



# 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) **Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
August 8th, 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..... 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 Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring Marie Johnson, *Organ*  
by J.S. Bach (public domain)

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 I Love You, Lord Denise Keating, *Piano*  
by Laurie Klein © 1978 House of Mercy Music  
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

Call to Worship\*.....Pete Schmalz, *Deacon*

Leader: God has gathered us to this place,

**All: where we hear those stories which show us  
what the kingdom of God is like.**

Leader: God summons us to this place,

\*written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his excellent [Lectionary Liturgies](#) website.

*(continued on next page...)*

**All: where we can learn how to serve our God  
without reservation, or hesitation.**

Leader: God will send us from this place,

**All: to tell others of God's hopes and dreams,  
so they, too, can choose to follow God.**

Opening Hymn

The Gift of Love #408 (UMH)  
by Hal Hopson © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.  
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be giv'n by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship and are freed.**

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 12: 1-21; 13:8-10.....Laurie Chipman, *Christian Ed. Director*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself

*(continued on next page...)*

more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Anthem

No Greater Gift

Denise Keating, *Piano*

by Ruth Elaine Schram © 2012 Jubilate Music Group  
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

Sermon

"Transformation"

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

Called to be Partner's in Christ's Service #495 (NCH)

Marie Johnson, *Organ*

© 1981 Jane Parker Huber  
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

**Called as partners in Christ's service  
Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace  
May we learn the art of sharing**

*(continued on next page...)*

**Side by side and friend with friend  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfil God's chosen end**

**Christ's example Christ's inspiring  
Christ's clear call to work and worth  
Let us follow never faltering  
Reconciling folk on earth  
Men and women richer poorer  
All God's people young and old  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission  
In a small or global sense  
Help us bear each other's burdens  
Breaking down each wall or fence  
Words of comfort words of vision  
Words of challenge said with care  
Bring new power and strength for action  
Make us colleagues free and fair**

**So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife  
Make us partners in our living  
Our compassion to increase  
Messengers of faith thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace**

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](mailto: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)  
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



The flowers on the altar are given by  
**Jen Dooley**  
In honor of Rick & Jen Dooley's  
29th Anniversary!

...and all persons affected by COVID19

## ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

All altar flowers request slots for 2021 are fulfilled!

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email [welcome@fcej.org](mailto: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](mailto:pnschmalz@comcast.net))



**Noontime Book Group**  
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, Marvin Lounge  
Zoom component is on hiatus



FACEBOOK

[bit.ly/39039ht](https://bit.ly/39039ht)



INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgZf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgZf)



INTERNET

[fcej.org](http://fcej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://bit.ly/3oPpBv9)

# MISSION MOMENTS

August 8, 2021  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, [adesefellowship.org](http://adesefellowship.org), The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at [adesefellowship.org](http://adesefellowship.org).



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:** Alison Wermer [clwerme@msn.com; P# 879-7650]

**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 McGearly [879-2062]

**Ushering:** Ushering: Marlene Frank [872-9126]

## Recognized Groups

**Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop:** Sue Wood [878-3068] [woodsusanjane@gmail.com](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

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