

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: Jean Vanslette



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

MARCH 5, 2023

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:

“Before we can forgive one another, we have to understand one another.” –Emma Goldman

THE PREPARATION

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**
Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now,**

Let your rain fall down, **Let your rain fall down**
pour upon our souls, **pour upon our souls**
Come and wash us now, **Come and wash us now,**
come and make us whole, **come and make us whole.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**
Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now.**

Welcome New Member Jean Vanslette:

Though Jean is a “new” member she has been joining us for worship for several months, volunteering as a Reader and cleaning the church basement (single-handed!)—she says she likes volunteering and boy are we happy she does!

Jean was born in New Hampshire and spent her young life in Vermont towns along the Connecticut River. Her family’s history in Vermont goes back multiple generations.

Many people may remember the painting and wall-papering business Jean and her husband ran locally for nearly 40 years. She has been married to her husband, Eric, for 38 years and has one son and two step sons, all in their forties and living all over the world—South Korea, Florida and Shelburne.

Jean and Eric moved from Swanton to St. Albans two years ago—please help us give Jean a warm welcome to St Albans and to First Congregational Church!

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

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

¹ UCC WORSHIP WAYS

MUSIC, COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS: CCLI #4799426 AND SJMP #14586

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM *A Gaelic Blessing*

J. Rutter

SCRIPTURE READING

GENESIS 12:1-4(A)

JOHN 3:1-17

MORNING REFLECTION: "LISTENING"

HYMN*

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

NCH 330

THE COMMUNION

BLUE BINDER

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD D. WELPTON

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

*"THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED
ON THEE."* SCOTTISH PSALTER, 1615

THE DEPARTURE

HYMN*

"I Love to Tell the Story" (1, 2, 4)

NCH 522

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

MORNING PRAYER¹ (UNISON)

God of calls and courage, you draw us towards your loving embrace even as we face what seems like impossibility. We experience heartache and grief, injustice and cruelty, fear and anxiety as daily teachers on this path of faith. As you call us to go into an uncertain and unknown future, O God, grant us the courage needed to let go of all that we have known so that we can take hold of the new life you are bringing about even now. Though we may not know where we are going, God, your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. In the name of the One who so loves the world we pray. Amen.

HYMN*

"In the Midst of New Dimensions" (1, 2, 3) NCH 391

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

One: O God, we all too often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Forgive us in our unwillingness to live by faith or to not trust you with providing all that we need for the journey.

All: May God's mercy surround our weaknesses with grace for restoring us to hope everlasting.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Jean Vanslette

One: Friends in Christ . . .

Questions to the Candidate

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way Jesus showed us, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidate: **I promise, with the help of God.**

One: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: **I promise, with the help of God.**

One: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, as it serves the community and the world?

Candidate: **I promise, with the help of God.**

One: Do you, the members of First Congregational Church, offer your love, support, and guidance as she becomes a part of this congregation?

Congregation: **We promise, with the help of God.**

Deacon: Let us, the members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of St. Albans Vermont, express our welcome and affirm our common ministry in Christ.

Congregation:

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and our prayers as

we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to

grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Deacon: As an affirmation of our common ministry in Jesus Christ, let us read together the covenant of this congregation:

All: **Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and relying for wisdom upon the teachings of the Bible and communion with God in prayer, we do now, in the sight of God, solemnly covenant and agree with each other to associate ourselves to be a church of Jesus Christ. We will endeavor to follow the example of Jesus and strive to do God's will in all things. We agree to walk together and serve one another in Christian love, submitting ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of this church. And we promise to labor together for the coming of God's Kingdom of righteousness and peace and love through the whole earth.**

Deacon: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of St. Albans, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the covenant membership of the church.

PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Deacon: Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered as this church, and we rejoice in Jean, who has joined as a new member this morning. Together may we live in the Spirit, building up one another in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world as faithful disciples of our Friend and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE ~ WELCOMING JEAN

