

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 12 PM Tues. & Thurs.;

8AM-10AM Wed.; 9AM-12PM Mon. & Fri.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

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

Email: [pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

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

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

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Louise Haynes

**Musicians:** Greg Beeman, Avo Kiviranna, Stephen McLaughlin



**"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."**

**WORSHIP WITH US:**

**MAY 14, 2023**

**10AM**

**REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR**

**ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR**

**STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST**

**MONICA NEWTON, OFFICE MANAGER**

**27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478**

**802-524-4555**

**INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG**

**WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

CENTERING WORDS “The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”— Elie Wiesel

**THE PREPARATION**

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

PRELUDE                      *Like a Child*                      D. Damon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

You are welcome here, **You are welcome here.**  
No matter who you are, **No matter who you are.**  
No matter where you are, **No matter where you are**  
on life’s journey, **on life’s journey.**

You are welcome here, **You are welcome here.**  
No matter who you are, **No matter who you are.**  
Come and join with us, **Come and join with us,**  
We’re united in the church of Christ. **We’re united in the church of Christ.**

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**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

<sup>1</sup>FROM UCC WORSHIP WAYS

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## NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING MAY 21, 2023

Notice is hereby given that an Informational Meeting of the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, Vermont, will be held on May 21, 2023, immediately following the Sunday service. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws requiring three Informational Meetings a year, one of which is to be held in May, and a requirement of two weeks' notice for regular meetings. The business for the Informational Meeting is to 1) inform the Congregation about the affairs of the church, 2) provide the opportunity to ask questions, and 3) to discuss any issues and concerns.

Dated at St. Albans this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.  
Judy Miller, Clerk

MORNING PRAYER<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for being with us today and always. You have gathered us here to celebrate you—our Creator, our Mother, our Father—with the gift of your Holy Spirit. Let our worship be all about you, as we humbly pray for the Holy Spirit to keep our hearts, minds, and souls in tune with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN\*

***“All Things Bright & Beautiful”***

NCH 31

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup> (UNISON)

**We come in boldness and in brokenness, Loving God. We come in repentance, asking for your grace and mercy for the indifference we show towards you and our neighbor. Many times, we have failed to keep your commandments, to love you above all and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Give us the grace to abide in you, as you remain abiding in us, that we may live as Christ lives in this world.**

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**THE MESSAGE**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC *Walk Slow* Dixie Hall and Tom T. Hall

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 66:8-20

JOHN 14:15-21

MORNING REFLECTION: **Advocate**

HYMN\*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (1, 2, 4) NCH 43

## THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

*HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD* D. Welpton

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**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

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

## 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\*

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” (1& 4) NCH 286

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Under A Tree* S. CONRADY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Joel Magnuson, Thank you for organizing FCC’s second annual Green-Up Day!
- Alice Drislane, Orlando Delgado, Doug & Carol Klette, Sandy Cristman, Paula Kane, Nancy Holland, and Stephen McLaughlin, Thank you for helping out with Green-Up Day. (Valerie Walden and Co. Thank you for dropping snacks off for us!)
- Larry Bruce, Mara Vijups, Ray and Sue Brown, Thank you for pulling the invasive shrubs and cleaning-up the corner garden.

### Women’s Fellowship Breakfast

May 13<sup>th</sup> ; 9am @ Maple City Diner  
RSVP Sue Brown (527-6336).

### Circle of Security with Camelia Maianu

May 20; 10:00am -12:00pm

Camelia will present an introduction to Circle of Security (COS), which is both a framework for understanding close relationships and an intervention program for improving the security of caregiver-child relationships. The COS framework can help us understand what makes for a healthy and secure relationship as well as why we struggle in close relationships and how we can overcome unhealthy patterns.

### Free Open Mic and Coffee House

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00pm**

**Theme: Renewal!**

Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts, and everyone in between. For information, call Greg at 802-324-0308

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on May 17  
6:45pm - 8:00 pm

### Stories of Luke with Kent Gramm

We are meeting IN PERSON, in the Fellowship Hall