



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.

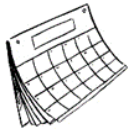
**1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

Phone: 802-878-5745 **Fax:** 802-872-8236 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org

Website: www.fccej.org



Worship Services & Intergenerational Activities



Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fcej.org/v5/calendar>
...and our Facebook events page: <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>
We offer regular worship and fellowship opportunities, too! These include:

- ⊕ **Worship, Sundays at 10am starting @** <http://youtube.com/c/fcej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour, after Worship @** <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation, Monthly on 2nd Sunday at 9am @** Church Grounds
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals, Weekdays 8am and 8pm @** <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back, Tuesday at 8:30am @** <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ⊕ **Outdoor Pastoral Visits, Wednesdays at 1pm @** Church Grounds
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter, Thursdays at 8am @** <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>

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 (\$14.10/member is our goal), One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund. We appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! Here are some 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 payments 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”).
- ⊕ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: paypal.me/fcej. A PayPal account is not required to donate money!
- ⊕ **Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!** The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell or reload. Want to get started? Email Doug, our Church Administrator, for details: welcome@fcej.org.

*Questions about your payment?
Do you wish to increase your pledge?*
Contact our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver,
by email vtri2@aol.com

Please, mail payments to:
Attn: Financial Secretary
FCCEJ
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Order of Worship

September 13th, 2020: Live Streaming

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Get the elements that want for communion,

Light 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.

Thankfulness: *Text Rev. Mark one thought of gratitude [802 922-1773]*

Prayer Requests: *Text Rev. Josh your Prayer Request [920 858-6601]*

Prelude

Welcome

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome in this place.”*

Welcoming God’s Light into Worship

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

A Few Key Announcements

Wednesday afternoons @ 1pm pastoral visits in Parking Lot
or scheduled walks

or talks under the shade of a tree

or simply call us up

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Executive Committee postponed in person worship to Nov 29th

First Sunday of Advent

Re-evaluate in mid Nov w/ new information

Fall Schedule Starting September 13th

Faith Formation from 9 – 9:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Month On Site in Parking Lot

Sept. 13th: Fall Kick Off & Bible Sunday

Oct. 11th Blessings of the Animals

Nov. 8th Communion

*(Key Announcements
continue on next
page...)*

On the other Sundays of the Month you can join Laurie on Zoom at 9am
for Faith @ Home (link provided in our weekly email).

A short half hour to sing a song, build community and answer questions.
We are working on building a Faith @ Home page on our website with
videos and resources for families (similar to VB Camp)

Worship will continue to be streamed but at 10 a.m.

Participating with the POD program [informational]

Music: Carol, F@F and Sanctuary Choir

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

Musical Introit

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road..... Sylvia Nyhagen
Sharon Dettenrieder

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Clinton Russell

Opening Hymn Bring Forth the Kingdom of God Carol Spradling, *Music Director*
and Jim Coates

**You are a salt for the earth, O people
Salt for the kingdom of God
Share the flavor of life, O people
Life in the kingdom of God**

**Bring forth the kingdom of mercy
Bring forth the kingdom of peace
Bring forth the kingdom of justice
Bring forth the city of God**

**You are a light on the hill, O people
Light for the city of God
Shine so holy and bright, O people
Shine for the kingdom of God**

[chorus]

**You are a seed of the Word, O people
Bring forth the kingdom of God
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice
Grow in the kingdom of God**

[chorus]

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road.....Ann Gray

Offering our Gifts to God.....Rev. Mark Mendes

Invitation

Anthem

When We Pray

Tauren Wells

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.*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Mark Mendes

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

Sacred Readings: Genesis 2

At the time when YHWH made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth nor had any wild plant sprung up, for YHWH had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil.†† Instead, a flow of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil. So YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being. YHWH planted a garden to the east, in Eden—“Land of Pleasure”—and placed in it the earth creature that had been made. Then YHWH caused every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, to spring from the soil. In the center of the garden was the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

A river flows through Eden to water the garden, after which it branches into four tributaries. The first stream is named Pishon, or “Spreader.” It circles through Havilah, a land rich in gold, gold of the highest quality. There are gum resins there, and precious onyx stones. The second stream is named Gihon, or “Gusher,” and it flows through the entire land of Cush. The third stream is the Tigris, which borders Assyria on the east. The fourth stream the Euphrates.

Then YHWH took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land. YHWH commanded the earth creature, “You may eat as much as you like from any of the trees of the garden— except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You must not eat from that tree, for on the day you eat from that tree, that is the day you will die—yes, die.”

(Continued on next page...)

Then YHWH said, “It is not good for the earth creature to be alone. I will make a fitting companion for it.” So from the soil YHWH formed all the various wild beasts and all the birds of the air, and brought them to the earth creature to be named. Whatever the earth creature called each one, that became its name. The earth creature gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals. But none of them proved to be a fitting companion, so YHWH made the earth creature fall into a deep sleep, and while it slept, God divided the earth creature in two, then closed up the flesh from its side. YHWH then fashioned the two halves into male and female, and presented them to one another. When the male realized what had happened, he exclaimed:

“This time, this is the one! Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh!
Now, she will be Woman, and I will be Man, because we are of one flesh!”

This is why people leave their parents and become bonded to one another, and the two become one flesh. Now, the woman and the man were both naked, though they were not ashamed.

Sermon

“Forget the Rib: What’s the Point?”

Rev. Josh Simon

Closing Hymn

Lean on Me

w/ Finally @ First

**Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show**

**Lean on me,
when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on**

**Just call on me brother,
when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem
that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on**

(Continued on next page...)

**If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load**

**Lean on me,
when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on**

**You just call on me brother,
when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem
that you'll understand**

**Just call me (if you need a friend),
call me (in the morning),
call me (if you need a friend),
call me (in the evening).**

**Call me (take it to the Lord),
call me (in prayer),
call me (take it to the Lord),
call me (What a friend in Jesus)**

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 bit.ly/31dXQ76

Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell	Nancy Allen & Family	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Eric Lindholm	Judy Allen's Niece	Leo Martel's Family
Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)	Jane Schneider & Family	Ines Eley & Family
Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)	Colonel John Dyke	All persons affected by the Coronavirus

Please, email your prayer requests to welcome@fcej.org or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100. If you need a compassionate ear, you may call Pastor Mendes (802-922-1773) or Pastor Simon (920-858-6601) directly. As a courtesy to the pastors, please reserve calls during the late night or early morning hours for emergencies only.



The altar flowers are given by
Joanne Irwin
In loving memory of
Alan Irwin



Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact our staff:
1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100. or email welcome@fcej.org.

Visit Us Online

Our weekly eNewsletter contains important weekly announcements about Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, Capital Campaign Updates, and more! Hard copies will be available when in-person worship returns to our Sanctuary: <https://mailchi.mp/fcej/2020-weekly-update-5820500>

Our “SPIRIT@FIRST” monthly newsletter is available by snail-mail and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit this link to read our latest issue: fcej.org/v5/category/newsletters/



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Have something important to share?

Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator: welcome@fcej.org. If you want an announcement televised during worship, then please, send a photographic representation of your announcement in either .jpg or .png file format to jsimon@fcej.org.

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 [878-3068] OR woodsusanjane@gmail.com

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