



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

Website: www.fccej.org

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Facebook Messenger: m.me/firstcongregationalej



Teleworship & Fellowship Services

We recommend that you review our worship bulletins ahead of time. They serve as primers for your participation; and all are welcome to participate! To access our worship bulletins, visit this link: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/category/bulletins/>

- ⊕ **Sunday Worship** at 9:00am *through the summer months* @ YouTube via <https://bit.ly/3eIhV9P>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:30am @ <https://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Saturday Worship**, 1st Saturday of Each Month at 4:30pm (*recess in July and August*) @ <http://zoom.us/j/403773331>
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am and 8pm @ <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ⊕ **Outdoor Pastoral Visits**, Wednesdays at 10am @ **Church Grounds (Parking Lot and Thrift Shop.)**
- ⊕ **Prayer Circle**, Wednesdays at 7:30pm @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731198775>
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, Thursdays at 8am @ <https://zoom.us/j/97659276694>

Church Committees utilize Zoom as-needed. Please, contact the relevant committee chair for details. *Don't have a webcam?* No problem! Visit our Facebook Events page and click your desired event for a list of phone numbers that you can call to join by telephone/cellphone. (There are numbers for people living nationally and internationally): <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>

Ways to Donate to Our Church

- ✓ **Shop at Amazon.com** using *Amazon Smile*. We receive 0.5% of your purchases! <http://smile.amazon.com> Search “First Congregational Church of Essex Junction” in the “Charities” section.
 - ✓ **Send a Check or BillPay-ment!** Your donation will support the many ministries of the church including music, youth programming, missions, adult enrichment opportunities such as Sermon Talkback and JOY, the Jamaica Mission Trip, Essex Eats Out, and more. We are also a United Church of Christ “5 for 5” participant in these fundraisers: *Per Capita* (\$14/member is our goal), *One Great Hour of Sharing*, *Strengthen The Church*, *Neighbors In Need* and *The Christmas Fund*. You simply add “FCCEJ” as a payee, and then you can schedule a one-time payment or recurring payments.
 - Check payments are secure and should be sent to our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver. Please, note your reason for donating in the memo line of your check (e.g. “food pantry”, “memorial fund”, etc.) Mail checks to:
 - *Attn: Financial Secretary, FCCEJ, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452*
 - BillPay is a service provided by most banks. They will send either a one-time or recurring check payment at whatever amount you desire. Please contact your banking institution to set up Bill Pay.
 - ✓ **Use PayPal!** General donations can be made by credit card through PayPal. Follow this link: paypal.me/fccej. A PayPal account is not required to donate money. *Questions about your payment? Do you wish to increase your pledge?* Contact Pat by emailing her at vtri2@aol.com
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July 19th, 2020
Live Streaming
Order of Worship

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:00 a.m. with music and pre-worship notes
Announcements will be shown on screen

Prepare for Worship

*Find a candle at home,
Sit in a comfortable spot,
Center yourself w/ breathing.*

Service Input Preparation: Text NOW to make the service run more smoothly.

- 1 Thankfulness:** *Text Rev. Josh one thought of gratitude [920 858-6601]*
- 2 Kid's Names:** *Text Rev. Josh your child's name for Children's Message*
- 3 Prayer Requests:** *Text Rev. Josh one thought of gratitude*

Prelude

Welcome

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

Lighting Our Candles:

You are invited to light your own candles or find a device to illuminate a spot in your home.

A Few Key Announcements

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road

Joan and Ron Faux

Prayer of Invocation

Jonah Moos, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn

I've Got Peace Like a River

Carol Spradling, *Music Director;*
and Jim Coates

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul.
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul.**

Children's Message

If you would like Pastor Josh to say a special hello to your child during the children's message, text him your child's first name only. C# 920 858-6601

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road

The Hamilton Family

Time of Gratitude

Words of Gratefulness

Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Anthem

One Love

Finally @ First

Doxology

Carol Spradling, *Music Director*

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

During the introductory music before the worship begins at 9 am, text the prayers you want Pastor Josh to include.

