



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



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, 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

Your donation could support our music, youth programming, missions, adult enrichment, 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
- ⊕ **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!** This is a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail from your bank. 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 Jct., VT 05452

WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ESSEX JUNCTION
Sunday, February 7th, 2021 @ 11:15 A.M.

To the members of the First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction,

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction will be via Zoom (using this web link: <https://bit.ly/31dXQ76>) on *Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 11:15 A.M.* to act upon the following business:

- Article I:** To hear and act upon the reports of the Church Officers, Committees and Recognized Groups of the Church.
- Article II:** To act and vote upon the proposed budget for 2021.
- Article III:** To elect all church officers and committees required by the by-laws of the Church and others as may be necessary.
- Article IV:** To give authorization to the Finance Committee to borrow money and sign notes pledging the credit of the Church, if needed, to meet the current expenses of the Church.
- Article V:** To transact any other business which may properly be brought before this Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Church,
Christine Sinkewicz, *Church Clerk*

Order of Worship
January 24th, 2021: Live Streaming
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
Journeying with the Teacher

The Order of Worship

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. Josh Simon, *Associate 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

2021 Budget Information Session

Sunday, January 31st after the 10 am worship.

You can join the Zoom Meeting at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/980588369>

Or you can call in using this phone number 1(646) 558-8656.

When prompted enter: 980 588 369 #

Once you enter the meeting, you will then wait in the waiting room until the host of the meeting lets you in.

This is our test run for the Annual Meeting on February 7th.

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

Zoom...video or phone in [*full warrant available two pages before this one*]

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

Musical Introit

Canon for Peace
by Joseph Burt

perf. by Sanctuary Choir

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Leslie O'Neil

Prayer of Invocation..... Amy McIntyre, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn

We Are Many Parts
By Marty Haugen © 1986 GIA Publications
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by Finally @ First

[Refrain] **We are many parts, we are all one body.
And the gifts we have, we were given to share.
May the spirit of love, make us one indeed;
One, the Love that we bear;
One, our hope and despair;
One, the joy that we share.**

[Verse 1] **God of all, we look to you. We would be your servants true,
Let us be your love for all the world**

[Verse 2] **So my love is your love too. In your joy, is my joy too,
All is brought together in our God.**

[Verse 3] **All you seekers great and small, seek the greatest gift of all,
If you love, then you will know our God.**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Matt and Blakely Noel

Children's Message.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*
Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude: Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601

Special Anthem

Stand Up

by Finally @ First

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Sacred Readings: Matthew 5: 1-16..... Read by Laurie and Junior Youth

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Sermon

“Blessed Are the Peacemakers”

Rev. Josh Simon
Associate Pastor

Closing Hymn

We Are The Light Of The World

perf. by Sanctuary Choir

*Greif/Tomaszek,
OCP Publishing*

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**[Verse] Blessed are they who are poor in spirit, Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit; Bless us, O Lord, our God**

(continued on next page...)

**[Chorus] We are the light of the world;
may our light shine before all,
that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.**

**[Verse] Blessed are they who are meek and humble, They will inherit the earth
Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble; Bless us, O Lord, our God**

[Chorus]

**[Verse] Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice, They will be satisfied
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice; Bless us, O Lord, our God**

[Chorus]

**[Verse] Blessed are they who show others mercy, They will know mercy too
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for mercy; Bless us, O Lord, our God**

[Chorus]

**[Verse] Blessed are they who bring peace among us,
They are the children of God
Bless us, O Lord, may your peace be with us;
Bless us, O Lord, our God**

[Chorus]

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 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

Paul Hyde & 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)

Irving Bartlett

Nancy Hayes

All persons affected by the Coronavirus



The altar flowers are given by

Mark Benton

In memory of R&K Westerhoff, B&L Benton,
G&G Clark, R&B Dakin, and A&H Brown



Wish to share something important? Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator. The address is 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.

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.youtube.com/c/fcej>

2021 Altar Flower Chart is online!

Visit this link to reserve a date: bit.ly/33JWlxj

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. To arrange for a pickup, please contact the church office: 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-5887824>

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/>

Journeying with the Teacher



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]

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]

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

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