



SPIRIT@FIRST

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

September 2020

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Your Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends: Despite wanting so very much to physically worship

together, the Executive Committee of the Church Council has postponed the date when we will gather back together in the sanctuary. We are now hoping to be in the sanctuary for Advent, which starts on November 29th. How joyful it would be to enter the church with the Christmas decorations up and our building looking so good! Naturally, the Executive Committee (EC) will meet in early November to look at what the scientists, doctors and the Vermont Department of Health say and then re-evaluate the situation at that time. Despite our strong desire to be together, our primary consideration is the health and welfare of our members and friends and the control of this deadly disease. As all of you in your daily lives know, we are adapting and changing our plans as the future unfolds and we will do the best we can in making decisions in the best interests of First Church. We are also cautiously opening up our church space to various groups within our church and community as long as everyone present follows safe practices by wearing masks and keeping proper distances. Last week we had a funeral service with 37 people attending: all wearing masks, all following safe distancing protocols and with the fellowship time outside. The Food Pantry continues to distribute food but does so while all their clients stay in their cars. Creative Discoveries Early Care and Education Center is meeting in their space and not venturing into our part of the building. The scouts have been meeting but mainly outside except for a few very small groups. We also had a wonderful Nearly New Sale, Thrift Store Porch Sale, and Church Tour day on August 22, but these events were outside, and tours were tightly controlled. The EC just approved one other group and one personal event to take place in our midst. Slowly, our facility is opening up to small groups - with safety for our members and visitors forefront in our intentions.

Due to the unprecedented nature of COVID19, this issue of SPIRIT@FIRST was purposefully delayed while church officers & staff carefully deliberated on many important aspects of our ministry. We appreciate your patience and hope that you enjoy the read!

Perhaps the biggest addition to our building use is the Rec Kids Supported Learning Spaces Program that the Essex Junction Recreation and Parks Department, in partnership with the school system, is providing for families in the Essex community. This valuable program will provide childcare for families who need care for their children on days that they are not in school. Summit Street students will be using our third-floor rooms, gym, restrooms and outside green space for this well-received and appreciated program. EJRP will clean the space each day and the number of kids will be limited to how many can safely meet. For the church to participate in such a program and meet the community's needs is a great opportunity and it's a wonderful testament for our church to be thought of as a possible site. All of us will need to adjust what we do to make this vital initiative work but we can do it!

Unfortunately, many of our groups are larger than can safely meet right now, and many of the ways we interact with each other are conducive to the spread of the disease: we talk, eat, hug, sing, and meet in small rooms for hours. But the staff and lay leaders are looking for ways to draw people together. Josh and Laurie have been taking the youth groups on hikes, Josh and I have provided pastoral walks and visits in chairs under trees, Laurie and CE will be having on site Faith Formation once a month outside, Carol and the choir are looking at parking lot choir rehearsals, hospitality is thinking about having coffee and cocoa outside on Sunday mornings for those who attend 'drive-in' church services in the parking lot, and Josh sits and has lunch with a small group

of folks on Mondays. In many ways we are busier and providing more support to our community than we were pre-COVID! We are all working to keep the church vibrant, active and our people connected to each other.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or insights, please pass them along to one of our staff members or lay leaders. If you are feeling particularly isolated, let us know so that we can use the church's many resources to support you. Together, our church has been strengthened through this time of stress and together we will remain an ever growing and vibrant member of the Essex community. Thank you all for shouldering the weight of change and continuing to make First Church a great community in which to belong.

We, as your Executive Committee, will do our best to continue to keep you informed.

