



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
Sunday, January 9, 2022
First Service: 8:30 a.m.

The First Sunday After Epiphany

The Order of Worship

Our First Service with organ and traditional 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.

Currently, masks are required for all attendees.

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

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

Philip Nicolai
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

Call to WorshipDeacon Carolyn Rushford

Leader: : Today we leave the Christmas season behind and begin an epiphany journey where stories of power elicit insight into Jesus and his ministry.

People: Those stories awaken the faith within us and challenge us to live different lives of power, reason, meaning and fullness.

Leader: Awaken yourselves to the possibilities of God. Open your eyes so that you might begin to see afresh. Listen more acutely to the Divine message streaming all around. Wake up brothers and sisters to life!

Arise, Your Light Is Come

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**Arise your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today!
Arise your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
Arise your light is come!
All you in sorrow born.
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
Arise your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer Deacon Carolyn Rushford

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 Message..... Laurie Chipman

Pastoral PrayerRev. Josh Simon

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other
Musical Prayer Response Two-Fold Amen

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:4-24 Phillip, Baptism, and the Power of the Holy Spirit

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

Now a certain man named Simon had previously practised magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, 'This man is the power of God that is called Great.' And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.' Simon answered, 'Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.'

Luke 3:15:22 John Testifies and Baptizes Jesus

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Sermon

Water, Spirit, and Fire

Rev. Mark Mendes

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

*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 on the way out.*

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

*Hymn

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

#503

**O Savior, let me walk with you
in earthly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear winning word of love
Teach me the wayward feet to stay
and guide them in their homeward way
Teach me your patience; let me be
in closer, dearer company;
in works that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong
In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only you can give,
with you o Savior, let me live.**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction Rev. Mark Mendes

***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

Carillon Toccara

Douglas Wagner
Marie Johnson, organ

*Please stand if you are able

A Few Key Announcements:

- ◆ Sunday Worship - Two Services - 8:30am* and 10:15am
*First service streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)
We are pleased to offer in-person worship with COVID precautions in place. This includes masking and social distancing regardless of vaccination status.
Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month. The elements will be sealed and passed out to the congregation.
- ◆ Music: Marie Johnson and Denise Keating are leading Sanctuary Choir — due to rise in COVID-19 cases, Sanctuary Choir is on hiatus through January
Rick Dooley leads our Praise Band *Finally @ First* at second service at 10:15am.
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel, Linda Lou Parker and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech!

Faith Formation & Youth

- ◆ Faith Formation ~ PreK through 8th grade
This Sunday, January 9 we are discussing the baptism of Jesus
- ◆ Young Apostles ~ 3rd grade through 5th grade with a parent/grandparent
Next meeting is today, January 9, at 4pm via Zoom. Please contact Laurie Chipman for more information and the Zoom link
- ◆ Youth Gathering ~ 6th grade through 12th grade, 6:30 to 8pm on Sunday evenings via Zoom for the month of January. Pastor Josh will send out a link.

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

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

The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Sean McKenzie
Jaime Real
Claire Glatz
Emily Broude
College Students (and their parents!)

...and all persons affected by COVID19

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

To sign up for altar flowers,
visit our website:
fccej.org/Serving Others/Get Involved.
Use the Sign Up Genius link.

CONNECTIONS:

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

Our “Weekly Update” eConnection:
<http://bit.ly/3rlsIsv>

Our monthly “SPIRIT@FIRST”
eNewsletter*

<http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

**available in a printed, snail-mailed format*



Sunday Morning Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)



Sermon Talk Back
Tuesdays at 8:30am via Zoom through
January: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



Wednesday Night Searchers
7pm via Zoom—next meeting is January 12



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, via Zoom in
January

Coffee Clatter is on hiatus for the month of January



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

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]

Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.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]