



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 9am starting June 7th and throughout the summer months @ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGklxOIDMDdZbw>
- **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/980588369?pwd=NGE1c2Q5Z09LdlN2UHplU0IDZTF3dz09>
- **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/>
- **Noontime Book Group**, Monday, June 15th at 11:30am @ <http://www.zoom.us/j/926155784>
- **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/>
- 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. 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 vttri2@aol.com.
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June 7th, 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 Introit

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road...

.....Louise Kolvoord

.....The Koch Family: Aimee, Darryl, Braeden and Ethan

Prayer of Invocation by Lauren Starkey

Opening Hymn.....Servant Song

**Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

(Cont'd on next page...)

**Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.**

Children's Message

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....

.....The Gibson-King Family: Melisa, Justin, Genevieve and Henry
.....The Owns Family: Ed, Gretchen, Isa and Teddy

Offering our Gifts to God

Invitation

Introduction to the Faith Formation Slide Show

Finally at First Anthem.....Stand Up

During the anthem, the slide show will show our faith formation volunteers and helpers. They have graciously taught our children about the bible and our faith as well as how we pray and live in a faithful way. GREAT JOB!!!

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 Reading: Number 12:1-15.....Presented by Braeden Koch

While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had indeed married a Cushite woman); and they said, 'Has the LORD spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?' And the LORD heard it. Now the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else on the face of the earth. Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, 'Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.' So the three of them came out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, and stood at the entrance of the tent, and called Aaron and Miriam; and they both came forward. And he said,

'Hear my words:

When there are prophets among you,

I the LORD make myself known to them in visions;

I speak to them in dreams.

Not so with my servant Moses;

he is entrusted with all my house.

With him I speak face to face—clearly, not in riddles;

and he beholds the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid to speak
against my servant Moses?'

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them,
and he departed.

When the cloud went away from over the tent, Miriam had become leprous, as white as snow. And Aaron turned towards Miriam and saw that she was leprous. Then Aaron said to Moses, 'Oh, my lord, do not punish us for a sin that we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like one stillborn, whose flesh is half consumed when it comes out of its mother's womb.' And Moses cried to the LORD, 'O God, please heal her.' But the LORD said to Moses, 'If her father had but spat in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp for seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.' So Miriam was shut out of the camp for seven days; and the people did not set out on the march until Miriam had been brought in again.

Acts 8:26-40.....Presented by Genevieve Gibson-King

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Sermon

God's Anger

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.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Be sure to have your communion elements ready.

*Rev. Mark and Rev. Josh will say the words of institution,
consecrate the elements and ask everyone to eat and drink together.*

Christ's meal will unite us even as we are separated

Closing Hymn.....Go Make a Difference

**Go make a dff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**We are the salt in the earth, called to let the people see
The love of God in you and me
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be seen
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**Go make a dff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need
The face of God for all to see
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**Go make a dff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence in the world!**

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)
	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
JudyMae Allen Cognetta and her husband Valmore
In memory of her parents Frederick J. & Nora B. Allen
(birthdays are June 2, 1917 & June 15, 1925)**

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.

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

Today (June 7th), we will celebrate our Faith Formation year and all the volunteers that help to run our programs by eating ice cream! For those who RSVP'd, 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. *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) 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 or calling 1 802 878 5745 ext. 100.

Heavenly Food Pantry

We continue to operate monthly on the 2nd Monday ~ 5:30-7:30pm and 4th Thursday ~ 2-6pm. Pantry dates this month are **Monday, June 8th** and **Thursday, June 25th**.

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. 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 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@fcej.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.

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

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]