



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All in the Spirit of Christ

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

1 Church Street Essex Junction, VT 05452

Phone: 802-878-5745

Fax: 802-872-8236

Website: www.fccej.org

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org



Teleworship & Fellowship Services

We recommend that you review our worship bulletins ahead of time. They serve as primers for your participation; and all are welcome to participate! To access our worship bulletins, visit this link: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/category/bulletins/>

- Sunday Worship at 9:30am. Live Stream.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/> OR
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGklxOIDMDdZbw> OR
 - visit our website and click the “Facebook” menu tab at the top of the page
www.fccej.org
 - Fellowship Hour, after Sunday Service ~ 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/980588369>
 - Saturday Worship at 4:30pm @ <http://zoom.us/j/403773331>
 - Daily Devotionals, Weekdays 8am and 8pm @ <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
 - Yoga with Jonah, Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30pm @ <https://smcvt.zoom.us/j/620842254>
 - Solidarity Group with Rev. Josh Simon, Mondays at 7pm @ <http://zoom.us/j/910565449>
 - Sermon Talk Back, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
 - Thursday Coffee Clatter, Thursdays at Noon @ <https://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
 - **Storytime with Laurie now has a password. Contact her at lchipman@fccej.org.** Storytime with Laurie, Thursdays at 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/461548603>
 - Church Committees utilize Zoom as needed. Please, contact the relevant committee chair for details.
 - Don't have a web camera? No problem! Visit our Facebook Events page and click your desired event for a list of phone numbers that you can call to join by telephone/cellphone. (There are numbers for people living nationally and internationally):
<https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>
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Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020
Live Streaming

Order of Worship

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:15 a.m. with music and pre-worship notes

As worship begins: Light a candle at home, Sit in a comfortable spot, Center yourself w/ breathing

Service Input Preparation: Text NOW to make the service run more smoothly.

- 1. Thankfulness: Text Rev. Mark one thought of gratitude [802 922-1773]**
- 2. Kid's Names: Text Rev. Mark your child's name for Children's Message**
- 3. Prayer Requests: Text Rev. Mark your Prayer Requests [802 922-1773]**

Welcome

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome in this place.*

An Opening Reading on Gratitude [Sharing some items of gratitude from the congregation]

A few key announcements [most will be at the end of the service]

Lighting the Alter Candles Mark: Jesus Christ is Risen.
Josh: He is risen indeed.

Prayer of Invocation - Deacon

Hymn

Hallelujah (x3)
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, hallelujah

Sanctuary Choir

Children's Message

Song

Pastoral Prayer

Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude:

Rev. Mark 802 922-1773

Will end with the Lord's Prayer

Scripture.....

Psalm 16 Laurie
John 20: 19-31 Rev. Simon

No Bible on hand? Visit <https://www.biblegateway.com/> and select “New Revised Standard Version”.

Song

Sermon

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Rev. Simon

Closing Hymn

We Live By Faith and Not By Sight

Finally @ First

**We live by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke,
Who still we know is near.**

**We May not touch Christ's hands and side,
Nor follow where Christ trod;
But in confessing we rejoice: our Saviour and our God!**

Benediction and blowing out our candles

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, holding you in love.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour. Link: <https://zoom.us/j/980588369>

Our Prayer Ministry		
Heather (Catherine Lapierre's niece)	Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's Father)	Graham Sicalowski (Lauren Starkey's son)
Robert & Claire Deal	Christine Sinkewicz & Family	Denise Keating & Family
Barb Blanchette	Rev. Patricia & Rev. Fred	Judy Janwich
George Jackson	The Schneider Family	Fletch & Peg Coolidge and Family
Betty Adams & Family	John A & Family	Matt & Kaki McGeary and Family
Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus		Diane & Sara
Kristin (Nancy Hall's daughter)	Alison Wermer & Family	

**The altar flowers are given by
Sue & Steve Wood
In honor of their parents.**

Announcements

Heavenly Food Pantry continues to operate monthly on the 2nd Monday ~ 5:30-7:30pm and 4th Thursday ~ 2-6pm. The next Pantry date is Thursday, April 23rd.

Safely receiving food: Due to current health directives, the shopping process will be modified, and food will be delivered to vehicles in the Church parking lot. Clients will stay in their vehicles, where a volunteer will gather family information and bagged food will be placed in car trunks. This way, exposure will be strictly limited for both clients and volunteers.

