

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

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: Doug Klette



"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."

WORSHIP WITH US:

MAY 21, 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

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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 *Carry the light* D. Moylan

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.**

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

¹FROM UCC WORSHIP WAYS

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

MUSIC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:



The *Church Street Sounds of the Season* series grew out of plans developed simultaneously, but independently, by the music directors at each host church.

As co-artistic directors, Donna Costes (St. Luke's) & Erin Grainger (First Congregational) cooperate to present fall and spring series to our communities. Our goal is multifold: to bring a variety of high quality music performances across the genres of classical, chamber, choral, and folk music; to provide a performance venue in the northwest corner of Vermont to our excellent musicians in the region; to share our beautiful church spaces with the public; and to allow these performances to be financially accessible to the public.

Locations

Spring performances are held at **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** in St. Albans VT, the church on the south end of the park with the red door (8 Bishop St, St. Albans VT).
Stay Tuned for Spring Concert Information!

Fall performances are held at the **First Congregational Church** in St. Albans VT, the church on the north end of the park with the clock tower (27 Church St, St. Albans VT).

MORNING PRAYER¹ (UNISON)

Leader: In this season of thought-provoking and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

Congregation: We come to be inspired by the stories of love and joyful.

Leader: We come to listen for words of hope and renewal.

Congregation: We come with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts. Blessed be our God.

Leader: Come Let us worship our God-the One who holds all things in store for us in this season of re-freshening.

HYMN*

"A Mighty Fortress" (1, 2, 4) NCH 439

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹ (UNISON)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin! Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *Glory to the Lamb* David Blackwell

SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 1:6-14

JOHN 17:1-11

MORNING REFLECTION: **UNITED**

HYMN*

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

NCH 400

THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord D. Welpton

PASTORS' PRAYER~

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*

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

NCH 423

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Tyler Song

S. Conrady

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- Sue Brown, Thank You for your Women's Breakfast Ministry! It's always so much fun to gather casually over the best meal of the day!
- Greg Beeman, Avo Kiviranna, Stephen McLaughlin, Thank You for providing Special Music while Erin was away last week. It was spirited and inspiring!

June 10

1pm

Picnic at the Brown's Camp in Swanton on the lake.

Bring a folding lawn chair and your favorite picnic dish to share. Sign-up during Coffee Hour, directions available; car-pooling encouraged!

Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on May 24

6:45pm - 8:00 pm

Stories of Luke with Kent Gramm

We are meeting IN PERSON, in the Fellowship Hall

Music Notes: We celebrate Ascension with today's anthem. The text is written by 17th/18th-century theologian, logician, and Christian minister Issac Watts, whose name is found associated with well over 500 hymns. Composer David Blackwell was born in 1961, grew up in Oxford, and studied music at Edinburgh University, graduating First Class in 1983.