



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
July 25th, 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

Prelude in F

Marie Johnson, *Organ*

Philippe LeMaigre © 1984 Ricercar
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 to worship with us.*

Welcoming God's Light into Worship
A Few Key Announcements

Musical Introit

Sicilienne Op. 78

Marie Johnson, *Piano*
Abigail Evans, *Violin*

Gabriel Faure, Public Domain

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

© 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year A, used with permission.

Leader: O God our Guide and Helper, we come to worship you!

All: You stay beside us as we journey through life.

Leader: O God our Just and Holy One, we come to thank you!

All: You lead us in your path of justice and peace.

Leader: O God, our Trustworthy Leader, we come to praise you!

All: We know we can always rely on your promises.

O God, we gather to worship, praise and thank you. Amen.

**Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You are loving, your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.**

[Refrain]: **Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed your love has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and spring time and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

(Refrain)

**Pardon for sin and peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.**

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.

Sacred Readings

Romans 6:1-23

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Anthem

Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)

Denise Keating

Irving Berlin © 1954 Irving Berlin Music Corporation
Used with Permission CCS License # 12390

Sermon

“Death to Sin, New Life”

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)

Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
might envision wider dreams**

[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
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
Jaime Real
Path & Faith Lavelly
Claire Glatz
...and all persons affected by COVID19



The flowers on the altar are given by
Jane Schneider
In loving memory of Russ.

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



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 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
John 6:1-21
God's Abundant Presence

The story of the “loaves and fishes” is one of the most beloved of all Bible stories. The hungry crowds, the presence of children, the abundance left over - it is easy to get pulled into the warmth and joy of this story.

Some say that the feeding of the people that day was one kind of miracle (Jesus made the food appear). Some say it was another kind (the crowd was so moved that they began sharing what they had previously hoarded). Whatever it was, the feeding that occurred was immediate and specific to the situation and responsive to a tremendous and obvious need.

For centuries, the church has been moved to feed people in the same way that the story illustrates in all kinds of situations and conditions. When the COVID pandemic made serving food in person risky, that did not change, even if the method of food distribution had to.

The Faith Cafe, an ecumenical partnership with Bethel United Church of Christ in Beaverton, Oregon and other churches in the area is one great example. Faith Cafe describes itself as a partnership of communities who in love, compassion, and justice, are dedicated to serving neighbors who are hungry for community and food.

“We accomplish this by sharing a free meal, as a family, and advocating for long term social changes that will reduce poverty and hunger... Each person who comes to Faith Cafe is a blessing to us and it is a privilege for us to serve them.”

That posture of humility and gratitude for the ability to serve meant that Faith Cafe was ready and able to pivot to a new way of service when COVID-19 sent the church, along with the rest of the community, into quarantine.

Rather than a hot meal, the weekly Faith Cafe became a to-go counter, with food distributed in sacks that could be taken away. As their food needs were met, and they were treated safely and with respect, Faith Cafe guests were fed body and soul.



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

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]