



# 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 (*9am starting June 7<sup>th</sup>*) @ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGklxO1DMDdZbw>
- **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/980588369?pwd=NGE1c2Q5Z09LdlN2UHplU01DZTF3dz09>
- **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>
- **Noontime Book Group**, Monday, June 15th at 11:30am @ <http://www.zoom.us/j/926155784>
- **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/>
- For even more details, read our newsletter! <https://www.fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

## 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.
  - ✓ **Support our ministry!** We operate a food pantry, thrift shop, and conduct missionary work. We are also a United Church of Christ "5 for 5" participant in these fundraisers: *Per Capita* (\$14/member is our goal), *One Great Hour of Sharing*, *Strengthen The Church*, *Neighbors In Need* and *The Christmas Fund*.  
Check payments are secure and should be sent to our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver. We also accept BillPay checks issued by your bank. Please, note your reason for donating in the memo line of your check (e.g. "food pantry", "memorial fund", etc.) 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](https://paypal.me/fccej). A PayPal account is not required to donate money. *Questions about your payment? Do you wish to increase your pledge?* Contact Pat by emailing her at [vtri2@aol.com](mailto:vtri2@aol.com).
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**May 31st, 2020**  
***Pentecost / Confirmation Sunday***  
**Live Streaming**  
**Order of Worship**

**Musical Introit** by Carol Spradling

**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 and Lighting of Candle.....Makaylah Moos**

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

**Makaylah Moos Shares Her Statement**

**An Opening Reading on Gratitude.....David Hoy**

**David Hoy Shares His Statement**

**Meeting and Greetings Along the Road**

**The Clark Family:** Matt, Lisa, Ryan and Ashley

**The Moos Family:** Jessica, Jonah, Ryan and Ashley

**Prayer of Invocation.....Courtney Frank**

**Courtney Frank Shares Her Statement**

**Opening Hymn by Sanctuary Choir.....I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry**

**Children's Message.....Erik Frivoll**

**Erik Shares His Statement**

**Meeting and Greetings Along the Road**

**The Frank Family:** Tom, Marlene, Meaghan, Nicole and Courtney

**The Dewey Family:** Dave, Christine, Sam and Mae

**The Stimson Family:** Dara and Scarlet

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer.....Ashley Clark**

*Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude:* **Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773**

**Ashley Shares Her Statement**

**Scripture Reading 1: Acts 2:1-21.....Charlie McGeary**

**Charlie Shares His Statement**

**Scripture Reading 2: Mark 12:28-34.....Scarlet Stimson**

**Scarlett Shares Her Statement**

**Offering our Gifts to God.....Mae and Sam Dewey**

**Invitation.....Sam Dewey**

**Sanctuary Choir Anthem**

**Doxology and Prayer of Dedication.....Mae Dewey**

**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.**

**Sam and then Mae Share Their Statements Here**

**The Rite of Confirmation**

*Every confirmand will now be confirmed by the ancient ritual of the laying on of hands with a special personal prayer over each confirmand. Their nuclear families will join them for this special time. As they leave the sanctuary they will receive their study bibles and prayer shawls. Our confirmands this year include.....*

**Makaylah Moos** [Jonah, Jessica and Zoe]

**David Hoy** [Jennifer, Adam and Jacob]

**Courtney Frank** [Tom, Marlene, Meaghan, Nicole]

**Erik Frivoll** [Jon, Lois, Charlotte]

**Ashley Clark** [Lisa, Matt, Ryan]

**Charlie McGeary** [Matt, Kaki, Caitlin]

**Scarlet Stimson** [Dara]

**Sam Dewey** [Dave, Christine, Mae]

**Mae Dewey** [Christine, Dave, Sam]

**Closing Hymn by Finally @ First.....Open Wide the Doors**

**Final Meeting and Greetings Along the Road**

**The Frivoll Family:** Lois, Jon, Charlotte and Erik

**The Hoy Family:** Adam, Jennifer, David and Jacob

**The McGeary Family**

**Benediction and blowing out our candles**

*Rev's Josh and Mark*

*Add Brief Comments*

*And say the Benediction*

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 #**

<https://zoom.us/j/980588369?pwd=NGE1c2Q5Z09LdlN2UHplU0lDZTF3dz09>

<b>Our Prayer Ministry</b>		
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](mailto: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  
Wayne & Nancy Hall  
In loving memory of their parents.**

**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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org).

## Announcements

*Have something important to share with the congregation?* Contact the church office by emailing your announcement to [welcome@fccej.org](mailto: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](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org).

**Ice Cream Celebration!** *Exclusive FCCEJ event link :* <https://www.facebook.com/events/874570923038865/>

Next Sunday, June 7th, we will celebrate our Faith Formation year and all the volunteers that help to run our programs. We hope you will drive to church after worship and help us celebrate on us! Mr. Ding a Ling's will be in the corner of our parking lot from 10:15am to 11:30am. Mark your calendars and RSVP to [lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org), so we have an idea of how many are coming OR click 'going' on our Facebook group event 'Ice Cream Celebration' and we will assume your whole family will attend. Signs will be posted around the church. Please help us practice social distancing by wearing your mask.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Altar Flowers**

These are vacant worship service dates for which parishioners may still request altar flowers: **July 5 & July 26**

If you wish to buy altar flowers for one of these worship dates, please contact us by emailing [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or calling 1 802 878 5745 ext. 100.

### **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, June 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Safety Precautions: Residents of Essex, Essex Junction and Westford are welcome to enter the parking lot at First Congregational Church of Essex Junction using the Church Street entrance. Vehicles will be ushered to a pickup spot after showing proof of residence and identification for each family member, including children. Food will be delivered to the vehicle's trunk, thereby ensuring a safe contactless delivery. There are no income requirements to participate, but additional food from the USDA is available to those who verify their income falls below federally mandated guidelines. Everyone will leave with at least 60 pounds of food! Those needing food but unable to attend can call Pastor Josh at 878-5745 to make other arrangements. We all need help now and then—The pantry is here for you! *Please be respectful and use a face covering when visiting.*

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. Checks may be sent to First Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 marked "food pantry".

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

### **Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop**

As we receive the news of retail opening throughout the state, the Thrift Shop volunteers have been making plans to open early June with a modified schedule. We will adhere to the Governor's and VT Health department guidelines for retail as well as directives from church leadership. All volunteers and customers will be required to wear masks and hand wipes, gloves and sanitizers will be provided as well. As of this submission, the schedule has not been determined as well as when we will begin receiving donations. Signage at the Thrift Shop and weekly church communication will indicate more details. In order to be back in business and fulfilling our normal hours, **we need your help** as most of our volunteers are over the age of 65 and at this time, will be allowed to work as support staff sorting and cleaning when we are closed. Contact Elaine Raymond 879-7350 or Sue Wood 878-3068 if you are under the age of 65 and interested in volunteering. Our Facebook page and church website have more details about our regular hours. Thanks for your continued support of donations and volunteer time you give! It helps us meet our mission serving our community.

## 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 McGearly [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]