



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.

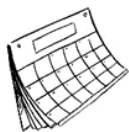
**1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

Phone: 802-878-5745 **Fax:** 802-872-8236 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org

Website: 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:

- ⊕ **Worship, Sundays at 9am (10am starting September 13th) @ <http://youtube.com/c/fcej>**
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour, after Worship @ <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>**
- ⊕ **Faith Formation, Monthly on 2nd Sunday at 9am @ Church**
- ⊕ **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 1pm @ Church Grounds**
- ⊕ **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 (\$14.10/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. 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.

*Questions about your payment?
Do you wish to increase your pledge?*
Contact our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver,
by email vtri2@aol.com

Please, mail payments to:
Attn: Financial Secretary
FCCEJ
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Order of Worship

September 6th, 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. Mark one thought of gratitude [802 922-1773]*

Prayer Requests: *Text Rev. Josh your Prayer Request [920 858-6601]*

Prelude

Welcome

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

Welcoming God’s Light into Worship

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

A Few Key Announcements

Wednesday afternoons @ 1pm pastoral visits in Parking Lot
or scheduled walks

or talks under the shade of a tree

or simply call us up

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Executive Committee postponed in person worship to Nov 29th

First Sunday of Advent

Re-evaluate in mid Nov w/ new information

Fall Schedule Starting September 13th

Faith Formation from 9 – 9:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Month On Site in Parking Lot

Sept. 13th: Fall Kick Off & Bible Sunday

Oct. 11th Blessings of the Animals

Nov. 8th Communion

The other Sundays of the Month will be on webpage

With activities, videos and stories [Like VBCamp]

*(Key
Announcements
continue on
next page...)*

Worship will continue to be streamed but at 10 a.m.

Church offices closed on Monday, September 7th (Labor Day).
Reopen on Tuesday, September 8th.

Participating with the POD program [informational]

Music: Carol, F@F and Sanctuary Choir

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartman, Ed Guild,
Francis Gravel and Rev. Josh Simon orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....Alison and Carl Wermer
Barb and Frank Smith

Prayer of Invocation by Rusty Sargent, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry perf. by Sanctuary Choir

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

Children's Message by Laurie Chipman, *CE Director*

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....Fred and Gail Babinger

Offering our Gifts to God.....Rev. Josh Simon

Invitation

Anthem

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.....Rev. Josh Simon

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

Sacred Readings: Exodus 12:1-14 "The First Passover Instituted"

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Anthem by Finally @ First

We Are One Body

Dana Scallon

*If you have any questions about the scripture or the sermon,
feel free to text them at any time during the sermon to Rev. Mark at 802 922-1773.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

During this time, Rev’s Mark and Josh will

Offer you an Invitation to Christ’s meal

Consecrate the meal

Share the ancient words of institution

Invite you to partake of whatever you have at home

Conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving

Closing Hymn w/ Finally @ First..... Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name
We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true
Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

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.

Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell	Nancy Allen & Family	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Eric Lindholm	Judy Allen's Niece	Leo Martel's Family
Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)	Jane Schneider & Family	Sharon & Her Mother (Pat Seaver's Family)
Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)	Colonel John Dyke	Ines Eley & Family

All persons affected by the Coronavirus

Please, email your prayer requests to welcome@fccej.org or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100. If you need a compassionate ear, you may call Pastor Mendes (802-922-1773) or Pastor Simon (920-858-6601) directly. As a courtesy to the pastors, please reserve calls during the late night or early morning hours for emergencies only.



The altar flowers are given by
Sylvia Nyhagen & Family
In loving memory of Ed Nyhagen.

The altar flowers are given by
Riley A. Elliott
In loving memory of
his mother, father, and son, Max.



Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact our staff:
1(802)878-5745 ext. 100.or email welcome@fccej.org.

Announcements

Our weekly eNewsletter contains important weekly announcements about Food Pantry, 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-5817816>

Our "SPIRIT@FIRST" monthly 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/

Visit Us Online! —>

Have something important to share?

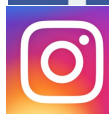
Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator: welcome@fccej.org. If you want an announcement televised during worship, then please, send a photographic representation of your announcement in either .jpg or .png file format to jsimon@fccej.org.



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FCCEJ.ORG

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 [878-3068] OR woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]