



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.

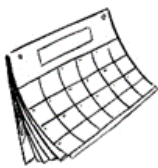
**1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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

Website: www.fccej.org



WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

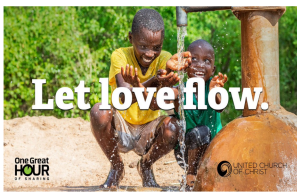


Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fccej.org/v5/calendar>
...and our Facebook events page: <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>

We offer regular worship and fellowship opportunities, too! These include:

- ⊕ **Worship, Sundays at 10am; Monthly Communion, 1st 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 on 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>

SPECIAL OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Learn More:
ucc.org/oghs

Collected on Sunday, March 14th
<http://www.fccej.org/v5/giving>

The United Church of Christ (UCC) works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Please, mail payments
(payable to “FCCEJ”) to:
attn. Financial Secretary
FCCEJ
1 Church Street
Essex Jct, VT 05452

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements!

View current and past issues here: <http://bit.ly/3rlsISv>

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/>

Jesus' Journey
of Transformation

Lent 2021 Calendar:
<https://bit.ly/3k83CyO>

We have a robust digital ministry! Find us online:



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Order of Worship
March 7th, 2021: Live Streaming
The Third Sunday of Lent
Jesus' Journey of Transformation
The Order of Worship

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Prepare for communion, find some bread and juice.

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. Josh your Prayer Requests [(920) 858-6601]

2 **Prayer Requests:** Text Rev. Mark your Prayer Requests [(802) 922-1773]

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. online

Music: Carol Spradling, Music Director

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Lenten Schedule Begins

Lenten Studies every Wednesday at 7 pm.

For Zoom link, check weekly email and/or website.

Pretzel Sunday! Recipes @ church and Faith@Home bags.

Thank you to Jonah Moos and Ed Guild for operating the live stream and audio system.

Musical Introit

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Jed Cilley

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

Opening Hymn Jesu, Jesu, Fill us With Your Love (#498) by Carol Spradling

Jane Marshall © 1982 Hope Publishing
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Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

**1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them. [*Refrain*]**

**2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away. [*Refrain*]**

**3 These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. [*Refrain*]**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Bernie Currier

Lighting the Lenten Candles.....Rusty & Paula Sargent

Children’s Message.....Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

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

Invitation

One Great Hour of Sharing Video

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

Test prayer request to Rev. Mark @ 802-922-1773

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: John 13:1-20

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

Anthem

Chain Break

by Finally @ First

Zach Williams © 2015 Anthems of Hope
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Sermon

"Holy Connectedness"

Rev. Josh Simon,
Associate Pastor

**1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
Let my people go,
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go.**

Refrain:
**Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land,
Tell old Pharaoh to
let my people go.**

**2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Moses said,
"Let my people go;
If not, I'll smite your first-born dead,
Let my people go." [Refrain]**

**3 No more in bondage shall they toil,
Let my people go,
Nor spill their blood on Egypt's soil,
Let my people go. [Refrain]**

**4 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
Let my people go,
And let us all in Christ be free,
Let my people go. [Refrain]**

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.**

God of Light, Hear Our Prayer

*Richard Ansell
(Carol Spradling's father)*

Bruce Giannuzzi

*Ilya
(Cathie Goodheart's friend)*

Russ & Alma Wilson

*Nancy Hinsdale
(Mindy Bickford's mom)*

The O'Neil Family

The Poratti Family

*Gary Knapp
(Jackie Knapp's Son)*

Bruce Giannuzzi

Steve Mitchell

*Nancy
(Carolyn Toof's friend)*

The Shearer Family

Jed Cilley & Family

The Forbes Family

*David
(David Irwin's friend)*

*Bonita
(Judy McCullen's friend)*

Paul Hyde & Family

Marsha Duell

Nancy Hayes

The Bartlett Family

All persons affected by the Coronavirus

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

The altar flowers are given by Melissa Ward
In loving memory of her parents Diane and Ronald Ward
and her brother David Ward.

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

Visit this link to reserve yours: bit.ly/33JW1xj

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email welcome@fcej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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

Director, **Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony:** Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

Men @ First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

Officers

President: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Vice President: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Financial Secretary: Rob Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]

Auditors: Betsy Weischedel [922-2094] & Steve Wood [878-3068]

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Francis Gravel [802-318-6235]

Deacons: Judy Pomainville [236-0604]

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Human Resources: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Missions: Paula Sargent [879-3598]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Dick Harris [644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: [PENDING]

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sue Wood [878-3068] woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]