



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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
June 11th, 2021

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

Order of Worship

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

Prelude

All Creatures of Our God and King

Denise Keating

Geistliche Kirchengesange arr. Jennifer Fink © 2010 Jennifer Fink
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

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: Every other pew

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Dir. on medical leave of absence,
Filling in Marie Johnson and Denise Keating
Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group
Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Musical Introit

Evidence

Laura Cunningham Firkey

Josh Baldwin, Ed Cash, and Ethan Hulse © 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon
Used with Permission CCLI License # 11051841

Leader: O Lord, the Great Shepherd of your people—
we come to worship you, seeking your tender care.

**All: Lead us, Good Shepherd, into your path of your
fullness of life, through your justice, peace and joy.**

Leader: May the radiant light of God’s face shine upon us
as we come to worship the God of light and mercy.

**All: As we receive the light of your presence, O God,
may our prayers and our worship be acceptable to you. Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (#1)

Denise Keating

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;
in all life you’re living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.**

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render and your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

Prayer of Invocation.....Myrna Doney, *Deacon*

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Ron Faux, *Minister of Visitation*

*Text prayers to Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601
Please, note two slight changes*

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.

Sacred Readings

Romans 1: 1-17

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish—hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

Anthem

Fires

Laura Cunningham Firkey

Jordan St. Cyr, Krissy Nordhoff, Micah Kuiper © 2020 Man Cub Muzak House
Used with Permission CCLI License # 11051841

Sermon

"To the Church in Rome"

Rev. Josh Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God..... Rev. Ron Faux

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

**In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?**

[Refrain]: **God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

Pastoral Benediction

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 us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With every step 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.**

Postlude

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (#403)

Denise Keating



Maureen Evans has submitted her resignation as our president to the Human Resources Committee effective June 25, 2021. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to FCCEJ spanning over 19 years of committee and leadership roles. We are deeply grateful for her leadership not only through the pandemic but also with the Capital Campaign and in developing our strategic plan. We wish her well and offered her blessings of health, love, and support. With this transition, Cathy Shearer has assumed the role of Acting President. Brenda Dawson has generously offered to fill the role of Acting Vice President for the remainder of this leadership term (through the Annual Meeting 2022).



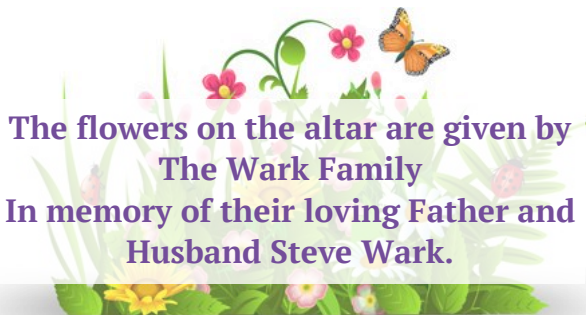
Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*, is on vacation until early August. Emergencies should be brought to the attention of Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*. (C# [920-858-6601](tel:920-858-6601))

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@fcej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)
Bruce Giannuzzi
David (David Irwin's friend)
Nancy Hayes
Russ & Alma Wilson
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)
Steve Mitchell
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)

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
John Mauger
Robert Howe
Matt McGeary & Family
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Warren Vanslette (Doug Ovitt's brother)
Jordan
Jonah Moos' Father
Sean McKenzie
Harsh Shah
...and all persons affected by COVID19



ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

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

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

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our "Weekly Update" eNewsletter:
<http://bit.ly/3rlslSv>

Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" eNewsletter*
<http://fcej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

*available in a printed, snail-mailed format



On hiatus during summer:

Daily Devotionals;
Thursday Coffee Clatter;
Zoom part of Fellowship Hour



Sunday Worship @ 10am (Hybrid Format!)
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fcej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fcej)



Sermon Talk Back (Hybrid Format!)
Tuesdays @ 8:30am, Marvin Lounge
...and Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



Life Story/Memoir Club
3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm
Contact Pete Schmalz (pnschmalz@comcast.net)



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, Marvin Lounge
Zoom component is on hiatus



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fcej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

MISSION MOMENTS

July 11, 2021
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
God-inspired Joy

Last year at this time, several months into the COVID pandemic and not an end in sight, Rev. Rebekah Moyer of Emmanuel UCC, in Allentown, PA was in search of joy. She thought wistfully of the joy that she experienced at Christmas, and wondered if others might want that joy, too. So, she and the congregation she serves initiated Christmas In July.

Pastor Becky, as she is known, said in her sermon that day “I thought about all of the hustle and bustle that goes along with the Christmas season and all of the chaos that comes during that season. I also thought about how quickly baby Jesus is packed away and our Christmas “high” is taken away. ...As I was reflecting on all of this I couldn’t help but think to myself: After the Christmas holiday is over, how many of us put Christ back in a shoe box? I started to wonder what happens to Christmas if we take away the ribbons and the bows. If we forget about Santa Claus and decorating Christmas trees. If we don’t have to worry about baking cookies or pies or serving extravagant dinners. If we don’t have to worry about running around looking for the perfect Christmas present. If we don’t have to worry about the lines we usually have to stand in at the store and the irritated faces of strangers when you take the last of whatever the “popular” present is that year. If we get rid of the frustration of wrapping gifts. And I thought that maybe, just maybe, July is an opportunity for us. Perhaps we can forget all of the extra stuff that we have added to the season and really celebrate Christ. We can celebrate what the birth of Christ really means to us without the commercialization, without the pressures that come along with everything surrounding Christmas. ...I was reminded that, although the nights are short and the weather is warm, we need that light and that hope. We need that joy that comes with hearing the story of the baby lying in the manger all of the time. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the Christmas story does not belong in a box, tucked away somewhere safe. I think we need to hear the miracle of the birth of Christ throughout the year. Have you put Jesus in a box in a closet, attic, or basement with the Christmas stuff? Have you packed him away with the palm fronds and the Easter decorations? Is your joy for the Savior on layaway with the gifts you have set aside for December? Elizabeth and Mary were filled with so much joy that they could not hold it in. Mary's pregnancy, her child, brought the One who would reshape the world, the One who would confront injustice and deliver new hope, the very presence of God. It is time for us to find him again, the baby in the manger. It is time for us to find joy. The most wonderful news, he is always looking for you, waiting for you. Christmas joy is not a single day or month. It is for us, followers of Christ, a way of life.”



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com]

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: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Vice President: Brenda Dawson [1-802-881-5253]

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: Brenda Dawson [1-802-881-5253]

Missions: Paula Sargent [879-3598]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Dick Harris [1-802-644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: 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]