

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: STEPHEN MCLAUGHLIN

SINGERS: DIANNE KASEROU & ALICE DRISLANE



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

JULY 31, 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:

“No cord or cable can draw so forcibly, or bind so fast, as [love] can do with a single thread.” — Robert Burton

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE *Catherine's Call*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: Our Loving God gathers us from the east and the west, from the north and from the south.

Many: The Holy One is in our midst. Let us say so!

One: We cried out to our God in the time of trouble and eased our distress.

Many: The Holy One is in our midst. God leads us on right paths.

One: Our Provider satisfies our thirst and meets our needs.

Many: The Holy One is in our midst. Consider God's steadfast love!

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

Holy Love, we worship you as your people. You tether us to you in righteousness and covenant. Reveal your face to us. Let us see you in our midst, in our neighbors, and in ourselves. Clothe us in love and compassion, and continually fashion us as your people for you are our God.

Amen.

HYMN*

“God Is Here”

NCH 70

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (Unison)

Gracious One, you have knit us together wonderfully. You have promised your abiding presence in our lives and have guided us with love. We turn away from you and toward the path to destruction and discord. We judge our neighbor rather than love them and we fail to even honor ourselves as your beloved creation. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC *BE THOU MY VISION* ARR. E. GRAINGER

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Luke 12:13-21

MORNING REFLECTION

“Eat, Drink and...”

HYMN*

“O How Glorious, Full of Wonder”

NCH 558

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**

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

NHC 77

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Lily of the Mohawks* (for Grand Organ)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Greg and Melissa Beeman Thank You for sharing beautiful flowers from your garden with us!
- Sue Powers Thank You for all you do—in the office and in the congregation!
- Alice and Dianne, Thank You for your gift of music this morning.

Pastor Jessica’s Vacation August 2-23

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

Special Guests while Jessica is away. Help give them a warm welcome!

- **August 7: Doug Klette** will be getting into the nitty-gritty of the Christian walk!
- **August 14: Robin Genetti** returns to FCC’s pulpit
- **August 21: Sandy Cristman** –And now for something completely different . . .

Bible Study is on Summer Break!

We will resume in the September.

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