Donations: The Pantry's most needed items are baked beans, tomato soup, chicken noodle soup, corn, peas, bar soap, and dish soap.

Volunteers: We are recruiting volunteers for *Thursday, April 23rd*. 10-12pm to pre-bag produce, 1:30-4 pm distribute food (16 and older); 4-6:15 pm distribute food (16 and older). **Please wear face masks and adhere to other CDC guidelines.**

Questions or Concerns? Please, email welcome@fccej.org or call the church at 1 (802) 878-5745 extension 100.

Altar Flowers requests continue to be honored, and your flowers will be displayed during our teleworship services. The church administrator will be contacting individual buyers to confirm receipt of payment but also to ensure that you know your options for retrieving your flowers. By default, altar flowers will be kept in our Marvin Lounge for the security of the flowers but also so that you may safely retrieve them given current social distancing practices. Additionally, these are vacant dates for which we still require your flower requests:

May 31 June 7 June 14 June 21 June 28 July 5 July 12 July 19 July 26

August 2 August 9 August 16 August 23 August 30 September 6 September 13

September 20 September 27 October 4 October 11 October 18 October 25

November 1 November 8 November 15

If you wish to buy flowers for one of these worship dates, please include in your request **1)** the worship service date that you prefer, **2)** your full name, and **3)** the reason for your donation (e.g. "in memory of Mom.") Flowers cost \$34. Your requests can be sent to the church by emailing welcome@fccej.org; or calling 1 802 878 5745 extension 100 (leave a voicemail and you will be contacted by the next business day.) Check payments made out to "FCCEJ" can be mailed to:

Attn: Financial Secretary
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Include "altar flowers mm/dd" in the memo line so that we know the date for which you are paying.

FCCEJ selected as Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program beneficiary

For the month of May, our Heavenly Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford store located at 21A Essex Way, Essex Junction VT.

Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!

The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell, and we appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! *Want to get started?* Contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com and she will mail a card to you. Let her know how much you would like to add to the card and send a check to the church. Be sure to put "Hannaford Card" on the reference line of your payment. *Need a refill?* Contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com and give her your name, the amount of money to be applied, and the last four digits of the gift card. Note: if you bought your card somewhere other than the church, you would need to provide the full length of digits. You will receive an email when funds have been added to your card. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing as the cards are done in batches. Questions? Please call Doug Ovitt in the Church Office at 802-878-5745 extension 100.

Please make checks payable to "FCCEJ" (or use online Bill Pay) and mail to this address:

Attn: Financial Secretary
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Please include "Hannaford Reload" and the date on the subject line of your email or check memo.

Our Home, Our Future, Our Time Capital Campaign Update

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the "sneak peek" at our sanctuary on Easter Sunday! If you missed it, you can find the service saved on Facebook/YouTube – the "tour" is at the very end. There is still a little bit of painting left to do, but we look forward to the day when we can be back in our beloved sanctuary – and what beautiful day that will be!

Pledge Payments: In these challenging times, we know that many folks are dealing with financial uncertainty and hardship and taking care of yourself and your family is the top priority. So, this message is intended for those who are not facing a financial hardship right now. IF (and only if) you can help, your continued pledge payments - for the annual stewardship drive and for the capital campaign - can play a key role in helping First Church weather this storm. For the capital campaign, early pledge payments will help us avoid the need to access the bridge loan and help minimize (or even eliminate) interest expenses. We have paused new campaign expenditures for now, however some projects were already in motion before this crisis began and we have reached the end of our cash on hand. That said, our bridge loan is still available if we need it. Thank you all for your continued support.

Ministry Directory

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]

Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]

Church Administrator: Doug Ovitt [welcome@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: Jenny Bourn [jennybourn4@gmail.com]

& Laura Marthaler [Laura.marthaler@gmail.com]

Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]

Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Treasurer & Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]

Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580], Judy McCullen [878-9794]

Deacons: Judy Larrabee-Pomainville [802-236-0604]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Missions: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Barb Smith [310-2491]

Stewardship: Jessica Moos [399-8068], Shannon McCullen [922-8792]

Trustees: Kaki McGearry [879-2062]

Ushering: Justin King [238-6273], Jessica Moos [399-8068]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Sue Wood [879-6552] OR woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]