



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

Website: www.fccej.org

Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Facebook Messenger: m.me/firstcongregationalej

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej>



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 via Teleworship @ <https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej>
- ⊕ **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. 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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July 26th, 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

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

Barbara Mudgett-Russell & Clinton Russell

Prayer of Invocation

Pete Schmalz, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Carol Spradling, *Music Director*

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in you; I give you back the life I owe, that in your ocean depths its flow may swell with ardor true.

O Light that follows all my way, to you I yield my flickering flame; Renew my spirit's feeble ray, that from your brilliant sunlit day it may new brightness claim.

O Joy that seeks me through my pain, to you I cannot close my heart; I race the rainbow through the rain, and know the promise is not vain that you will ne'er depart.

O Cross that raises up my head, from you I dare not seek to flee; Life's glories wither and are dead, but from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

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. C# 920 858-6601

Time of Gratitude

Words of Gratefulness

Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Anthem

Double Violin Concerto, 2nd Movement by J.S. Bach

Amanda Milne &
Mike Abramyan

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.

Sacred Reading:

Romans 8: 26-39

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

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sermon

“Our Bond with God is Inseparable”

Rev. Josh Simon, Associate Pastor

1.

When I can't take the first step
When all I'm holding is my breath
I pray that you are there

2.

When I can't seem to forget
When I can't see the morning light yet
I pray that you are there
I pray love is greater than fear.

Chorus

Love is greater than
Love is greater than
Love is greater than fear
(repeat)

3.

When I can't find another way
When I don't have the words to say
I pray that you are there
I pray love is greater than fear
Chorus

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>

Our Prayer Ministry

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

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.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given by
Dara Stimson
In honor of all grandmothers.

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.

We distribute a **weekly** eNewsletter! Visit this link to read this week's important announcements: <https://mailchi.mp/fccej/2020-weekly-update-30>

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]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]

Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@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]