



**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

Holy Week & Easter Services – All Virtual!



Good Friday – April 10th @ 7 pm

**Saturday Interactive Worship – April 11th
@ 4:30 pm**

Easter Sunday – April 12th @ 6:00 am
(sunrise service) & 9:30 am

Good Friday – April 10th @ 7pm

- via Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej>
- Tenebrae Service of Light and Shadows — a traditional service where we read the passion of Jesus' last hours on Earth and extinguish candles as slowly his life comes to an end.

Saturday Interactive Worship – April 11th @ 4:30 pm

- via Zoom (audio and video): <https://zoom.us/j/403773331>
- For audio only: Call 646-558-8656 / Meeting ID number: 403 773 331
- What does resurrection mean for us? How does the resurrection of Jesus apply to our lives? We'll discuss these questions at this interactive worship service.

Easter Sunday – April 12th @ 6:00 am (sunrise service) & 9:30 am

- via Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej>
- 9:30 am Only: Broadcasting on **FM 104.1** – to listen, park in church parking lot
- Join us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour on Zoom – After Sunday Morning Services!
<https://zoom.us/j/980588369> Meeting ID: 980 588 369

Maundy Thursday
April 9th, 2020
Streaming & Taped Service

Order of Worship

Welcome by Rev. Mark

Welcome to everyone

Doing things Differently tonight

 Around dinner table [like Jesus w/ disciples]

 Informal / conversational

Prepping

 Light candle, get communion bread / drink for table

 Gather around the dining room table

 Eat as you go if you like

Service is taped so go at your own speed

 Reflections may take a minute or ten depending on family

 Or if you are sharing on phone with friend

Setting the Stage.....Rev. Mark

Matthew 21:1-11.....Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.’ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

‘Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

Setting the stage, Part 2

Rev. Mark will share briefly about Jesus
Teaching in the Synagogue
Cleansing the temple
Authority and indictment
Parable of Wicked tenants
Parable of Wedding Banquet
Question about paying taxes
Jesus Denounces Pharisees/Scribes woes
Judgement of Nations
Anointing at Bethany

Have folks reflect what it would have felt like to see their Guy winning so dramatically in content of teaching, in authority, in cultic approval and popularity.

The Lord’s Supper.....Laurie Chipman

A. Background story of Passover

Exodus story
People from many nations present
People NOT from Jerusalem / Not connected
People who would have had an issue w/ leaders
People who would have sided w/ Jesus
Elements used common for everyone to be included
Say a little prayer over the meal.
Then tell the story of lord's supper below....

B. Luke 22:14-20.....The Institution of the Lord's Supper

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

Have people reflect on the importance of food and eating together for the Jews [remembered Passover for centuries] and then for followers of Christ [remembered the meal for centuries. And finally, for us...what meals do the members of the family remember and what meals are ritualistically important [thanksgiving, birthdays, Christmas morning etc.]

Carol could play her Maundy Thursday song here

Bringing it Home.....Josh

Josh explores here what it all means
Riding on a donkey – not horse
Different model of power / contrast w/ leaders
Content of parables against leaders
And on side of everyday people/poor
Connection to exodus and God freeing slaves
Disciples everyday people – tradesmen / women
Then share the following with them

John 13:3-17.....Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to

wash my feet?’ Jesus answered, ‘You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’ Peter said to him, ‘You will never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.’ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!’ Jesus said to him, ‘One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.’ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Have folks reflect on how to live into Christ’s model of power and service. How do we do it as a church – give specific examples [helping others w/ food pantry thrift store, helping strangers who walk in, members of the community, etc.] How do we live into that model with our families?

Josh ends with a closing prayer and benediction

Announcements

Easter Flowers

The deadline to order flowers has passed, and we thank those of you who bought Easter flowers. Your bouquets will be displayed during our Easter teleworship service on Sunday, April 12th. All purchasers of flowers were recently contacted either by phone or email in which we asked what you would like done with your flowers after service. Some options include having us place your flowers “curb side” so that you may retrieve them at your leisure; donating the flowers (which staff & volunteers would distribute at their discretion); leaving the flowers at church; or having the flowers delivered to your home (though this requires some planning on our part.)

If you haven’t responded with your preferences, then please, let us know by responding to the email, or send a new email to welcoming@fccej.org; or call the Administrator at 1 802 878 5745 extension 100.

FCCEJ selected as Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program beneficiary

For the month of May, our Heavenly Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford store found at 21A Essex Way, Essex Junction VT.

Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!

The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell, and we appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! *Want to get started?* Contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com and she will mail a card to you. Let

her know how much you would like to add to the card and send a check to the church. Be sure to put "Hannaford Card" on the reference line of your payment. *Need a refill?* Contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com and give her your name, the amount of money to be applied, and the last four digits of the gift card. Note: if you bought your card somewhere other than the church, you would need to provide the full length of digits. You will receive an email when funds have been added to your card. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing as the cards are done in batches. Questions? Please call Doug Ovitt in the Church Office at 802-878-5745 extension 100.

Please make checks payable to "FCCEJ" (or use online Bill Pay) and mail to this address:

Attn: Financial Secretary
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Please include "Hannaford Reload" and the date on the subject line of your email or check memo.

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 McGearly [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]