



# 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.*

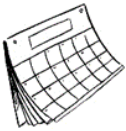
**1 Church Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

**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 & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

## 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 [smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216)
- ⊕ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: [paypal.me/fccej](https://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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call 1(802)878-5745 ext. 100.
- ⊕ **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”).

**Please, mail payments to:**

Attn: Financial Secretary  
FCCEJ

1 Church Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452



**2021 Stewardship Campaign:**  
*Welcome to the Journey*

**Visit this link to read more:**

<https://bit.ly/33GVxdA>

# Order of Worship

## October 11th, 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.”*

Pastoral visits w/ Rev. Mark [Call and set up]

Monday lunch w/ Rev. 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

Music: Carol, F@F and Sanctuary Choir

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartman, Ed Guild,

Francis Gravel and Rev. Josh Simon orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Elaine and Francis Raymond  
Nancy Milne

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Jonah Moos

Opening Hymn by F@F

Not My Brother, nor My Sister

#519

**Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.**

*Refrain:*

**It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer. [*Refrain*]**

**Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer. [*Refrain*]**

**Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer. [*Refrain*]**

Meetings and Greetings Along the Way.....Gordon and Lauren Starkey

Children's Message by Rev. Josh

Stewardship Week Two: Rev. Josh

Stewardship Video and Invitation by Rev. Josh

Theme: Singing God's Song in a Foreign Land

Scripture: Psalm 137:1-4

Sharing Why We Give Video: Donna and John Burnett

Closing Comments and Prayer by Rev. Josh

Doxology

**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: I Kings 19:11-18.....“Elijah Meets God at Horeb”

He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’

Then the Lord said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.’

Anthem by the Sanctuary Choir

Hymn of Promise

Sermon

“The Power of Sheer Silence”

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: 802 922-1773.*

Closing Hymn by Carol Spradling

God, Speak to Me

[Organ Solo] #531

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)

# OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Richard Ansell

Pat Seaver's Family

Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)

Illya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Colonel John Dyke (Paula Sargent's Son)

Roger & Sandy Daly

Malcolm Forbes (Cathy Shearer's Father)

Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)

Ines Eley & Family

Jane Schneider & Family

Barb Blanchette's Family

All persons affected by the Coronavirus



The altar flowers are given by  
Carl & Alison Wermer  
In honor of their 38th anniversary!

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

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

## *Have something important to share?*

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

*Click an icon below to visit our page!*



## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS

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-5828472>

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:

<http://fcej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

# 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]

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

**Asst. Financial Secretary:** Pam Blake [872-8204]

**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]