



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

Facebook Messenger: m.me/firstcongregationalej

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Website: [fccej.org](https://www.fccej.org)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej>

Twitter: @1stChurchEJ



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 via Teleworship @ <https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej>
- ⊕ **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

Your donation could support our music, youth programming (e.g. Vacation Bible Camp), missions (e.g. Jamaica Missions), adult enrichment (e.g. Sermon Talkback, JOY), Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, 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*. Here are a few ways that you may help our ministry:

- ✓ **Shop at Amazon.com** using *Amazon Smile*. We receive 0.5% of your purchases! Visit <http://smile.amazon.com> ... navigate to the “Charities” section and search for “First Congregational Church of Essex Junction”
- ✓ **Send a Check or use BillPay!** Your bank might offer Billpay, a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payment by mail. Please, contact your banking institution for more details. All checks should be made payable to “FCCEJ.” Be sure to note the reason for your donation in the check’s memo line (e.g. “food pantry”). Payments should be mailed to:
 - **Attn: Financial Secretary, FCCEJ, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452**
- ✓ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Our donation page can be found via 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 our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver, by email at vtri2@aol.com

Order of Worship

August 2, 2020: Live Streaming

Communion Sunday

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. Mark one thought of gratitude [802 922-1773]*
- 2 Kid's Names:** *Text Rev. Mark your child's name for Children's Message*
- 3 Prayer Requests:** *Text Rev. Josh one thought of gratitude [920 858-6601]*

Prelude

Welcome

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

Lighting the Candles: Welcoming God's Light into Worship

An Opening Reading on Gratitude [w/ congregation sharing – text in]

A Few Key Announcements

Rev. Mark back from vacation
Wednesday morning @ 10 am pastoral visits
or scheduled walks
or talks under the shade of a tree
Wednesday Evening Prayer [Zoom]
Morning Devotions Start this Monday [Webpage]

Pleased to have Doug Olufsen and Judy Larrabee leading music today

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartman, Ed Guild,
Munroe Shearer and Josh Simon orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

Trees in the Field

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....Beth and George Paul
Lester and Muriel Nutting

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Amy McIntyre

Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

**God of Grace and God of Glory on your people pour your power
Crown your ancient church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flower
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Cure your children's warring madness, bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage make our broken spirits whole,
Make our broken spirits whole.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore,
Let the search for your salvation be our glory ever more.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore
Serving you whom we adore.**

Children's Message

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....The LaFlam Family: Chris, Tamsin and Kaydence
The Weischedel Family: Betsy and everyone!

Offering our Gifts to God

Invitation

Anthem by Doug and Judy.....Evidence of Grace

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

**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.**

New Testament Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21.....Read by Laurie Chipman

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude: Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773

Sacred Readings: Genesis 32:22-31.....“Jacob Wrestles God at Peniel”

Mark will give an intro to Jacob before sharing this story.....

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Anthem by Judy and Doug.....Let Your Light Shine

Sermon

“Wrestling with God”

Rev. Mark Mendes

*If you have any questions about the scripture or the sermon,
feel free to text them at any time during the sermon at 802 922-1773.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Be sure to have your communion elements ready.

*Rev. Mark and Rev. Josh will say the words of institution,
consecrate the elements, and ask everyone to eat and drink together.
Christ's meal will unite us even as we are separated*

Closing Hymn

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully,
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my spirit, let it move, at the impulse of your love,
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.**

**Take my will, your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.**

**Take my love and help it grow, let my loving overflow.,
Take me now, and help me be, part of Christ's community.**

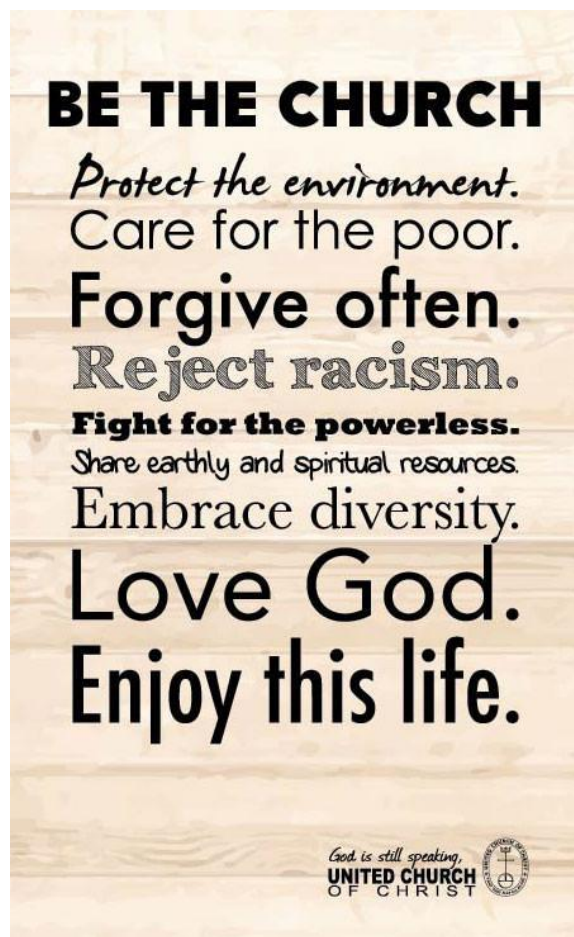
Benediction and blowing out our candles

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	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Susan Flynn	Regina (Steve Gorniak)	Leo Martel's Family
Eric Lindholm	Judy Allen's Niece	Muriel Dandurand (Doug Ovitt's grandmother)
Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)	Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)	Jane Schneider & Family
Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus		

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
Joanne Irwin
In memory of her father-in-law, Edward Irwin,
on his birthday.

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-31>

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

We also mail hard copies of the monthly SPIRIT@FIRST newsletter. Visit this page to subscribe to the "snail mail" version: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/serving-others/get-involved/>

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]

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

Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@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]