



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

Facebook Messenger: m.me/firstcongregationalej



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 (*9am starting June 7th, 2020*).
@ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGkIxOIDMDdZbw>
- **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>
- **Yoga with Jonah**, Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm
@ <https://smcvt.zoom.us/j/620842254?pwd=WnRBL0l5V1ZSRnVBZE4zVk1QcCt5UT09>.
- **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am and 8pm @ <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- **Prayer Circle**, 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. *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/>

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.
 - ✓ **Send a Check or BillPay-ment!** Your donation will support the many ministries of the church including music, youth programming, missions, adult enrichment opportunities such as Sermon Talkback and JOY, the Jamaica Mission Trip, Essex Eats Out, and more. 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*. You simply add "FCCEJ" as a payee, and then you can schedule a one-time payment or recurring payments.
 - Check payments are secure and should be sent to our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver. 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*
 - BillPay is a service provided by most banks. They will send either a one-time or recurring check payment at whatever amount you desire. Please contact your banking institution to set up Bill Pay.
 - ✓ **Use PayPal!** General donations can be made by credit card through PayPal. Follow this link: 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.
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June 14th, 2020
Live Streaming
Order of Worship

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:00 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.

Have your Communion Elements Ready

Lighting the Candle

[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

Musical Prelude

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road...

Kevin and Sena Meilleur

Beth Volker

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Rusty Sargent

Opening Hymn.....When Israel Was in Egypt Land

**When Israel was in Egypt land, let me people go
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.**

**Go down Moses, way down to Egypt's land,
Tell Old Pharaoh, Let my people go.**

**Thus spoke our God, bold Moses said, Let my people go.
If not, I'll smite your first born dead, Let my people go.**

**Go down Moses, way down to Egypt's land,
Tell Old Pharaoh, Let my people go.**

**No More in bondage shall they toil, let my people go.
Nor spill their blood on Egypt's soil, let my people go.**

**Go down Moses, way down to Egypt's land,
Tell Old Pharaoh, Let my people go.**

**Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go.
And let us all in Christ be free, let my people go.**

**Go down Moses, way down to Egypt's land,
Tell Old Pharaoh, Let my people go.**

Children's Message

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....Carlene Lawrence

Offering our Gifts to God

Invitation

Finally at First Anthem.....Brother by Bo and Bear Rinehart

Ramblers in the wilderness we can't find what we need
We get a little restless from the searching
Get a little worn down in between
Like a bull chasing the matador is the man left to his own schemes
Everybody needs someone beside em'
shining like a lighthouse from the sea
Brother let me be your shelter; Never leave you all alone
I can be the one you call

When you're low brother let me be your fortress
When the night winds are driving on
be the one to light the way, bring you home
Face down in the desert now there's a cage locked around my heart
I found a way to drop the keys where my failures were
Now my hands can't reach that far
I ain't made for rivalry, I could never take this world alone
I know that in my weakness I am strong,
but it's your love that brings me home
Brother let me be your shelter; I'll never leave you all alone
I can be the one you call

When you're low, brother let me be your fortress
When the night winds are driving on
Be the one to light the way, bring you home
And when you call and need me near,
Saying, "Where have you gone?" Brother, I'm right here.
And on those days when the sky begins to fall,
You're the blood of my blood; we can get through it all.
Brother let me be your shelter, never leave you all alone
I can be the one you call

When you're feeling low, brother let me be your fortress
When the night winds are driving on
Be the one to light the way, bring you home
Brother let me be your shelter, never leave you all alone
I can be the one you call
When you're low, brother let me be your fortress
When the night winds are driving on
Be the one to light the way, bring you home
Be the one to light the way, bring you home

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.**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude: Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601

Sacred Readings

Psalm 13:2

How long must I bear pain in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Psalm 22:1-2

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me
from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

Guest Video Sermon

*The Cross and the Lynching Tree
A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery*

Otis Moss III

Otis Moss III is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor and nationally acclaimed preacher. He serves at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago Illinois. One of the reasons to have the sermon is to hear first hand from a person of color for as much as Rev. Mark and Rev. Josh support civil rights, they do not speak with the authority that comes from being a member of a particular community. We hope you enjoy this prophetic and powerful sermon.

Closing Hymn.....Lift Every Voice and Sing

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the roiling sea.
Sing a song, full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stoney the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast. (*Cont'd, next page...*)**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 God who has brought us thus far on the way.
 God who by your might, led us into the light,
 keep us forever in the path we pray.
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
 lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, forget you.
 Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
 true to our God, true to our native land.**

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.
 God now in peace, in faith and in love.**

Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour: meeting ID #
<https://zoom.us/j/980588369?pwd=NGE1c2Q5Z09LdIN2UHplU0lDZTF3dz09>

Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell	Nancy Allen & Family	Graham Sicalowski (Lauren Starkey's son)
Susan Flynn	Regina (Steve Gorniak)	Christine Sinkewicz
Diane & Sara (Cathie Goodheart)	Muriel Dandurand (Doug Ovitt's grandmother)	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Eric Lindholm	<i>Those defending us from or harmed by the Coronavirus</i>	Leo Martel's Family

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
 Judy and Mary Jane Allen
 In memory of loved ones.**

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

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.

Altar Flowers

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

Graduation Sunday

This special event occurs on Sunday, June 21st. 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.

