



# 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](http://www.fccej.org)

E-mail: [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)



## Teleworship & Fellowship Services

- Sunday Worship at 9:30am.
    - <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>; OR
    - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGklxOIDMDdZbw>
  - Fellowship Hour, after Sunday Service ~ 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/980588369>
  - **\*\*\* NOTE: On May 2nd, Saturday Worship returns to its previous schedule, being hosted on the first Saturday. So, it will meet on May 2nd, then it will meet on June 6th; and then it will recess during the summer months. \*\*\***
    - 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>
  - Coffee Clatter, Thursdays at 8am @ <https://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
  - Church Committees utilize Zoom as-needed. Please, contact the relevant committee chair for details.
  - Don't have a webcam? 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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**Our 8<sup>th</sup> Open & Affirming Anniversary**

**April 26, 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**

**Lighting the Alter Candles** **Mark:** Jesus Christ is Risen.

**Josh:** He is Risen Indeed.

**Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Jonah Moos**

**Hymn by Finally at First.....*Blessed Be Your Name***

*Matt Redman*

**Blessed Be Your Name; In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow; Blessed be Your name  
Blessed Be Your Name; When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness; Blessed Be Your name  
Every blessing You pour out, I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord; Still I will say...  
Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your glorious name  
Blessed be Your name; When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's 'all as it should be'; Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name; On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering; Blessed be Your name**

**Children's Message**

*Finding Jesus*

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

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

Rev. Mark 802 922-1773

**Sacred Readings**

**From Scripture..... Luke 24:13-35 [Presented by Laurie Chipman]**

**From First Church History of April 29, 2012: Our Open and Affirming Statement**

Read by Long Time Members Frank and Barb Smith

**Sanctuary Choir Anthem.....Give Thanks**

**Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....Edward Steele**

**Sermon**

*Meeting and Greeting Jesus Along the Road*

Rev. Mendes

**Closing Hymn by the Sanctuary Choir.....Some Glad Morning**

**Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away,**

**To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.**

**I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away.**

**When I die, halleluia, by and by, I'll fly away.**

**When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away,**

**Like a bird from prison bars have flown, I'll fly away.**

**I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away.**

**When I die, halleluia, by and by, I'll fly away**

**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: meeting ID # 980 588 369**

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<b>Our Prayer Ministry</b>		
Richard Ansell	Heather (Catherine Lapierre's niece)	Graham Sicalowski (Lauren Starkey's son)
Judy Janwich (Lori Giannuzzi)	Fletch & Peg Coolidge and Family	Betty Adams & Family
Denise Keating & Family	The Schneider Family	Christine Sinkewicz
Diane & Sara (Cathie Goodheart)	Alison Wermer & Family	Kristin (Nancy Hall's daughter)
Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus		

**The altar flowers are given by  
 Fred & Gail Babinger  
 In memory of family & friends**

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## Announcements

### **Graduation Sunday**

This special event occurs on June 21. We try to recognize all persons graduating from high school and college (undergraduate and graduate students alike.) Please, email Pastor Josh ([jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jimons@fccej.org)) your graduate's baby/young picture and their graduation/most recent picture. Also, please include the name of their academic institution and a summary of their plans after graduation.

### **Heavenly Food Pantry**

We continue to operate monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday ~ 5:30-7:30pm and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday ~ 2-6pm. The next Pantry date is Monday, May 11th.

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.

Questions or Concerns? Please, email [welcome@fccej.org](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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: A 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](mailto:mmendes@fccej.org)]

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Josh Simon [[jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org)]

**Music Director:** Carol Spradling [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto:cspradling@fccej.org)]

**Christian Education Director:** Laurie Chipman [[lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)]

**Church Administrator:** Doug Ovitt [[welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)]

### Music Ministry

**Cherub Music:** Jenny Bourn [[jennybourn4@gmail.com](mailto:jennybourn4@gmail.com)]

& Laura Marthaler [[Laura.marthaler@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.marthaler@gmail.com)]

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

**Finally @ First Director:** Rick Dooley [[rickdooley5@gmail.com](mailto:rickdooley5@gmail.com)]

**Joyful Noise:** Jessica Moos [[jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com)]

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

**Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director:** Carol Spradling [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto: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 McGeary [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](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

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