



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

- **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>
 - **Saturday Worship**, 1st Saturday of Each Month (recess in July and August) at 4:30pm
@ <http://zoom.us/j/403773331>
 - **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am and 8pm
@ <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
 - **UPDATED LINK** **Yoga with Jonah**, Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm
@ <https://smcvt.zoom.us/j/620842254?pwd=WnRBL0l5VlZSRnVBZE4zVk1QcCt5UT09>
 - **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 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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May 17th, 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

And have your communion elements ready.

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

1 Thankfulness: Text Rev. Josh one thought of gratitude [920 858-6601]

2 Kid's Names: Text Rev. Josh 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 [w/ congregation sharing – text in]

A Few Key Announcements

Lighting the Alter Candles

Hello from Norma Edwards

Hello from the Vincents

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Amy McIntyre

Hymn by Finally@First..... Here I am to Worship

Light of the world; You stepped down into darkness;

Opened my eyes, let me see; Beauty that made this heart adore You; Hope of a life spent with You;

Here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down; Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me

*King of all days, Oh so highly exalted; Glorious in heaven above; Humbly You came to the earth You
created; All for love's sake became poor*

Here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down; Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me

Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me

Here I am...

Hello from the McGearys

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Text the prayers you want the minister to include:

Rev. Mark [802 922-1773]

Finally@First Anthem.....Chain Breaker by Zach Williams

Sacred Readings:

God is Loved, written by Bernard of Clairvaux

Presented by Laurie Chipman

Gospel: John 14: 15-31

Present by Rev. Josh

Sermon

The Heart of Christ

Rev. Josh

Closing Hymn by Sanctuary Choir Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to singing; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.*

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

OR <https://zoom.us/j/980588369>

Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell

Susan Flynn

Denise Keating & Family

Diane & Sara (Cathie Goodheart)

Regina (Steve Gorniak)

Heather (Catherine Lapierre's niece)

Fletch & Peg Coolidge and Family

The Schneider Family

Peggy and Earle Young

Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus

Graham Sicalowski
(Lauren Starkey's son)
Betty Adams & Family

Christine Sinkewicz
Kristin (Nancy Hall's daughter)

Prayer Requests may be emailed to welcome@fccej.org. If you wish for the prayer recipient's name to be acknowledged during worship services, please, send your request many days in advance so that we may accommodate you.

**The altar flowers are given by
Dennis & Sue Conti
In memory of Eleanor Colburn.**

**The altar rose is given by
Carl & Alison Wermer
In honor of their newborn grandson, Nicholas Wermer,
Son of John & Hannah Wermer.**

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact the church by calling 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100; or email welcome@fccej.org.

Announcements

Graduation Sunday

This special event occurs on Sunday, 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) 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 2nd Monday ~ 5:30-7:30pm and 4th Thursday ~ 2-6pm. The next Pantry date is *Thursday, May 28th*.

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. The pantry has plenty of dish soap. For the last couple of weeks in May, the church's administrative wing is undergoing construction. The blue tote immediately outside of our Church Street entrance will be accessible to those delivering donations.

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

Altar Flowers

These are vacant worship service dates for which parishioners may still request altar flowers:

July 5 / July 26 / August 2

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.) Please, make your check payable to "FCCEJ" and include "altar flowers mm/dd" in the memo line so that we know the date for which you are paying. This is our mailing address:

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

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. *Questions?* Please call Doug Ovitt in the Church Office at 802-878-5745 extension 100.

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.

(continued...)

Please make checks payable to “FCCEJ” (or use online Bill Pay) and include “Hannaford Reload” and the date on the subject line of your email or check memo. This is our mailing address:

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

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]

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 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

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