



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
A United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas

Normally, our First Service with organ and choir is streamed and begins at 8:30am with access on our webpage: www.fccej.org. You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with our praise band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and it is not streamed. Our Faith Formation Program for all children occurs during the second worship service. Today, we only have one service at 9am which will be streamed and children will stay in worship with their families. Activities are available in the Narthex.

Currently, masks are required for all attendees.

*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All
In the Spirit of Christ*

Prelude

Noel Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin
arr. by Patricia Lou Harris
Marie Johnson, organ

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome in this place.*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some significant events and/or announcements in our shared life.

Musical Introit

We Three Kings

Hopkins
arr. Kowalchuk/Lancaster
Kinlee Spaulding, piano

Call to Worship Deacon Judy Pomainville

Leader: The birth of Jesus is such an important event in the life of the church that the early church leaders set aside 12 days and two Sundays to honor the grand occasion. Today is the First Sunday after Christmas.

People: The birth is but the beginning of a person's life. We grow and learn throughout our lives as we seek to move closer to God and who God would have us be.

Leader: Even at a young age, Jesus had the wisdom of one connected to the presence of the Divine. We should listen to and learn from the generation that comes after us. Come, let us be attentive to the wisdom embedded in this worship service.

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this the angels sing,
 is Christ, God's holy offering;
 Haste, haste, your praise to bring
 the babe, the child of Mary!
 Why lies the Child in manger bare
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Give heed, draw near; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me and you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the child of Mary!
 Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, join in jubilation;
 The Holy Child, though meek and mild,
 has come with God's salvation.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 the mother sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 the babe, the child of Mary!

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer..... Deacon Judy Pomainville

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.

Children's Moment

Mary, Marry, Merry Christmas

Rev. Ron Faux

Pastoral PrayerRev. Josh Simon

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response

Away in a Manager

Hopkins

arr. Kowalchyk/Lancaster

Kinlee Spaulding, piano

Scripture

Old Testament Prophetic - 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Read by Deacon Judy Pomainville

New Testament Gospel - Luke 2:41-52

Read by Rev. Josh Simon

New Testament Epistle - Colossians 3:12-17

Read by Rev. Ron Faux

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Meditation

Stay Tuned

Rev. Ron Faux

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church Rev. Josh Simon

*Thank you to those at home who are joining us
and financially supporting our ministry.*

*Thank you to folks in the sanctuary who are present
and offering their gifts in the basket provided.*

*Thank you to everyone who has sent in their pledge card for 2022
and for everyone planning to send it in shortly.*

Closing Hymn

I Am the Light of the World

#584

"I am the light of the world!**You people come and follow me!"****If you follow and love****you'll learn the mystery****of what you were meant to do and be.****When the song of the angel is stilled, when the start in the sky is gone,****When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,****the work of Christmas has begun:****"I am the light of the world!****You people come and follow me!"****If you follow and love****you'll learn the mystery****of what you were meant to do and be.**

**To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above!**

**“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love
you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

**To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see all God’s children everywhere!**

**“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love
you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

**To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby’s new birth,
To make music in.....an old person’s heart
and sing to the colors of the earth!**

**“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love
you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction Rev. Ron Faux

***Sung Community Benediction**

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, holding you in love.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

*Postlude

Postlude on “In dulci jublio”