Christ's blessings be with you all,

The Executive Committee of the Church Council:

Maureen Evans, Cathy Shearer, Christine Sinkewicz, Ann Gray, Alison Wermer
Josh Simon [ex officio] & Mark Mendes [ex officio]

Associate Pastor News

The leaves will start to turn golden yellow, bright red, brilliant orange dazzling us with the reminder that we live in a place with seasons. The transition from one season to the next teaches us how to transition gracefully from one season of our lives to the next. Tree leaves are green because they are filled with chlorophyll. When the seasons start to change, the chlorophyll is removed from the leaves, and "as this pigment is pumped out of the leaves, the yellow and brown colors that were there all along predominate."¹ The yellow and brown colors that were there all along are revealed. The changing of the season reveals to us what was there all along. I have found this to be similar to humans, as well. When we undergo a transition, either forced or chosen, it reveals to us the strengths and resiliency already contained within us. Theologically, God's presence adds to the strength within us and strengthens our resolve to meet the challenges ahead of us. The Psalmist writes over and over that God's presence is a Helper to them. The Psalmist in 118: 6-8: "Because God is with me, I'm not afraid—what can anyone do to me? Because God is with me as my Helper, I can triumph over my enemies. Better to take refuge in God than to trust in human beings." Scripture echoes God's presence in our lives, giving us strength, and helping us to draw energy we need to sustain us through the transitions in life. 2020 so far has been filled with many challenges and its highly likely more challenges will come. Let us draw upon the strength that is within us and to reach out to God's presence that is always with us, adding to our strength, as a Helper.

One of the Benedictions found in the United Church of Christ's Book of Worship offers this:

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

Rev. Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Footnotes:

¹ *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben

Laurie's Lens



Our Fall Faith Formation programs are looking different this year, like many things are in our new world with COVID-19. As I write this we are just one week away from schools starting and many of you are nervous and anxious about how things will go. So many decisions have gone into opening up our schools and keeping our children and youth safe. Same is happening here at church, we too have been figuring out how we can do faith formation and our programs for children and youth safely this fall. I have also been taking part in some online webinars around faith formation today.

Pastor Mark, Pastor Josh and myself have continued to meet and have been working on creating our own curriculum that keeps our children and youth connected to the topics talked about in worship. We will start this new program on September 13th, when worship will change to 10am, with our new 'Faith Formation Outside' in our parking lot from 9am to 9:30am on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Pastor Mark & Pastor Josh can join us at this time and most of you should be able to travel back home to watch worship online or stay here in the parking lot and listen to it on the radio. We will practice social distancing, wear our masks and have fun with a sidewalk chalk course, a children's message and handing out bibles to our 3rd graders. On the other Sundays of the month I hope you will join me on Zoom at 9am for a short half hour (at the most) of Faith @ home with Laurie. All ages of children and youth are invited. If you'd like to think of it as having 'breakfast with Laurie' please do. We will build community, answer any questions you have and help you with your Faith @ Home items that you collected on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the parking lot (your monthly package). If we miss you on the 2nd Sunday, your items will be delivered to you. We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd Sunday of October when the pastors will be blessing the animals, so bring your pet with you that morning. In November, we'll have communion in the parking lot and in December we will have an Advent celebration.

We are working on transitioning our VB Camp webpages into faith formation pages with videos and resources that you can access at your convenience 24/7 to help you grow in your faith. More to come on this.

Please if you have thoughts or would like to help with our children and youth ministry programs this year I hope you will reach out. I'd love to chat more with you about this, take a social distant walk or sit outside wearing our masks.

Blessed to be in ministry with you,
Laurie Chipman, *Christian Education Director*

Deacons Corner

Greetings everyone from the Deacons - we hope that you are hanging in there during these challenging times. We have been adapting to the times and making modifications to the online services, as our experience with remote worship grows. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any ideas, criticisms, or suggestions - we are open to hearing them all! We are so grateful for the many people who contribute to the services each week, making them meaningful to our members, friends and visitors alike. Despite the physical distance between us, and the uncertain future, we still feel connected and are drawing support from each other. If you are not feeling this spirit and would like more support, please reach out to us -- we are here to serve you!

*We know not if our seeds will grow,
yet into the soil, we push the hoe .
We find ourselves staring into the unknown,
hard as the garden stone, fragile as the shoulder bone,
but a community of faith, we focus on what's known,
and there's much, after all, isn't there?*

Communications

The transformation of the website has continued since our last update, and our "renovation" of the site is now complete. Two new main menu items have been added: "Worship & Music" and "Calendar & News". The Worship & Music area features information about the different worship opportunities offered at FCCEJ and the different music groups. The Deacons will be evaluating options to extend this area with more information and ways to engage our Faith Community. The Calendar & News area is focused on timely information on events as well as an overview of annual traditions at FCCEJ.

