



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>

Tutorial: Attend the Annual Meeting

You can access the Annual Meeting directly by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/31dXQ76> (same link we use every Sunday for Virtual Coffee Hour). You will be placed in a waiting room. Pastor Josh will let you into the meeting from the virtual waiting room.

Or you can go to Zoom.us and select Join A Meeting. Wherever it asks you for your name, please enter one that is easily identifiable to church members. Enter this Zoom Meeting ID: **980 588 369**. You will be placed in a waiting room. You will be let into the Zoom meeting by Pastor Josh.

If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, you can join us via phone. Dial **646-558-8656**. After dialing, you'll be prompted to enter the Meeting ID followed by the pound, **980 588 369#**. When you're asked about the participant ID, press the pound #. You will then be placed in a waiting room until Pastor Josh lets you into the meeting.

If you are planning to attend the meeting by phone, it would be helpful to let Pastor Josh know in advance. This way he can identify phone numbers with attendee's names. If you have questions call Pastor Josh at **920-858-6601**.

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

2020 Annual Report: The report is linked at the bottom of this page — <http://bit.ly/3qvfpPY>

Order of Worship
February 7th, 2021: Live Streaming
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Annual Meeting & Ask the Pastor Sunday

The Order of Worship

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Be sure to have your communion elements on hand

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 THIS Sunday February 7th at 11:15 a.m.

Zoom...video or phone in (*Links/tutorial on previous page*)

Electronic Annual Reports on Web Page (*Link on previous page*)

Lenten Schedule Begins

Ash Wednesday February 17th at 7:00 p.m.

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartmann, Ed Guild,

Francis Gravel and Rev. Josh Simon orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Allison Vansteensburg
w/ sons Liam & Aaron

Prayer of Invocation.....Alison Wermer, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant #539, by Finally @ First

[Verse 1] **Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.**

[Verse 2] **We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

[Verse 3] **I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

[Verse 4] **I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'Til we've seen this journey through.**

[Verse 5] **When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

[Repeat Verse 1]

Meetings and Greetings Along the Road..... Lyn Beliveau

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Sacred Readings: I Corinthians 12:4-13..... Read by Laurie Chipman
Lisa & Ashley Clark, Kaki McGeary
Terry Stein, Jon Roddy & Erica Garvey

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Sermon

“Ask the Pastors Sunday”

As a chance to allow the congregation to check in with their pastors once a year on Annual Meeting Sunday, the pastor's provide a time when members can ask them any question concerning the health and welfare of the church. The questions could be ethical, biblical, theological, philosophical, denominational, prophetic or a personal question as long as its appropriate. Our administrator Doug Ovitt has collected them this year and put them in a sealed envelope so that the pastors will be getting them without the advantage of review. If you missed sending it in, then text Rev. Mark with your question now. We will answer the questions as time permits.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

During this time, Rev. Mark and Rev. Josh will invite you to join them in taking the communion elements. Despite being in separate places, we will all partake at the same time, connecting us spiritually with everyone else in the congregation.

Closing Hymn

Make Me and Instrument of Your Peace

by Finally @ First

**[Chorus]: Lord, make us instruments of your peace
Where there is hatred, let your love increase
Lord, make us instruments of your peace
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are your instruments of peace**

[Chorus]

**[Verse] Where there is hatred, we will sow God's love
Where there is injury, we will never judge
Where there is striving, we will speak God's peace
To the millions crying for release
We will be God's instruments of peace**

[Chorus]

**[Verse] Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight
Where there is darkness, we will shine God's light
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief
To the millions crying for release
We will be God's instruments of peace**

[Chorus]

Benediction and blowing out our candles

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let me walk with my fellow in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Fellowship Hour — Meeting ID# 980588369 OR bit.ly/31dXQ76 *(same link for Annual Meeting)*

Tutorial: Attend the Annual Meeting

You can access the Annual Meeting directly by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/31dXQ76> *(same link we use every Sunday for Virtual Coffee Hour)*. You will be placed in a waiting room. Pastor Josh will let you into the meeting from the virtual waiting room.

Or you can go to Zoom.us and select Join A Meeting. Wherever it asks you for your name, please enter one that is easily identifiable to church members. Enter this Zoom Meeting ID: **980 588 369**. You will be placed in a waiting room. You will be let into the Zoom meeting by Pastor Josh.

If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, you can join us via phone. Dial **646-558-8656**. After dialing, you'll be prompted to enter the Meeting ID followed by the pound, **980 588 369#**. When you're asked about the participant ID, press the pound #. You will then be placed in a waiting room until Pastor Josh lets you into the meeting.

If you are planning to attend the meeting by phone, it would be helpful to let Pastor Josh know in advance. This way he can identify phone numbers with attendee's names. If you have questions call Pastor Josh at 920-858-6601.

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

2020 Annual Report: The report is linked at the bottom of this page — <http://bit.ly/3qvFPY>

PRAYER MINISTRY

Please, email your prayer requests to welcome@fccej.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)

Kristin

(Nancy & Wayne Hall's daughter)

Jed Cilley & Family

Steve Mitchell

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

Paul Hyde & Family

Irving Bartlett

Bruce Giannuzzi

*Gary Knapp
(Jackie Knapp's son)*

Nancy Hayes

Russ & Alma Wilson

The O'Neil Family

**The Altar Flowers are given by
Ginny Coe
In memory of her son, Tom**

REQUEST ALTAR FLOWERS ONLINE!

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

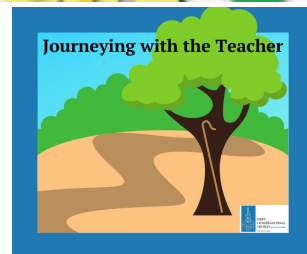
Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please contact the church office: welcome@fccej.org or 1(802) 878-5745.

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements! View current and past issues here: <http://bit.ly/3rlslSv>

Our "SPIRIT@FIRST" monthly newsletter is available by snail-mail and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit our archive: <http://fccej.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 in this series, visit the archive:

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

FIND US ONLINE! *Short links provided for your convenience.*



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9



INTERNET

www.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]

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]

Directory will be updated after elections. This is the pre-election roster.

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]