



# 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)

Facebook Messenger: [m.me/firstcongregationalej](https://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 9:00am *through the summer months* @ YouTube via <https://bit.ly/3eIhV9P>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Saturday Worship**, 1st Saturday of Each Month at 4:30pm (*recess in July and August*) @ <http://zoom.us/j/403773331>
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am and 8pm @ <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ⊕ **Outdoor Pastoral Visits**, Wednesdays at 10am @ **Church Grounds (Parking Lot and Thrift Shop.)**
- ⊕ **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](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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**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 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**

**Prepare for Worship**

*Find 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. 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. Josh one thought of gratitude*

**Prelude:**

Sonata in F KV332 (mvt 2: Adagio) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Here's One (Talk about a child who do love Jesus... here's one), a Black spiritual circa 1840  
arr. Hayes/Spradling

**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.*

**A Few Key Announcements**

**Meeting and Greetings Along the Road**

Ginny Coe

**Music Introit**

Morning Has Broken

Flutist Emily Guziak

**Prayer of Invocation**

Judy McCullen  
*Deacon*

**Opening Hymn**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Carol Spradling,  
*Music Director;*  
and Jim Coates

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. *Refrain:* God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, *Refrain***

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, *Refrain***

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude, for a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed, *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

Pam and Peter Gray

## Time of Gratitude

### Words of Gratefulness

Rev. Josh Simon,  
*Associate Pastor*

### Anthem

I Will Lift My Eyes by Bebo Norman

*Finally @ First*

### Doxology

Carol Spradling,  
*Music Director*

**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

Rev. Josh Simon  
*Associate Pastor*

*During the introductory music before the worship begins at 9 am,  
text the prayers you want Pastor Josh to include. C# 920 858-6601*

### Anthem

Starry Night by Chris August

Eva & Laura Cunningham-Firkey

## Sacred Reading: Psalm 136

**Translation:** New Revised Standard Version

Thank you YHWH, for you are good!  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
Thank you, God of gods!  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
Thank you, sovereign of sovereigns,  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
you alone perform such great marvels.  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
Your wisdom made the heavens.  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
You spread the land out over the waters.  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
You made the great lights:  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
the sun to govern the day,  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
moon and stars to govern the night.  
*Your love is everlasting!*

You struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
and brought Israel out.  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
With mighty hand and outstretched arm,  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
you split the sea of Reeds,  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
and led Israel through the middle,  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
and drowned Pharaoh and the armies of Egypt.  
*Your love is everlasting!*  
You led your people through the wilderness,  
*Your love is everlasting!*

## 1 John 4: 7-19

**Translation:** New Revised Standard Version  
Read by Laurie Chipman, *Christian Education Director*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

### Sermon

“God *is* Love”

Rev. Josh Simon  
*Associate Pastor*

### Closing Hymn

Love the Lord Your God

Carol Spradling,  
*Music Director*;  
and Jim Coates

**Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart.  
Love the Lord, your God with all your soul.  
Love the Lord, your God, with all your mind.  
Love the Lord, your God, with all that you are.**

### 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  
OR click this link: <https://bit.ly/31dXQ76>**

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## Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell	Nancy Allen & Family	Cole Tumey
Susan Flynn	Regina (Steve Gorniak)	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Diane & Sara (Cathie Goodheart)	Muriel Dandurand (Doug Ovitt's grandmother)	Leo Martel's Family
Eric Lindholm	Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus	Judy Allen's Niece

**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.

### Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given by  
Sue & Dennis Conti  
In loving memory of Gary Colburn

**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).

We distribute a **weekly** eNewsletter! Visit this link to read this week's important announcements: <https://mailchi.mp/fccej/2020-weekly-update-28>

We also distribute a **monthly** eNewsletter called **SPIRIT@FIRST**. Visit this link to read the latest issue: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

Visit this link to subscribe to our newsletters! (Scroll to the bottom of the linked page)  
<https://bit.ly/2Yxi7TF>

## 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 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](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)  
**Heavenly Food Pantry Contact:** Valerie Gabert [879-0109]