



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

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

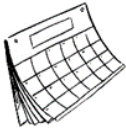
The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness 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://fccej.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** (Communion: Monthly, 1st Sundays) @ <http://youtube.com/c/fccej>
- ⊕ **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>
- ⊕ **Noontime Book Group, 3rd Monday at 11:30am** @ <http://zoom.us/j/626841083>

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/fccej. 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@fccej.org or call 1(802)878-5745 ext. 100.

Please, mail payments to:

Attn: Financial Secretary

FCCEJ

1 Church Street

Essex Junction, VT 05452

Order of Worship

September 27th, 2020: Live Streaming

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

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

Faith Formation from 9 – 9:30 a.m. EVERY WEEK

2nd Sunday of Month On Site in Parking Lot

Oct. 11th Blessings of the Animals

Nov. 8th Communion

CROP Walk on October 18th: walk here or on own

Cider and donuts the day of

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

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 & Greetings Along the Road.....Brenda Dawson
Riley and Lorinda Elliott

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Carolyn Rushford

Opening Hymn Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us Sanctuary Choir, #583

**Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,
fed us freely from her body, God has called us into life.**

**Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows, God has walked with us in life.**

**Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
Left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.**

**When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.**

Children's Message by Rev. Mark Mendes

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

Invitation

Musical Selection

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.....Isaiah 11:1-9

“The Peaceful Kingdom”

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Anthem

I Will Lift My Eyes by Bebo Norman

Finally @ First

Sermon

“Supernal Heights”

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. Mendes @ 802 922-1773*

Anthem

Into My Heart/Jesus, Draw Me Close

Sanctuary Choir

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way; Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day: Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong, To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear, For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear: That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall, Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease, And all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace; Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free, To love and serve each other for all eternity

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**



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)

Pat Seaver's Family

Barb Blanchette's Family

Malcolm Forbes (Cathy Shearer's Father)

All person affected by the Coronavirus

Illya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Please, email your prayer requests to welcome@fcej.org or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100.



**The altar flowers are given by
The Dooley Family
In loving memory of Harry Dooley
And Dot & Joe Pine**



NEW: 2020-2021 Flower Chart is online! Visit this link to reserve a date: <https://bit.ly/33JWlxi>

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-5824356>

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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FCCEJ.ORG

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]

Asst. Financial Secretary: Rob Sinkewicz [878-4470]

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]