know by name. We turn toward you for strength and guidance to turn away from the norms of this world, the lure of self-righteousness, and the appeal of comfort over justice. Embolden us to believe that another world is possible and empower us to participate in its creation. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 18:20-32

Luke 11:1-13

MORNING REFLECTION

“Heart-to-Heart”

HYMN*

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

NCH 505

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

BB 35

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Lane and Judy McElree Thank You for donating paper bags for Martha’s Kitchen—they really came in handy at the “To Go” window!
- Paula Kane and Sandy Cristman Thank You for hosting July’s Open House—it’s so nice for community members and visitors to get a chance to explore and learn about FCC’s historic sanctuary!

Pastor Jessica’s Vacation August 2-22

Emergency pastoral care will be covered by Rev. Preston Fuller of St. Paul’s Methodist Church (802-524-5632)

Summer Music

Do you, or a friend, sing or play an instrument? You are invited to “pray twice” and share music during Sunday worship! Contact Erin during coffee hour or during the week through the office or firstcongregationalmusic@gmail.com

Bible Study is on Summer Break!

We will resume in the September.