



# 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 **E-mail:** [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)  
**Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



# Worship Services & Intergenerational Activities



Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fcej.org/v5/calendar>

You may also visit our Facebook events page: <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>

We offer regular worship and fellowship opportunities, too! These include:

- ⊕ **Sunday Worship** at 9:00am via Teleworship @ <http://youtube.com/c/fcej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:30am @ <http://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 @ <http://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 @ <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731198775>
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, Thursdays at 8am @ <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>

## Ways to Donate to Our Church

Your donation could support our music, youth programming (e.g. Vacation Bible Camp), missions (e.g. Jamaica Missions), adult enrichment (e.g. Sermon Talkback, JOY), Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, 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. We appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! Here are some ways that you may help our ministry:

- ⊕ **Shop at Amazon.com** using Amazon Smile. We receive 0.5% of your purchases! Visit <http://smile.amazon.com> ... navigate to the “Charities” section and search for “First Congregational Church of Essex Junction”
- ⊕ **Send a Check or use BillPay!** Your bank might offer Billpay, a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail. Please, contact your banking institution for more details. All checks should be made payable to “FCCEJ.” Be sure to note the reason for your donation in the check’s memo line (e.g. “food pantry”).
- ⊕ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: [paypal.me/fcej](http://paypal.me/fcej). A PayPal account is not required to donate money!
- ⊕ **Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!** The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell or reload. Want to get started? Email Doug, our Church Administrator, for details: [welcome@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org).

*Questions about your payment?*

*Do you wish to increase your pledge?*

Contact our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver,  
by email at [vtri2@aol.com](mailto:vtri2@aol.com)

**Please, mail payments to:**

Attn: Financial Secretary

FCCEJ

1 Church Street

Essex Junction, VT 05452

# Order of Worship

## August 23rd, 2020: Live Streaming

### Introductory Music

*Begins at 8:45 a.m.*

*Announcements will be shown on screen*

*Pre-worship music begins approx. 5 minutes before 9am*

*As worship begins:*

*Light 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.

**Thankfulness:** Text Rev. Josh one thought of gratitude [920 858-6601]

**Kid's Names:** Text Rev. Josh your child's name for Children's Message

**Prayer Requests:** Text Rev. Josh one thought of gratitude [920 858-6601]

### Prelude

### Welcome

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome in this place.”*

### Lighting the Candles: Welcoming God's Light into Worship

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

### A Few Key Announcements

Wednesday morning @ 10 am pastoral visits

or scheduled walks

or talks under the shade of a tree

Wednesday Evening Prayer [Zoom]

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Nearly New Sale and Sanctuary Tours yesterday.

### Musical Introit

### Meeting and Greetings Along the Road

Doney/Stapleton Family

### Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Allison Wermer

## Opening Hymn

## We Sing to You, O God

**We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,  
let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised,  
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.**

**We wandered far from home out in a desert land,  
you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within your arms  
and sheltered us against the storms.**

**You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,  
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light and air  
and trust in your unfailing care.**

**O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is just,  
you are the God in whom we trust.**

**Children's Message** [taped by Laurie Chipman]

## Offering our Gifts to God

**Invitation**

**Anthem**

The Rising Bruce

by Bruce Springsteen  
perf. by Finally@First

**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 pre-worship music, beginning part of worship: Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601*

**Sacred Readings:** Genesis 1:1-2:3

**Closing Hymn**O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century Hymnal #558

**O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o’er all the earth, God, who wrought creation’s splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth! Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways. Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.**

**When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power displayed, who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made? Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill, from your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.**

**You have set us in communion with the wonders of your hand, made us fly with eagle pinion, pilgrims over sea and land. Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show. Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow.**

**O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land, God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have planned! Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need. Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed.**

**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.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

**Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour:**

Meeting ID # 980 588 369

OR click this link: [bit.ly/31dXQ76](https://bit.ly/31dXQ76)

# Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell

Eric Lindholm

Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)

Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)

Colonel John Dyke  
(Paula Sargent's Son)

Nancy Allen & Family

Regina (Steve Gorniak)

Judy Allen's Niece

Jane Schneider & Family

Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)

Leo Martel's Family

Muriel Dandurand  
(Doug Ovitt's grandmother)

Sharon & Her Mother  
(Pat Seaver's Family)

Ines Eley & Family

## All persons affected by the Coronavirus



The altar flowers are given by  
The McCullens  
In memory of family.

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact the church by phone:  
1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100  
or email [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org).

## Announcements

Our "FCCEJ Weekly Updates" eNewsletter contains important weekly announcements about our Heavenly Food Pantry, Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop, Capital Campaign Updates, and more! Hard copies will be available when in-person worship returns to our Sanctuary:

<https://mailchi.mp/fccej/2020-weekly-update-5814712>

Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" newsletter is available by "snail mail" and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit this link to read our latest issue: [fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/](https://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/)

### *Have something important to share?*

Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator: [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 format to [jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org).

### Visit Us Online!



**FCCEJ**  
[youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)



**FIRSTCONGREGATIONALEJ**  
[facebook.com/firstcongregationalej](https://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej)



@FCCEJ\_802  
[instagram.com/fccej\\_802](https://instagram.com/fccej_802)



**FCCEJ.ORG**

# 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)]

**Christian Education Director:** Laurie Chipman [[lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)]

**Music Director:** Carol Spradling [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto:cspradling@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]