



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 9:00am *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. 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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July 5th, 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.
Find supplies for Communion, like bread and juice*

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*

Preludes

O Jerusalem

arr. Janet Vogt

Meditation on "Beach Spring" (1844)

arr. Jason Krug

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

The Johnson Family
Pat Seaver

Prayer of Invocation

Carolyn Rushford
Deacon

Opening Hymn

Come Fount of Every Blessing

Carol Spradling,
Director of Music;
and Jim Coates

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount: I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come, come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

(Continued on next page...)

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it wander from the love I've known; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for you very own.

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.

Time of Gratitude

Words of Gratefulness

Rev. Josh Simon
Associate Pastor

Anthem

What a Friend by Matt Maher

Finally @ First

Doxology

Carol Spradling,
Director of Music

**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: Psalm 146

Translation: The Inclusive Bible

Alleluia!
Praise YHWH, my soul! I will praise you all my life;
I will sing praise to my God while I live!
Do not trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no salvation.
when their spirits depart, they return to the earth,
and on that day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel,
whose hope is in YHWH, their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in it!
YHWH, you keep faith forever:
you secure justice for the oppressed;
you give food to the hungry;
you set captives free;
you give sight to the blind;
you raise up those who were bowed down;
you love those who do justice;
you protect strangers;
you sustain orphans and the bereaved—
but you thwart the way of the corrupt.
YHWH will reign forever—your God, Zion!—
through all generations. Alleluia!

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

And you, Capernaum,
will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Sermon

Rev. Josh Simon
Associate Pastor

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Be sure to have your communion elements ready. 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

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Carol Spradling,
Director of Music;
and Jim Coates

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer!

(Continued on next page...)

Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer! Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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)
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. 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 our church
To honor all persons affected by the pandemic.

*“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;
there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.
There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
(Revelation 21:4)*

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 jimons@fccej.org.

We distribute a weekly eNewsletter! Visit this link to read this week's important announcements: <https://mailchi.mp/fccej/2020-weekly-update-27>

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 [jimons@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 McGearry [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]