



# 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 & FELLOWSHIP



Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fccej.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, 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays @** <http://youtube.com/c/fccej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour, after Worship @** <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation, Sundays @ 9am via Zoom [Link in Weekly Newsletter] (2nd Sundays, Church Grounds)**
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals, Weekdays 8am @** <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

*Please, mail payments to:*

attn: Financial Secretary  
FCCEJ  
1 Church Street  
Essex Jct., VT 05452

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! To begin, please visit [smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216)
- ⊕ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: [paypal.me/fccej](https://paypal.me/fccej). 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”).

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING\*

*Sunday, February 7th, 2021  
One Worship Service @ 10 A.M.  
Meeting @ 11:15 A.M.*

At our most recent Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to change the by-laws and shift the date of the Annual Meeting to the 1st Sunday in February, which would give our financial officers more time to get the church’s financial reports in order. Thus, our Annual Meeting this year will be on February 7th after the ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m. or roughly at 11:15 a.m. Everyone is welcomed to attend and speak, and members are welcome to come and vote. The Meeting will be held on Zoom this year and that identifying number will be sent out closer to the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there!

*\*This is an informal notice about the annual meeting. The formal warning/warrant, which is approved by our Church Clerk, will be sent at a time and by means befitting the bylaws.*

Order of Worship  
January 17th, 2021: Live Streaming  
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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.**

1 **Thankfulness:** Text Rev. Mark your Prayer Requests [802 922 1773]

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

Prelude

Welcome..... Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

*“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 Devotions [webpage]

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

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Annual Meeting is Sunday February 7th at 11:15 a.m.

Zoom...video or phone in

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.....Judy Moreau

Prayer of Invocation.....Judy Pomainville, *Deacon*

*St. Francis of Assisi, 1225; Miriam Therese Winter, Adapted, 1993*

*LASST UNS ERFREUN, Tune*

*Word Adaptations © 1993 Medical Mission Sisters;*

*Harmonization © Oxford University Press. From THE ENGLISH HYMNAL, 1906*

*Descant © 1993 Pilgrim Press*

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**To You, O God, all creatures sing,  
and all creation, everything  
sings Your praises, alleluia!  
Your burning sun with golden beam,  
Your silver moon with softer gleam  
sing Your praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**To You, O God, day after day,  
Your planet earth in every way,  
sings Your praises, alleluia,  
as savory fruit and fragrant flower  
show forth Your glory and Your power,  
singing praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Now we who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take our part,  
sing Your praises, alleluia!  
To You we lift our pain and care,  
receive the burdens that we bear,  
singing praises, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....The Ferrara Family  
Mark, Erin & Jonathan

Children’s Message.....Laurie Chipman, *Christian Education Director*

Offering Our Gifts to God.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Invitation  
Doxology

**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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sacred Readings: I Samuel 3:1-21

Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

**Water in the well been poisoned with lie  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Satan's dark angels are fallin' from the sky  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Children of God, he turns into stone  
Sick and the weak, he dancin' on their bones  
Pharoah shoutin' down the medicine man  
Weepin' in the Promised Land**

**Forked-tongued pharaoh, behold he comes to speak  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Hissin' and spewin', it's power that he seeks  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
With dread in their eyes all the nurses are cryin'  
So much sorrow, so much dyin'  
Pharoah keep a-preachin' but he never had a plan  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Weepin' in the Promised Land**

*[Chorus]*

**You say, weepin', weepin'  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
You say, weepin', weepin'  
Weepin' in the Promised Land**

**Pharoah's army knockin' on the door  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Shoot you in your bed just like they done before  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Out in the street, on your neck with a knee  
All the people are cryin' your last words, "I can't breathe"  
("I can't breathe")  
And a white judge say, "There been no crime here today"  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
Weepin' in the Promised Land**

*[Chorus x2]*

**You say, weepin', weepin'  
Weepin' in the Promised Land  
You say, weepin', weepin'  
Weepin' in the Promised Land**

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

Closing Hymn

Go Make a Difference

by Finally @ First

*Steve Angrisano, Tom Tomaszek*

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**Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence  
Go make a diff'rence in the world  
Go make a diff'rence we can make a diff'rence  
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**First, we are the salt in the earth, called to let the people see  
The love of God in you and me  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be seen  
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**Second, we are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need  
The face of God for all to see  
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace**

Benediction and Blowing out of the candles

Go Now In Peace

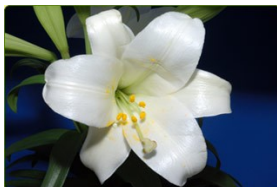
**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, holding you in love.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

# PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)  
Malcolm Forbes (Cathy Shearer's father)  
David (David Irwin's friend)  
Grandma Culley (Dorothy Kress's Grandma)  
Damaris Morales  
Kristin (Nancy & Wayne Hall's daughter)  
Jed Cilley & Family

Ilya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)  
Linda Jackson & Family  
Nancy Hinsdale (Mindy Bickford's mom)  
The Poratti Family  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
Nancy (Carolyn Toof's friend)  
All persons affected by the Coronavirus



The altar flowers are given by  
Carolyn Rushford  
In memory of her cousin, Bob.



**Wish to share something important?** Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator. The address is [welcome@fcej.org](mailto: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 Rev. Josh Simon by emailing [@jsimon@fcej.org](mailto:jsimon@fcej.org).

*Visit us online! Click the icon or type the link, below:*



<http://www.fcej.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej>



[http://www.instagram.com/fcej\\_802](http://www.instagram.com/fcej_802)



<http://www.youtube.com/c/fcej>

**2021 Altar Flower Chart** is online!

Visit this link to reserve a date: [bit.ly/33JWlxj](https://bit.ly/33JWlxj)

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. To arrange for a pickup, please contact the church office: [welcome@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org) or 1 (802) 878-5745



## NEWSLETTERS

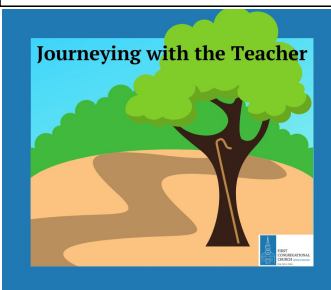
Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

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

<https://mailchi.mp/fcej/2020-weekly-update-5886024>

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/>



This service is part of our six-week Season of Epiphany series titled "Journeying with the Teacher." To read more bulletins published within this series, please visit our archive:

<http://bit.ly/3oE0mN0>



# 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]

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

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

**Asst. Financial Secretary:** Linda Bogardus [872-8972]

**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](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

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