Anthem

One Day by Michael Cochren

Sung by Eva and Laura

Cunningham-Firkey

Sacred Reading:

Sometimes the Radiance of Love by Howard Thurman

Sometimes the radiance of love is so gentle and soft that all harsh lines seem to be wiped away. Sometimes love's strength seems to surround us and weakness is nowhere to be found. But sometimes the radiance of love kindles fires grown cold from despair, And sometimes new fires are kindled by a hope without beginning or end. Sometimes the radiance of love blesses life with a vision of new possibilities. And sometimes love calls forth self-judgment and strikes us with hopelessness and despair. Sometimes love shows us forgotten weaknesses and bears witness to our unworthiness. But love has no awareness of merit or demerit; love has no scale to measure or weigh its portion. Love never seeks to balance giving and receiving. Love simply loves; that is its nature. But love is not blind, or naive, and love is never false or pretentious.

Love holds us securely in its grasp, calling everything by its true name. Love surrounds all things with its wisdom; it avoids mere sentimentality. Love enables the true self to come to life, and love makes all things new. The experience of love outlasts all things, but love is never diminished or lost. No created thing can be the source of such fullness and completeness. God alone can hold us with a strength so far beyond our own. No circumstance, no condition, no hardship outside ourselves can separate us finally from the love of God nor from the love of each other; And so we pour out our gratitude, giving thanks to God that this is so!

1 John 3:14-23

Translation: New Revised Standard Version
Laurie Chipman, *Christian Education Director*

Sermon

Living in God's Love

Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Closing Hymn

Love One Another

Carol Spradling, *Music Director*;
and Jim Coates

Refrain: Love one another, for love is of God. Love one another, for God is love.

God loved the world so much God sent us God's only son, that all who believe might have eternal life.
Refrain

Since God has given such love to us, therefore let us love one another. Let us love one another, as God loves us, God lives in us in perfect love. *Refrain*

God is love, and they who abide in love, abide in God, and God in them. *Refrain*

Benediction

Extinguishing our Candles

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.**

Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour: meeting ID # 980 588 369

OR click this link: <https://bit.ly/31dXQ76>

Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell	Nancy Allen & Family	Cole Tumey
Susan Flynn	Regina (Steve Gorniak)	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Diane & Sara (Cathie Goodheart)	Muriel Dandurand (Doug Ovitt's grandmother)	Leo Martel's Family
Eric Lindholm	Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus	Judy Allen's Niece

Prayer Requests may be emailed to welcome@fccej.org. If you wish for the prayer recipient's name to be acknowledged during worship services, please, send your request many days in advance so that we may accommodate you.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given by
Sue & Dennis Conti
In loving memory of Lorraine Conti

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact the church by calling 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100; or email welcome@fccej.org.

Announcements

Have something important to share with the congregation? Contact the church office by emailing your announcement to welcome@fccej.org. If you want an announcement televised during worship, then please, send a photographic representation of your announcement in either **.jpg** or **.png file formats** to jsimon@fccej.org.

We distribute a **weekly** eNewsletter! Visit this link to read this week's important announcements: <https://mailchi.mp/fccej/2020-weekly-update-29>

We also distribute a **monthly** eNewsletter called SPIRIT@FIRST. Visit this link to read the latest issue: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

Visit this link to subscribe to our newsletters! (Scroll to the bottom of the linked page)

<https://bit.ly/2Yxi7TF>

Ministry Directory

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]
Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]
Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]
Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]
Church Administrator: Doug Ovitt [welcome@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: Jenny Bourn [jennybourn4@gmail.com] & Laura Marthaler [Laura.marthaler@gmail.com]
Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]
Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]
Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Maureen Evans [233-6127]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]
Treasurer & Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]
Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]
Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]
Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]
Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]
Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580], Judy McCullen [878-9794]
Deacons: Judy Larrabee-Pomainville [802-236-0604]
Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]
Missions: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897]
Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]
Nominating: Barb Smith [310-2491]
Stewardship: Jessica Moos [399-8068], Shannon McCullen [922-8792]
Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]
Ushering: Justin King [238-6273], Jessica Moos [399-8068]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Sue Wood [879-6552] OR woodsusanjane@gmail.com
Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]