

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: Toni Gray



“WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH.”

WORSHIP WITH US:

SEPTEMBER 18, 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

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

CENTERING WORDS:

“Friendship is certainly the finest balm for the pangs of disappointed love.” — Jane Austen

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 WORSHIP:

TAIZÉ*

Let all who are thirsty come, let all who wish receive the water of life freely.

Amen, come Lord Jesus,

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

Let all who are thirsty come, let all who wish receive the water of life freely.

Amen, come Lord Jesus,

Amen, come Lord Jesus . . .

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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Introduction to Mindfulness and Meditation

Saturdays Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8

10am- 11am

First Congregational Church, Parlor

Feeling **STRESSED**? Do things feel too much, too fast, too overwhelming?

Please join us for a three part series where we'll explore ways to help reduce stress and stay centered. **Everyone is Welcome.**

The class is FREE but please call to reserve your spot: 802-524-4555.



Midday Meditation

Monday ·Wednesday · Friday

12pm- 1pm

First Congregational Church, Sanctuary

Our work days can be so busy and stressful—take a moment for yourself to breathe, rest and recharge.

Beginning **September 12** the sanctuary of First Congregational Church will be open for quiet reflection, meditation, and contemplation. We'll have soothing music and meditation guides available. **Everyone is Welcome. Free.**

MORNING PRAYER

Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to you any time. You have made it possible for us to come, as we are however, we are. We rejoice in knowing that you walk with us whether the road is rough or smooth. You are steadfast. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so that we may be a balm when none can be found. Amen.

HYMN*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (1, 2, 4) NCH 1

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Source of Wholeness, we confess that sometimes our goals don't align with yours, and we get lost. At times, we have pursued power, knowledge, and wealth instead of you, who are the source of all. We know that you are the balm we need, and we turn ourselves towards you. You are steadfast in your love and justice. Help us to be the same, help us to be a balm to others as you are to us. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING JEREMIAH 8:18- 9:1
LUKE 16:1-13

MORNING REFLECTION
“Playing the Angles”

HYMN*
“*Be Now My Vision*” (1, 2, 4) NCH 451

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

Benediction

HYMN*
“*This Is the Day of New Beginnings*” (1, 2, 4) NCH 417

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Everyone! Who came to our very first Breakfast Church! Let’s do it again!
- Everyone who participated in the congregational meeting—THANK YOU, your voices and opinions matter and are vital to moving us forward!

Bible Study

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 21st on Zoom – please let Pastor Jessica know if you’d like to join in!

Church Street Sounds of the Season

October 9th the performance will be Music-Comp and on November 13th, Va-Et-Vient. Admission is by donation.

*What is TAIZÉ?

Created by and named after the Taizé (taa-ZAY) monastic community in France, which began in the 1940’s; Taizé is a contemporary, repetitive, sung prayer set to simple music. The use of repetitive prayers has a long history in Christian spirituality (as well as many other faith traditions). Taizé prayers are unique in that they are fully ecumenical—they are adapted from core biblical texts and can be sung in various languages. The song should have no pre-determined length or number of repetitions—the intension is for the congregation to immerse itself in the simple harmonies leading to a contemplative state.