James Mansfield
Marie Johnson, organ

*Please stand if you are able

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

- Betty Busciglio In Memory of loved ones*
- Cathie Goodheart & Tim Carney..... In Memory of our loved ones*
- Sanctuary Choir..... In Honor of Denise Keating and Marie Johnson*
- Brenda Dawson..... In Memory of my parents*
- Riley Elliott In Honor of the ministries of First Congregation Church of Essex Junction*
- Howard & Janne Giles In Memory of David & Anne Cozzens,
Howard & Lois Giles and Lois Rossman*
- Martha Hopkins..... In Memory of my parents, Arthur & Lois Anderson*
- Joanne Irwin..... In Memory of Edwin & Dorthea Hilbert and Alan Irwin*
- Andrea J. Goedken & Linda B. Jackson In Memory of George Arthur Jackson*
- Alex, Monica, Liam & Ethan John..... In Memory of N.V. & Mary John and
John & Alice Murphy*
- Marie & Dave Johnson In Memory of our parents*
- Genevieve & Henry King..... In Memory of Grandma & Grandpa Gibson*
- Connie Marshall..... In Honor of my Barden family and my Marshall family*
- Judy & Kevin McCullen..... In Memory of Peg & Ed Hurst and Donna McCullen
and In Honor of Shannon, Sean, and Kevin*
- Maureen McKenzie..... In Memory of Mom, Dad, Jim and Mark*
- Mark Mendes In Memory of Margaret & George Mendes*
- Betty Moody In Memory of Karl K. Moody, Jr.*
- Jessica & Jonah Moos..... In Honor of family
and In Memory of Leora & Annette*
- Lindalou Parker..... In Memory of Erica Eastham & Krianna & Kelsey Couture*
- Judy Pomainville In Memory of Wesley & Virginia Larrabee*
- Carolyn Rushford In Honor of Nick & Jamie Rushford*
- Paula & Rusty Sargent..... In Honor of Paula's mom, Charlotte Lapidow
and In Memory of Rusty's mom, Helen Sargent*
- Jane Schneider In Memory of Russ and In Honor of my parents*
- Andrea & Steve Sharp..... In Memory of our parents*
- The Shearer Family..... In Memory of Patricia & Steve Shearer and Malcolm Forbes*
- Gorden & Lauren Starkey..... In Memory of our parents,
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Starkey Sr., and Richard Busciglio*
- Carolyn Toof..... In Memory of Dick Toof*
- Carl & Alison Wermer..... In Memory of our parents*
- John & Phyllis Willey..... In Memory & In Honor of our parents, both living and deceased*

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.

Craig & Deb Watt
Betty Adams
Malcolm Levanway
Paul Hyde
Deanna Hayes
Marge Shepard
Josh Ludwig
Bruce Giannuzzi
David (David Irwin's friend)

Nancy Hayes
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)
Patty Garvey
Dave Johnson
Joe and Ann Wells
Maureen MacKenzie
The family of Margaret Sprague
Robert Howe
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Sean McKenzie
Jaime Real
Claire Glatz
Emily Broude
Carlene Lawrence's Family
Duke Ehler and the Family of Emily Ehler
College Students (and their parents!)

...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar
are given by
Terry Stein
in honor of family.*

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.

CONNECTIONS:

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

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

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

*available in a printed, snail-mailed format

ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am, Martone's
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm Marvin Lounge



Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15
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>



Wednesday Night Searchers 7pm in the Marvin Lounge—on hiatus till January



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

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

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

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

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

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fcej.org]

Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fcej.org]

Music

Currier Bell Choir: Alison Wermer [clwerme@msn.com; P# 802-879-7650]

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

Men @ First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

Officers

President: Cathy Shearer [802-878-6023]

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

Financial Secretary: Rob Sinkewicz [802-878-4470]

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [802-879-0261]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [802-878-4470]

Historian: Ann Gray [802-878-4088]

Auditors: Betsy Weischedel [802-922-2094] & Steve Wood [802-878-3068]

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [802-872-5849]

Communications: Francis Gravel [802-318-6235]

Deacons: Judy Pomainville [802-236-0604]

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [802-878-6023]

Hospitality: Jen Dooley [802-578-0230]

Human Resources: Brenda Dawson [802-881-5253]

Missions: Paula Sargent [802-879-3598]

Music: Denise Keating [802-345-8900]

Nominating: Dick Harris [802-644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [802-878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [802-879-2062]

Ushering: Marlene Frank [802-872-9126]

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sue Wood [802-878-3068] woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [802-879-0109]