



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.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGklxOIDMDdZbw>
- **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 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/>
- **Yoga with Jonah**, Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm @ <https://smcvt.zoom.us/j/620842254?pwd=WnRBL0l5V1ZSRnVBZE4zVk1QcCt5UT09>.
- **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- **Prayer Time**, Wednesdays at 7:30pm @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731198775>
- **Coffee Clatter**, Thursdays at 8am @ <https://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
- **Church Committees** utilize Zoom as-needed. Please, contact the relevant committee chair for details. Some committees have listed their meeting links on the church's web calendar: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/calendar/>
- **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/>

May 24th, 2020
Live Streaming
Order of Worship

Introductory Music

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

Announcements will be shown on screen

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. Josh your Prayer Requests [920 858-6601]

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 Candle

Musical Introit

**Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....The Evans Family
Rob, Maureen and Abigail**

Prayer of Invocation by Myrna Doney

***Opening Hymn.....Gather Us In**

Children's Message

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....The Stein Family

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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

Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601

Sacred Reading:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Mark 4:35-41.....Presented by Laurie Chipman

Offering our Gifts to God

Invitation

Finally at First Anthem.....I Will Call Upon the Lord

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Sermon

Dry Bones

Rev. Mendes

If you have questions concerning the sermon,
text them directly to Rev. Mark [802 922-1773]
and he will try to answer them after the sermon.

***Closing Hymn.....America the Beautiful**

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed thy true grace on thee
With sisterhood and brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**

Final Meeting and Greetings Along the Road....Connie Marshall

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

Our Prayer Ministry		
Richard Ansell	Heather (Catherine Lapierre's niece)	Graham Sicalowski (Lauren Starkey's son)
Susan Flynn	The Schneider Family	Christine Sinkewicz
Diane & Sara (Cathie Goodheart)	Peggy and Earle Young	Kristin (Nancy Hall's daughter)
Regina (Steve Gorniak)	Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus	

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
Heather & Terry Stein
In memory of family.**

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.

Ways to Donate to Our Church

- ✓ **Shop at Amazon.com** using *Amazon Smile*. We receive 0.5% of your purchases!
<http://smile.amazon.com> Search "First Congregational Church of Essex Junction" in the "Charities" section.
 - ✓ **Participate in fundraisers** like our Hannaford Gift Cards program; or purchase altar flowers. For more details, contact welcome@fccej.org or call 1 802 878 5745 ext 100.
 - ✓ **Support our ministry** by sending a check to our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver. We operate a Food Pantry, conduct missionary work overseas, maintain a Memorial Fund, Pastor's Fund, and others. Members who wish to increase their pledges can contact Pat by emailing her at vtri2@aol.com. We also accept BillPay checks issued by your bank. Please, note your reason for donating in the memo line of your check. Mail checks to:
Attn: Financial Secretary, FCCEJ, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452
 - ✓ **Donate to our general fund.** General donations can be made by credit card. Follow this link: paypal.me/fccej. A PayPal account is not required to donate money.
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Announcements

Have something important to share with the congregation? Contact the church office by emailing your announcement to welcome@fccej.org. If you want an announcement televised during worship, then please, send a photographic representation of your announcement in either **.jpg or .png file formats** to jsimon@fccej.org.

Holiday Closure & Renovations

Church offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th in honor of the Memorial Day holiday. Additionally, the church's administrative wing is undergoing necessary renovations, so staff presence on-site may be limited until early June.

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 altar flowers for one of these worship dates, please contact us by emailing welcome@fccej.org or calling 1 802 878 5745 ext 100.

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.

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]