



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 June 21th and throughout the summer months @ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuXmhD4K1JGklxOIDMDdZbw>
- **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:00am @ <https://us02web.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/>
- **Noontime Book Group**, July 20, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/626841083>
- **Yoga with Jonah**, Monday, June 22nd, last class for the foreseeable future. <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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Order of Worship
June 21, 2020: Live Streaming

Order of Worship

Introductory Music

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

Announcements will be shown on screen

Prepare for Worship:

Find a candle at home,

Sit in a comfortable spot,

Center yourself w/ breathing.

Service Input Preparation: During this time, text the following:

- 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.”*

Lighting Our Candles:

You are invited to light your own candles or find a device to illuminate a spot in your home.

An Opening Reading on Gratitude [w/ congregation sharing – text in]

A Few Key Announcements

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road

Diane and Michael Bottamini

Prayer of Invocation

Clinton Russell
Deacon

Opening Hymn

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Carol Spradling,
Director of Music
& Jim Coates

You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God! Share the flavor life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

[Refrain]: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace, bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God! Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God!

[Refrain]

You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God! Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the Kingdom of God!

[Refrain]

We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God! Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God! [Refrain]

Children's Message

If you would like Pastor Josh to say a special hello to your child during the children's message, text him your child's first name only.

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road

Kathy Finnie and Kevin Dorn
Johnson Family

Offering our Gifts to God and Celebrating Graduates
Invitation

Rev. Mendes
Senior Pastor

Anthem *Show Me the Way* by Denis DeYoung

Finally @ First

During the anthem, a video of all the graduates whose names were submitted to the church will be displayed.

Doxology

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Mendes
Senior Pastor

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

Sacred Reading: Matthew 10:24-39

Laurie Chipman,
Christian Education Director

From the Message translation:

"A student doesn't get a better desk than her teacher. A laborer doesn't make more money than his boss.

Be content - pleased, even - when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, 'Dungface,' what can the workers expect?

"Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are.

So don't hesitate to go public now.

"Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life - body and soul - in his hands.

"What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do.

He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail - even numbering the hairs on your head!

So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries.

"Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven.

If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you?

"Don't think I've come to make life cozy. I've come to cut -

make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law - cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God.

Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies.

If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me.

"If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me.

If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.

Sermon

“You Are Not Alone”

Rev. Simon
Associate Pastor

Closing Hymn

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

Carol Spradling,
Director of Music
& Jim Coates

**Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
and long for heaven and home,
When God is ever my portion?
My constant Friend will be:
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me.**

[Refrain]:

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me.**

**Let not your heart be troubled,
Christ's tender word I hear,
And resting on God's goodness,**

I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me
but one step I may see:
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me. [Refrain]

Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
When song give place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I then draw the close to my Savior,
from care I am set free:
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow,
and I know God watches me. [Refrain]

Benediction

Extinguishing 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	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
Jane and Russ Schneider for their grandson Kieran
and all graduates.**

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 **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]