



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; Communion, 1st Sundays** @ <http://youtube.com/c/fccej>
Hybrid = in-person + online. Pews are available on a "first come, first served" basis.
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour, after Worship** @ <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation, Sundays^{*}**, weekly on church grounds;
 - ^{*}9am until May 30th; meets once/final time on Sun., June 6th @ 10am
 - Meets on grounds except during inclement weather; then via Zoom; linked in weekly newsletter
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals, Weekdays 8am** @ <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back, Tuesday at 8:30am** @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ⊕ **Life Story/Memoir Club, 3rd Wednesdays** @ 1pm via Zoom.
 - For details, contact Pete Schmalz pnschmalz@comcast.net or P#879-3352
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter, Thursdays at 8am** @ <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
- ⊕ **Noontime Book Group, 3rd Mondays at 11:30am** @ <http://zoom.us/j/626841083>

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. If you wish to contribute content, it is due by the 3rd Friday of each month (except in November and December when it is due on the 2nd Friday.) Visit our archive:

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

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 23, 10 am
in person and online



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
May 23rd, 2021: Live Streaming
Pentecost
Journey into New Life

The Order of Worship

Live Stream begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements and introductory music begins approx. five minutes before 10 am.

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.
Text thankfulness and prayer requests to Rev. Josh [920 858-6601]

Prelude

Marie Johnson

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

Hybrid Service

Morning Devotions:

Faith Formation for Families with Children & Youth – Sundays 9 – 10 am outside
(through June 6th)

- In case of rain, we will switch to ZOOM (announcement will be posted by 8:30 am on our Facebook Discussion Group)

- @Home option still available – contact Laurie to sign up for take home bag

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Musical Introit

“He Has Made Me Glad”

Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to worship, welcome to the celebration of the beginning of the universal Church. Christians for centuries have celebrated the birth of the church fifty days after Easter. We call this Sunday Pentecost.

All: The fire of the Holy Spirit burns within us.

Leader: The Holy Spirit unites us as one, empowers us to listen and to preach the Gospel.

All: The fire of the Holy Spirit burns within us.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and worship.

Opening Hymn Spirit of the Living God (#283) Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me**

(Sing four times)

Prayer of Invocation..... Maureen McKenzie, *Deacon*

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....John & Phyllis Willey

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Ron Faux

Loving God, 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 do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

The Reception of New Members..... Rev. Dr. WendyJaine Summers
Howard & Janne Giles
Heather Habberfield & Jared Isbell

Anthem The Zeal of the Lord Denise Keating, *Piano Solo*

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Sacred Readings: Acts: 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Sermon

“Animated By the Spirit”

Rev. Josh Simon, Associate Pastor

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

Closing Hymn

O Spirit of the Living God (#263)

Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**O Spirit of the living God,
pure Light and Fire Divine:
burn brightly in your church once more,
its life and faith refine.
Fill it with love and joy and power,
with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts,
and sin and sorrow cease.**

**Blow, Wind of God! With wisdom blow
disperse and put to flight
the mists of error, clouds of doubt
which hide you from our sight.
Burn, Winged Fire! Inspire our lips,
renew in us your call to preach
with zeal your great good news;
God's love extends to all.**

**Teach us to utter living words
of truth which all may hear,
the language all can understand
when love speaks loud and clear;
Till every nation, age and race
shall blend their creeds in one,
and all together use their gifts
to see your will is done.**

**So shall we know the power of Christ,
the strength of love to save,
so shall we rise with Christ to life
which soars beyond the grave;
And earth shall win true holiness,
which makes your children whole,
and draws us on by grace to reach
creation's glorious goal!**

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.**

Please, join us for Fellowship Hour — Meeting ID# **980588369** OR bit.ly/31dXQ76

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

If you require prayers for yourself or a loved one; or if you wish for a call from a pastor, please contact welcome@fccej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)

Ilya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Bruce Giannuzzi

David (David Irwin's friend)

Nancy Hayes

Russ & Alma Wilson

Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)

Steve Mitchell

Marsha Duell

Jane MacFarland (Sue Wood's cousin)

Judy (Cathie Goodheart's cousin)

Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes's son-in-law)

Peat Taylor

Betty Moody & Family

Rusty Sargent

Jessica Moos & Family

Andrea & Tom Sramek (Maureen McKenzie's niece and husband)

Patty Garvey

Dave Johnson

Joe and Ann Wells

Carolyn Toof's Niece

Carol Spradling

Friends & Family of Barb Auch (Donna Burnett's friend)

The Family of Luisa Chernyshov

The Family of Stephen Hayes

...and the many people affected by COVID19



**The flowers on the altar are given by
Donald & Suzanne Foss
In loving memory of
Theodore De Wispelaer**

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

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

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email welcome@fccej.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 Larrabee [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 McGearry [879-2062]

Ushering: Marlene Frank [872-9126]

Recognized Groups

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

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]