The Grow in Faith area of our website saw some extra traffic this summer because it was the access point for Vacation Bible Camp @Home the week of August 10th. Several amazing volunteers created videos for various components of camp, and this was all pulled together for easy and secure access on our website by campers and their families. Lessons learned will help design future enhancements for the Grow in Faith area.

Our next areas of focus are evaluating options to update the Calendar on the website and further utilization of SignUp Genius. We want to make it simpler for members of our church family to know about upcoming events and sign up to assist in many ways.

The website is our best way to reach people right now while we are constrained in what we can do in person. Please take an opportunity to browse the website at www.fccej.org. If you have any questions, please contact the church office via e-mail (welcome@fccej.org) or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100.

Trustees

In addition to all the Campaign Projects in the administrative wing, the Trustees continue to take care of our buildings and grounds. We recently replaced the aging furnace in the Sawyer House and cleaned out the barn, hauling away tons of trash, wood and broken items that had accumulated over many years. The Boy Scouts also took part in the barn clean-out, which was a huge help! We are also looking into ways to add some soundproofing insulation in the daycare wing of the building. Outside, we have a new picnic table on the church street side, and our lawn care investments look like they are paying off.

The other big item we are working on is the elevator. We also recently completed some major repairs to our elevator, and we passed our state inspection. That said, our elevator is 40 years old, and both the state inspector and our elevator maintenance company (currently Bay State Elevator) have said that the elevator needs to be modernized. They have recommended modernization over replacement. It is a very large expense, estimated to be \$70K plus the cost of some electrical upgrades. This is not something that needs to happen immediately, and the elevator is safe to operate. The Trustees are evaluating our options and beginning to think about how we might pay for this unexpected capital expense. We will have more information in the coming months and will certainly keep everyone posted.

Kaki McGear, *Trustees Chair*

Youth Ministry

We had some fun days for hiking this summer at Niquette Bay, Colchester Pond and Mills Riverside Parks. We wore our masks, practiced social distancing, saw some great views and brought our own lunch for a nice relaxing time at the beach, on our walk and at the stream before returning to our cars and headed on our way.

Opportunities to Volunteer:

Some of you participated and helped bag food for the food pantry, the Saturday before food pantry day at 10am. You still can! Watch for posts on our Facebook group and feel free to lend a hand. Those of you who are 16 yrs & older can help on the day of food pantry also with distribution.

Junior Youth (6th-8th):

Keep sharing your thoughts with us of when you would like to see JY meet this year and watch for your JY emails. Decision will be coming soon! We would like to meet in-person and outside as much as we can and will plan to have Zoom gatherings as our back up.

High School Youth:

Information coming from Pastor Josh

Camps

Vacation Bible Camp @ Home Knights of the North Castle

Many thanks for a great week of Vacation Bible Camp! Thanks to all our volunteers that went beyond the call and helped to put our 'stations' online for families to connect with when the time worked for them. Those online pages will be there until the end of August when we will be moving them and adding content for faith formation in playlist form. Be watching for news in our emails for ways to strengthen our faith and grow with some online choices and resources.

UCC Outdoor Ministry Camps



Our UCC Outdoor ministry week of @ the Lake was fun for the volunteers and our campers as well. We met online for morning watch and evening vespers on Zoom. During the day we watched 2 short activity videos and then went off to do them... praying, journaling, storyingtelling, song writing, stetching. It was a fun week! Check out our Facebook page, like and share it. Thanks. <https://bit.ly/2GoeybF>

Faith Formation

Fall Theme ~ *Journey toward God*

Join us for *Faith Formation Outside* (FFO) and *Faith @ Home*!

