



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

*Love. Serve. Grow.*

## ***A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All in the Spirit of Christ***

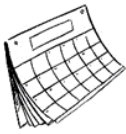
*The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

**Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://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/>
- ⊕ **Monday Luncheon, Mondays at Noon @** Church Grounds
- ⊕ **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:vtri2@aol.com)

**Please, mail payments to:**

Attn: Financial Secretary

FCCEJ

1 Church Street

Essex Junction, VT 05452

# Order of Worship

## September 20th, 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

Wed. @ 1pm pastoral visits in Parking Lot w/ Rev. Mark

Monday lunch w/ Josh under tree

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 at 9 – 9:30 am on Sunday*

Outside – 2nd Sunday of the month, @ church parking lot (masks required)

@Home – all other Sundays via ZOOM, contact Laurie Chipman for link

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

Oct. 11th Blessings of the Animals  
Nov. 8th Communion  
The other Sundays of the Month will be on webpage  
With activities, videos and stories [Like VBCamp]

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

CROP Walk on October 18th: walk here or on own  
Cider and donuts the day of

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.....**Friends From Mansfield Place & Town Meadow

Marge Shepard  
Janice Jordan  
Mally Powell

**Prayer of Invocation** by Deacon Gary Hartmann

## **Opening Hymn**

Awake My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

Organ Solo

**Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,  
And press with vigor on;  
A heav'nly race demands thy zeal,  
And an immortal crown,  
And an immortal crown.**

**'Tis God's all-animating voice  
That calls thee from on high;  
'Tis His own hand presents the prize  
To thine aspiring eye,  
To thine aspiring eye.**

**A cloud of witnesses around  
Hold thee in full survey;  
Forget the steps already trod,  
And onward urge thy way,  
And onward urge thy way.**

**Blest Savior, introduced by Thee,  
Have I my race begun;  
And, crowned with vict'ry, at Thy feet  
I'll lay my honors down,  
I'll lay my honors down.**

**Children's Message** by Laurie Chipman

**Offering our Gifts to God**.....Rev. Josh Simon

**Invitation**

**Anthem**

**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. Josh Simon

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

**Sacred Readings**.....The Story of Esther

**Anthem**

The Servant Song

Finally @ First

**Sermon**

“Recognizing Your Call”

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 to Rev. Mark at 802 922-1773.*

**Closing Hymn**

This Little Light of Mine

Sanctuary Choir

**This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
this little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine.**

**All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
all through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine.**

## 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](https://bit.ly/31dXQ76)



**Courtesy of our Hospitality Committee**

# Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell

Judy Allen's Niece

Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)

Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)

Jane Schneider & Family

Ines Eley & Family

Colonel John Dyke (Paula Sargent's Son)

## All person affected by the Coronavirus

Please, email your prayer requests to [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.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  
**Dara Stimson.**  
“Happy Birthday, John!”



**Flowers** may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact our staff:  
1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100. or email [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.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/fccej/2020-weekly-update-5822300>

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: [fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/](https://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/)



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**@FCCEJ\_802**  
[instagram.com/fccej\\_802](https://instagram.com/fccej_802)



**FCCEJ.ORG**

*Have something important to share?*

Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator: [welcome@fccej.org](mailto: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 format to [jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org).

# MINISTRY DIRECTORY

## Church Staff

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Mark Mendes [[mmendes@fccej.org](mailto:mmendes@fccej.org)]

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Josh Simon [[jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org)]

**Christian Education Director:** Laurie Chipman [[lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)]

**Music Director:** Carol Spradling [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto:cspradling@fccej.org)]

**Church Administrator:** Doug Ovitt [[welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)]

## Music Ministry

**Cherub Music:** Jenny Bourn [[jennybourn4@gmail.com](mailto:jennybourn4@gmail.com)] & Laura Marthaler [[Laura.marthaler@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.marthaler@gmail.com)]

**Currier Bell Choir Director:** Carolyn Harris [899-6759]

**Finally @ First Director:** Rick Dooley [[rickdooley5@gmail.com](mailto:rickdooley5@gmail.com)]

**Joyful Noise:** Jessica Moos [[jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com)]

**Men At First Director:** Bill Bickford, Jr. [[bill.bickford@aol.com](mailto:bill.bickford@aol.com)]

**Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director:** Carol Spradling [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto: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](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

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