WANTED: Painters Saturday, June 13th from 9am-2pm

Now that the flooring in the administrative wing is complete, we are painting the walls to give everything a bright, fresh look. The hallway outside the Marvin Lounge and Doug/Mark offices are done- WOW what a difference! We are looking for a few more volunteers to help paint the hallway outside Josh/Laurie's offices. If you have any interest/time and would like to help out, please email jsimon@fccej.org. There is enough space to be able to spread people out to make sure there is enough distance between us.

If that time/day doesn't work for you, but you would like to help, please let us know and we can find another time that works in your schedule. Special thank you to Ed Guild, Dave Johnson, Kevin Meilleur and Rev. Mark for helping with the first phase of painting.

WANTED: Musicians and Singers of all Ages!

It has been the tradition of the church to have members offer their musical talents for worship over the summer. And we are doing the same thing this year, albeit a little differently. We want people to use their own phone and video themselves or a loved one singing or playing a solo and then send it to Josh with Google Drive, way easier than I thought it would be. What you tape is what is played. Choose your own song or tune. and offer it up to the congregation. I KNOW they will love it. – Rev. Mark Mendes

Our Home, Our Future, Our Time Capital Campaign Update

Project News: The old asbestos tile flooring in the administrative wing hallways and offices was removed and replaced. We are in the process of painting the hallways to give the whole area a much-needed facelift (volunteers needed - let us know if you would like to help!). The small bathrooms on the lower level have new flooring, but the rest of the remodel will happen later in the summer or when we have a little more volunteer-power. The new Church Street entrance doors have been ordered and will be installed in the coming weeks, along with the new grant-funded security system. Interior classroom/office locks have already been replaced to allow the doors to be locked from the inside (another grant-funded project). Slowly but surely, we are making tremendous progress on our long list of campaign projects! "Our Home" will be beautiful, ready & waiting for everyone's safe return.

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. 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. That said, our bridge loan remains available if we need it. Thank you all for your continued support.

Dave Johnson & Kaki McGeary, *Capital Campaign Co-Chairs*

Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!

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 will need to provide the full length of digit. The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell, and we appreciate this fundraising now more than ever!

- 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.
- Please mail checks payable to FCCEJ (or use online Bill Pay). Please include "Hannaford Reload" and the date on the subject line.

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

Questions? Please call Doug Ovitt in the Church Office at 802 878 5745

Heavenly Food Pantry

We continue to operate monthly on the 2nd Monday ~ 5:30-7:30pm and 4th Thursday ~ 2-6pm. Next Pantry date is **Thursday, June 25th**.

Volunteers: Contact Josh if you can help: jsimon@fccej.org

- On Saturday, June 20th, we need volunteers to prepare grocery bags at 10 am (any age below 65).
- On Thursday, June 25th: we need volunteers from 10-12 pm (any age below 65); and 1:30-4 pm and 4-6 pm (16 years old + and under 65). From 2-4 pm, we pre-bag veggies and fruit, and from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, we distribute the food. If you are high risk or sick, please stay home.

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 toothpaste, peanut butter, jelly/jams, baked beans, chicken noodle soup, corn, and peas. The blue tote immediately outside of our Church Street entrance will be accessible to those delivering donations anytime of day or night. Donations can be placed within a large filing cabinet inside our Church Street entrance's foyer Monday-Friday, 8am-2pm; or in the basket within our vestibule at the Parking Lot entrance at those same times.

Checks should be made payable to "food pantry, and they may be sent to:

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

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

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Hours: Every other Wednesday, 4pm-8pm; and Saturdays, 10am-1pm. View our church calendar <https://www.fccej.org/v5/calendar/> or visit our Facebook page @firstcongregationalej for details.

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. Contact Elaine Raymond 879-7350 or Sue Wood 878-3068 if you are interested in volunteering or require more details. Thanks for your continued support of donations and volunteer time you give! It helps us meet our mission serving our community.

Dismas House Needs Our Help

Dear Members and Friends of the Church: Now, perhaps more than ever, the residents of Dismas House need our help. The Church's support of this program has become complicated by the fact that we can no longer pass around a sign-up sheet at a Church service for volunteers to sign. To overcome that complication, we are using this means to ask for three volunteers to prepare food for the fourth Wednesday of this month, June 24. One volunteer will need to prepare an entrée, a second a salad, and a third a dessert.

Whereas we volunteers used to sit down and enjoy a meal with residents of Dismas House when we brought food, that is no longer the case. To protect residents of Dismas House, as well as ourselves, from acquiring the coronavirus, one of us simply collects the food and drops it off at Dismas House without entering the house.

We welcome as participants new volunteers, as well as experienced ones. We will give new volunteers all the help they need to participate in the program. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email for details.

Ed Steele, *facilitator for the Church's Dismas House mission*
P: (802) 871-5897 E: edwardmsteele@msn.com

Vacation Bible Camp @ Home: August 10th-14th

Register NOW here on our [website](#)! Families will be encouraged to drive through our parking lot on Sunday afternoon, August 9th, and receive an @ home bag of craft supplies, snacks & more. You will get to meet the VB Camp volunteers as they wave to you in the parking lot as well as on a Zoom fellowship around 7pm Monday-Friday. Volunteer to donate a Wish List item [here](#).

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]