



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 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org **Website:** www.fccej.org



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
August 1st, 2021

Order of Worship

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

As worship begins

*Have your communion elements ready for later in the service
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.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

*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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Denise Keating, *Piano*

Sebastian Temple arr. Mark Hayes © 1967 OCP Publications
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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

Kyrie

Amanda Palmer, *Vocalist*

Antonin Dvořák © 1998 Alfred Publishing
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Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to worship. Welcome to our community of faith, today's call to worship comes from our church's covenant: We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God.

All: We agree to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us.

(continued on next page...)

Leader: We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As in the past, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us.

All: We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life. May it be so, Amen.

Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen (C) 1994 GIA Publications
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Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**Let us build a house
Where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where
Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions**

[Refrain]: **All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus**

(Refrain)

**Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us**

(Refrain)

Prayer of Invocation.....Pete Schmalz, *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

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 3: 9, 21-26..... Pete Schmalz, *Deacon*

What then? Are we any better off? No, not at all; for we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin, But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15 1-7..... Laurie Chipman, *CE Director*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision
By Eleanor Hull, Public Domain

Marie Johnson, *Organ*
Amanda Palmer, *Vocalist*

Sermon

“You are Welcome Here”

Rev. Josh Simon

The Sacrament of Holy Communion [for our streaming attendees]

Rev. Josh will invite everyone to join them at Christ’s table, then we will all partake of the elements at the same time. Afterwards, Rev. Josh will offer a Prayer of Thanksgiving. For those in-person, we will partake in communion after worship and outside side on the front lawn.

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*

**We are welcome, we are loving,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.**

**[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.**

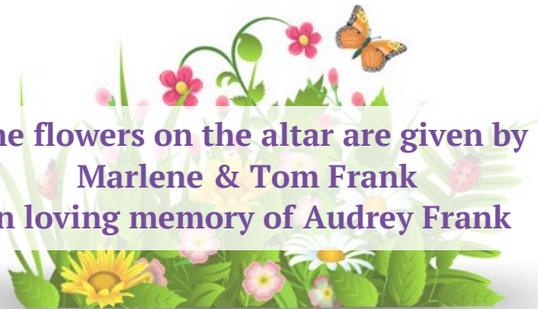
Postlude

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
Marlene & Tom Frank
In loving memory of Audrey Frank

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

All altar flowers request slots for 2021 are fulfilled!

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

August 1, 2021
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
John 6:24-35
Bread of Life

ONE VOICE: Creator of All, When everything was nothing, you drew life from the void - separating night from day, setting the stars in the sky, placing plants, fish, birds and all living creatures on this planet that we call home. And you created us, earth creatures, molded from the dust of the ground and created in your image.

MANY VOICES: From the very beginning, we looked for signs that you were near.

ONE VOICE: You tried to show us your power and your mercy. You set us on journeys of faith and transformation. You fed us in the wilderness. Through your prophets, you spoke under trees and on mountaintops and in city streets.

MANY VOICES: Still, we asked for signs of your presence.

ONE VOICE: So, at last you sent us Jesus. As an infant, he gathered both kings and peasants to his side. As a child, he astonished all with his teaching. As a man, he told stories and healed the sick and welcomed the cast out. He walked on water and fed a great crowd with a few loaves and fishes. By his life, he showed us how to live completely filled up with God.

MANY VOICES: And we said, “We still need a sign.”

ONE VOICE: And so, he said, “I am the bread of life.”

MANY VOICES: Slowly, we began to understand. Maybe if we followed him, we could sometimes taste what it was like to live a life completely filled up with God, too.

ONE VOICE: And then, on the night before he was killed by those who feared his message of love and forgiveness for all people, he gathered those closest to him and took the bread, and he blessed it and broke it and he gave it to us and said, “This bread is my body. Eat this and remember and you will not go hungry.” And he also took up the cup, and gave it to them and said, “Drink this, and you will no longer thirst for righteousness.” And so, they ate and drank. And so, we eat and drink.

MANY VOICES: And we give thanks for this sign, Holy One, that you are near. Amen.



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]