



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.

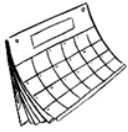
**1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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

Website: www.fccej.org



WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fcej.org/v5/calendar>
...and our Facebook events page: <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>
We offer regular worship and fellowship opportunities, too! These include:

- ⊕ **Worship, Sundays at 10am; Monthly Communion, 1st Sundays @** <http://youtube.com/c/fcej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour, after Worship @** <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation, Monthly on 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>
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter, Thursdays at 8am @** <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
- ⊕ **Noontime Book Group, 3rd Monday at 11:30am @** <http://zoom.us/j/626841083>

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 smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216
- ⊕ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: paypal.me/fcej. A PayPal account is not required to donate money!
- ⊕ **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”).

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



2021 Stewardship Campaign:
Welcome to the Journey
Part 3

Visit this link to read more:
<https://bit.ly/2HrWpKN>



Order of Worship

November 15th, 2020: Live Streaming

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

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 your Prayer Request [802-922-1773]*

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.”*

Welcoming God’s Light into Worship

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

A Few Key Announcements

Pastoral visits: simply call us up

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Faith Formation from 9 – 9:30 a.m. on line

Music: Carol, F@F and Sanctuary Choir

Hybrid services postponed with the surge of COVID cases

The Governor Phil Scott’s & Vt Dept of Health Advice

The VTCUCC Strongly worded recommendation

The Decision of the Executive Committee

---hybrid will come and we are making plans, waiting

The Giving Tree

Sign up via Sign Up Genius on Church Web Page

Or call up Doug and have him sign up for you

IMPORTANT to mark each gift clearly 1-A, 1-B etc

To minimize the # of hands on each gift

Food Pantry Gift from Matt Lungren thanksgiving meals

Very active and busy this time of year

Holy Family donation

Mission Committee's \$ 1000 Matching Gift
For those affected by western Fires
Hannaford Fundraiser suspended per Finance Committee

Marvin Lounge Work [capital Campaign] begins this Wednesday
Insulate, new walls, bookcases, conference table
Carpet, paint, artwork

Focus on our Jamaican Partnership with School
With the White Horse Primary and Infant School
Principal Ray Howell with us today online Jamaica
Laurie Young Apostles group: letter/picture exchange
8 year Partnership: working on current project
Even though we are not present.
One Love Anthem by F@F with pictures of our trips

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

Musical Introit

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road.....The Poratti Family
Rob, Beth, Jessica, John, Samantha and Alex

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Alison Wermer

Opening Hymn Somebody's Knocking at the Door perf. by Finally @ First

[Verse 1] **Somebody's knockin' at your door.**
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

[Verse 2] **Knocks like Jesus,**
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Knocks like Jesus,
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

[Verse 3] **Can't you hear him?**
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Can't you hear him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

[Verse 4] **Jesus calls you,**
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Jesus calls you,
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

[Verse 5] **Can't you trust him?**
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
Can't you trust him?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

[Verse 6] **Somebody's knockin' at your door.**
Somebody's knockin' at your door.
O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

Meetings and Greetings Along the Road.....The Marthaler Family
Tony, Laura, Betty and Lily

Children's Message by Rev. Josh Simon

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

Invitation
Anthem
Doxology
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer.....Rev. Josh Simon

Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude: Rev. Mark @ 920 858-6601

Sacred Readings: Acts 8:26-40.....Reading by Laurie Chipman

“Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch”

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Anthem

One Love

by Bob Marley
perf. by Finally @ First

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

Closing Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#593, Vocal Solo
perf. by Carol Spradling

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

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 bit.ly/31dXQ76



PRAYER MINISTRY

Please, email your prayer requests to welcome@fcej.org or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100.

Richard Ansell

Pat Seaver's Family

*Colonel John Dyke
(Paula Sargent's Son)*

*Illya
(Cathie Goodheart's friend)*

*Malcolm Forbes
(Cathy Shearer's Father)*

Roger & Sandy Daly

Barb Blanchette's Family

*Cait
(Cathie Goodheart's friend's daughter)*

All persons affected by the Coronavirus



**The altar flowers are given by
June Silverman
In memory of loved ones.**



Have something important to share?

Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator: welcome@fcej.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@fcej.org.

2020-2021 Flower Chart is online! Visit this link to reserve a date: <https://bit.ly/33JWlxj>

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

Find us online! Click the icon or link:



youtube.com/c/fcej



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



instagram.com/fcej_802



fcej.org

NEWSLETTERS

SIGNUP HERE: <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our weekly update newsletter contains important weekly announcements about Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, Capital Campaign Updates, and more! Here is a link to this week's issue:

<https://mailchi.mp/fcej/2020-weekly-update-5840180>

Our "SPIRIT@FIRST" monthly newsletter is available by snail-mail and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit this link to read through our archives:

<http://fcej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

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]

Asst. Financial Secretary: Rob Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Asst. Financial Secretary: Pam Blake [872-8204]

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]