Calendar

- **2nd Sunday of the month @ 9am-9:30am** ~ FFO in the Church Parking Lot
 - **September 13th** ~ *Bible Sunday*: Sidewalk Chalk Course, Bible Story, Faith @ Home bags
 - Rain date will be the following Sunday.
 - **October 11th** ~ *Blessings of the Animals* & more!
- **September 20th, 27th & October 4th @ 9am** ~ *Faith @ Home* w/ Laurie. 30 minutes max.

2020 Faith Formation Offering

Current total is: \$117.20 (unchanged since March 15th)

Vermont Adaptive Sports www.vermontadaptive.org

Even though we are not meeting at church on Sundays, you can still give by mailing in your offering. Just make a note in the memo line of the check and write 'Faith Formation Offering' or 'VT Adaptive Sports'. Remember just a \$1 a week can go a long way! Put your money aside and then pass it to your parents and have them write a check to the church.

Earn an allowance? Practice dividing your money three ways:

- ✓ Give to the church/offering
- ✓ Save (in a bank)
- ✓ You (spend/save/give to an organization)

New 3rd- 5th grade with a Parent Program ~ Coming Soon!

We are hoping to begin this program in October. Our fall faith formation start up has needed some extra attention. Keep watching for more news on this fun program in our weekly emails and monthly newsletters. We are also looking for a name for this group. If you have any ideas, please share. This monthly program will connect faith with an outreach mission piece each month. Due to Covid-19, how this program was to run is needing to be adjusted.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

AUGUST 2020



\$1 MILLION CAMPAIGN FUNDS KEY PROJECTS

Many Projects Complete!

In just two years, we have completed a long list of projects to maintain and preserve our beautiful, historic buildings, make our home more welcoming, accessible and safe, and increase our capacity for ministry and outreach. Here is a snapshot of our accomplishments to date, and what is left to do.

Exterior

- New asphalt roof & gutters
- Slate roof repairs
- New parking lot pavement
- Improved drainage
- Removal of buried oil tank
- Better exterior lighting
- New parsonage driveway
- New signs for Church & Thrift Shop

Accessibility

- New vestibule with automated door openers (parking lot entrance)
- ADA bathroom on 1st floor
- Enhanced Church Street entrance with wider doors

Sanctuary & Narthex Restoration

- Fully-restored historic windows & shutters
- New plaster ceiling
- Cracked plaster repairs
- Freshly painted walls, trim and pews
- Bright & beautiful new color palette
- Organ maintenance & repairs
- New LED light fixtures
- New Deacon's Closet
- Moveable pulpit and lectern (with Memorial Funds)

Administrative Wing

- Removed old asbestos tile in offices & hallways on lower level
- Installed new vinyl floor tile in halls & new carpet in offices
- Halls painted using same color palette throughout building
- Remodeled two lower-level bathrooms*
- New Church St. doors*
- New keyless entry & video security system*
**still in progress*

Upcoming Projects (to be completed as funds allow):

- Marvin Lounge insulation & heating repairs
- Kitchen Renovation
- Other Stretch Goal Projects (see notes p. 2)

For all the latest news, visit www.fccej.org!

PROJECT NEWS

Stretch Goal Project Update

These remaining Stretch Goal Projects will be completed as funds allow:

- Choir loft egress*
- Gym heat improvements
- New vinyl flooring for 2nd Floor hallways/classrooms
- New Gym flooring
- Replace floor in Fellowship Hall
- Additional organ upgrades
**pending feasible design solution*

These Stretch Goal Projects were completed using other funds (non-Campaign):

- Bathroom remodel & new furnace at Sawyer House
- AV Upgrades
- Maintenance Reserve

One Last Project Note:

We could not find a feasible location for an ADA bathroom in or near the Marvin Lounge. Funds earmarked for that project were re-allocated to other projects.

Pledge Payments

Thank you for continuing to support the Campaign, even in the midst of the pandemic. Your pledge payments have made all of this progress possible! Many folks have sent early payments or even paid pledges in full, helping us avoid bridge loan financing thus far.

We just entered the 3rd (and final!) year of our pledge payment period. If you have questions about your pledge balance, please contact Campaign Treasurer Dan Petherbridge at dpetherbridge@comcast.net.

