



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 18th, 2021

Order of Worship

Live Stream begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements

As worship begins

Light a candle at home

Sit in a comfortable spot,

Center yourself w/ breathing

Prayer Request

If you would like to include a prayer to be mentioned in the pastoral prayer, please text Rev. Josh [920 858-6601]

Center Ourselves for Worship

At the start of the hour, while we listen to the prelude, I invite us to shift our minds from our daily activities and routines of our busy minds and busy lives to a time of worship.

Prelude Music

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Jason Krug © © 2012 Lorenz Publishing Company
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Denise Keating

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

A Few Key Announcements

Musical Introit

Come Worship the Lord

John Michael Talbot © 1980 Troubadour For the Lord Music
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Finally @ First

Call to Worship.....Lauren Starkey, *Deacon*

written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution.

Leader: When we pass through the waters,

People: God is there with us.

Leader: When we suffer and feel hopeless,

People: God is there with us.

Leader: When we are joyful and celebratory,

People: God is there with us.

Leader: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

(continued on next page...)

People: God is there with us, always.

Leader: Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel, God with us.

Opening Hymn

Our God is Here

Chris Muglia (C) 2001 spritandsong.com
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Finally @ First

**Here in this time, here in this place,
Here we are standing face to face.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.
Here for the broken, here for the strong,
Here in this temple we belong.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.**

[Chorus]: **And we cry
"Holy! Holy! Holy are you!"
We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!"
Amen, we do believe our God is here.
Our God is here.**

**Here in the Word, God is revealed,
Here where the wounded can be healed.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.
Here we become what we receive,
where all are welcomed to the feast.
We are the body, living as one;
Our God is here.**

(Chorus x1)

Prayer of Invocation.....Lauren Starkey, *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.

(continued on next page...)

***Lord listen to Your children praying
 Lord send Your Spirit in this place
 Lord listen to Your children praying
 Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace***

Sacred Readings

Psalm 86

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me. There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them. But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl. Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Romans 5:6-21

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of

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grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem

What a Friend

Finally @ First

Abbie Parker, Adam Palmer, Matt Maher, Matthew Hein © All Essential Music
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Sermon

“From Adam to Jesus”

Rev. Josh Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God.....Rev. Ron Faux, *Minister of Visitation*

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

In the Midst of New Dimensions (#391)

Denise Keating

**Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? Refrain**

**[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 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.**

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
Jordan
Jonah Moos' Father
Sean McKenzie
Harsh Shah
...and all persons affected by COVID19



The flowers on the altar are given by
Julie Leach
In honor of her father, Willis Real

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 18th, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Wherever You Are

Today's scripture tells the story of the Ark of the Covenant, the holy place where scripture was kept (and kept moving) in ancient times. The ark helped the people to see that God's Word was on the move. Like our ancestors, our modern interpretation of and witness to God is not confined to our church buildings.

For example, pastor Oby Ballinger of Edina Morningside Community Church in Edina, Minnesota was heartbroken at the unnecessary discomfort caused to those who lost access to a driver's license due to immigration status. He took the good news out of the church building, and into his local legislature, delivering the following message of faith and justice:

"...In my ministry I have seen the grief and loss caused when a driver's license is taken away. Without a license, one person has to settle for the minimum wage job that's within walking distance. Another has lost the freedom to attend worship or get groceries independently. Children become chaperones as their parents talk about the loss of dignity that comes without a license. None of these people are new to Minnesota, but theirs is the experience of any immigrant who was here when drivers' licenses were taken away, causing untold grief, job-loss, and harm to human decency.

We start worship every Sunday by saying, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We do so not because it's a politically-correct, warm-and-fuzzy thing to say. We do so because the God we follow and serve has made all people welcome, has made us welcome, and has called us to offer that welcome to every person in Christ's name. Like Jesus, we believe each person is made in the image of God with creativity, purpose and joy, regardless of what they look like, where they were born, or what boundaries they have crossed or stayed inside. Indeed, our Savior broke laws and fearful customs that denied God's image in others by denying them health, dignity, and safety. He healed on the Sabbath, ate with the disrespected, spoke with outcasts, and caring for those who were not like him. Christ taught us that the greatest commandment—the purpose of all the other laws—is to love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

It is past time to restore the right to drive to immigrants who bear the image of God just as you and I do. The current law must change, so that the higher law of honoring God's image in each person can be fulfilled. "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." God has made it so; let us follow."



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]