Reminder...

When you send a pledge payment or donation, please be sure to write "Capital Campaign" on the memo line so it goes to the right place!



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME:

Goal	\$1,088,911
Pledge Total	\$958,789
Funds Received	\$885,913

EXPENSES:

Project	\$786,613
Project Mgmt.	\$77,420
Consulting	\$19,451
Administrative	\$4,849

Total Expenses \$888,333
As of 7/20/20



Removing the old plaster ceiling in the Sanctuary.

GRANT NEWS

In October 2019, FCCEJ received a \$47,000 grant from the Vermont Department of Homeland Security to improve the security and safety of our church. The grant provided funding for new exterior lighting, new locks on all classrooms and offices, new exterior doors for the Church Street Entrance, and a new controlled access/keyless entry system.

Missions

Heavenly Food Pantry continues to operate monthly on the 2nd Monday ~ 5:30-7:30pm [September 14th] and 4th Thursday ~ 2-6pm [September 24th]. *Questions or Concerns?* Please, email welcome@fccej.org or call the church at 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100.

Safely receiving food: Due to current health directives, the shopping process will be modified, and food will be delivered to vehicles in the Church parking lot. Clients will stay in their vehicles, where a volunteer will gather family information and bagged food will be placed in car trunks. This way, exposure will be strictly limited for both clients and volunteers.

Donations: The Pantry's most needed items are canned green beans, canned corn, liquid dish soap, shampoo, deodorant, and jams/jellies. For the last couple of weeks in May, the church's administrative wing is undergoing construction. The blue tote immediately outside of our Church Street entrance will be accessible to those delivering donations.

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop is located at 37 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT, obtusely adjacent to our church! They are open on Tuesdays, 10am-1pm; Wednesdays, 4-8pm; and Saturdays, 10am-1pm.

Volunteer! Because over 65-year-olds aren't allowed to work at the shop, we are unable to open as much as we'd like and the hours we are open (7 hrs. a week) are staffed by the small number of volunteers who are under 65. Are you under 65 and are available to help on a Tuesday 10-1? Working at the shop is fun! You will be assisting customers, neatening the shop and displaying merchandise. Masks are required and the number of shoppers in the shop is limited to 3. Please contact Elaine if you're interested: ebaymond@gmail.com

Jamaica Service Program Update

In June, the Jamaica Leadership team made the difficult decision to postpone our next service trip, scheduled for 2021. We are now hoping to be able to go in 2022. Although we will not be traveling to Jamaica in the near future, we wanted to be able to continue to support our Jamaican partners and in particular, the White Horses School Community in St. Thomas, in this difficult time.

As of August 17, Jamaica has had 1192 documented cases of COVID19. There have been 89 cases in St. Thomas in the past 3 weeks. The Ministry of Health and Wellness is now conducting home visits to do increased testing. Three specific areas within St. Thomas are under quarantine. Children in these areas are students at White Horses School.

We reached out to principal Ray Howell to find out how the school is doing and to ask him about their most pressing needs. At this time, they are still hoping to begin school on September 7th, using a hybrid model in which students will rotate in-person/remote days to allow for social distancing. Many students do not have access to internet or devices, but most parents have cell phones. For this reason, remote instruction is given using WhatsApp, a free communication platform and is often done in the evening, when parents who are working are more likely to be home (so the phone is available). Principal Howell indicated that there are two urgent needs.

- Scholarships. The first is financial assistance for families in need. Jamaican students are required to pay for uniforms and books. In addition, the children need to have shoes. This is a challenge for many families, especially those who have lost jobs due to COVID19. We will provide full scholarships for 10 students.
- Perimeter fencing. The second urgent need is for fencing to enclose the perimeter of the school grounds. The Ministry of Education has made this a requirement for the safety and security of the children but has not provided funding. White Horses has been working for over a year to raise money and has built most

of the required wall. This barrier has become more urgent as they need all people who approach the school grounds to enter through the main entrance where they will be conducting health checks to screen for COVID19. We have agreed to provide funding for them to erect a fence to complete this project. (In fact, the garden fence we built in 2017 has also served to provide double duty as partial perimeter fencing).

We're very excited to be able to continue to support this school during this difficult time. Mr. Howell is so grateful, on behalf of the school community, for our care and interest and ongoing support. Finally, he reported (and sent photos showing) that the playground we built in 2019 is in great shape!

Crop Walk Launches September 2020

This fall it will be our pleasure to host a multigenerational walk to support the World Church Services faith-based response to local, regional, and global hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Please watch for the September live launch for details and plan to join us on Sunday, October 18, at 11:20 am for a physically distant walk up and down Main St (pandemic conditions pending) to support this great cause.

Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!

The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell or reload. We appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! *Want to get started?* Email Doug, our Church Administrator, for details: welcome@fccej.org.

Worship & 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/>



Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fccej.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/fccej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, following Worship Service @ <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation**, Monthly on the 2nd Sunday at 9am @ Church Grounds
- ⊕ **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/fccej. 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@fccej.org.

Birthdays

GUILD, Kevin	09/02
MENDES, Karen	09/02
FRANK, Melody	09/03
WATT, Eric	09/03
DETTRE, Tom	09/04
GALBRAITH, Gary	09/04
RAYMOND, Elaine	09/04
KOCH, Ethan	09/06
ANTONE, David	09/07
HOPPER, Ken	09/07
WATT, Marie	09/07
BOURN, Phil	09/08
HARRIS, Austin	09/08
LEACH, Dillan	09/08
WILLIAMS, Riley	09/09
SHARP, Andrea	09/10
MENDES, Nicholas	09/11
BERO, Mindy	09/12
HAMILTON, Kevin	09/12
ROY, Judy	09/13
GRAY, Ann	09/14
BICKFORD Jr., Bill	09/15
COE, Harper	09/17
KOCH, Aimee	09/17
VINCENT, Bob	09/17
BRENNAN, Ian	09/19
LEACH, Julie	09/19
EVANS, Maureen	09/20
MCGEARY, Charles	09/20
GARVEY, Erica	09/21
DUSHARM, Olivia	09/22
NUTTING, Muriel	09/23
STEIN, Tristan	09/23
WATT, Craig	09/23
CATE, Merrill	09/24
RUSHFORD, James	09/24
PARKER, Bruce	09/25
EDWARDS, Julie	09/26
WILSON, Alma	09/26
ELEY, Meaghan	09/27
GALBRAITH, Kathy	09/27
GUZIAK, Emily	09/28
HALL, Nancy	09/28
STEIN, Heather	09/29
BOURN, Jenny	09/30

Please, mail payments to:

Attn: Financial Secretary
FCCEJ
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Thank You!

"I enjoyed my birthday rose and parade!" ~ Norma Edwards

"What a nice surprise on my birthday to receive a yellow rose! I thought that since I had moved that I would not receive one.

What a surprise! It is lovely!" ~ Marilyn Vincent

"Thank you so much for the beautiful yellow roses delivered on our birthdays." ~ Bill & Grace Jones

"My beautiful yellow rose has a prominent place on my kitchen table. Thank you so much for reminding me of my birthday. I'm 88! Will I live to be 98? I hope so. Life is good!" Lovingly ~ Sylvia Nyhagen

"I would like to thank Rev. Josh and Rev. Mark and the FCCEJ community for how welcoming you all were to me. I have taken a job in Washington state and moved in May. Unfortunately, due to COVID, I was never able to say goodbye in person. I cannot say enough of how impressed I was with the kindness and welcoming feeling from both of you as well as the congregation. I was looking forward to becoming more involved. I also looked forward to attending services each week that I could, knowing that I would be welcome, and the space felt warm and safe. You folks have done a wonderful job to develop a giving, open, and kind community. I will miss attending services and continuing to get to know the folks in the congregation. I wish you all the best." ~ Oliver Waldbrise

"The beautiful rose bouquet just arrived. Thank you very much for remembering my 94th!!!" ~ Gene Cheek

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@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 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] woodsusanjane@gmail.com

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

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