



# 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.*

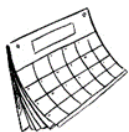
**1 Church Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

**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://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 (Communion: Monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays) @ <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>
- ⊕ **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/fcej](https://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) 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*  
*Part 3*

**Visit this link to read more:**  
<https://bit.ly/2HrWpKN>

# Order of Worship

## October 25th, 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 your Prayer Request [802-922-1773]*

**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.”*

Welcoming God’s Light into Worship

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

A Few Key Announcements

Pastoral visits: simply call us up

No more Monday lunches or Wednesdays under tree visits

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Hybrid worship Discussion: e-mail staff or leadership

Maureen Evans, Cathy Shearer, Kaki McGeary,

Alison Wermer

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

2nd Sunday of Month On Site in Parking Lot

Nov. 8th

Today is Flu Shot Day

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

The Schmalz Family: Peter and Zach

The Bero Family: Peter, Mindy, Parker and Paige

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Judy Pomainville

Opening Hymn

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

by Sanctuary Choir, #537

**Christian, rise and act thy creed;  
let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true,  
raise your work and life anew.**

**Hearts around thee sink with care,  
you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light,  
strengthen them to do the right.**

**Offer others hope and joy,  
and God's worship your employ;  
Giving thanks in humble zeal,  
learning all God's will to feel.**

**Come then, law divine, and reign;  
faith that doubt assails in vain,  
Perfect love bereft of fear,  
born in heaven and radiant here.**

Children's Message by Rev. Josh Simon

Stewardship Week Four: Rev. Mark Mendes

Stewardship Video and Invitation by Rev. Mark Mendes

Theme: Singing God's Song in a Foreign Land

Scripture: Psalm 137:1-4

Sharing Why We Give Video: Frank and Barb Smith

Closing Comments and Prayer by Rev. Mark Mendes

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.**

*Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude: Rev. Josh @ 920-858-6601*

Sacred Readings: Acts 10 "The Conversion of Cornelius [& Peter]", reading by Laurie Chipman

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Look, three men are searching for you. Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.' So Peter went down to the men and said, 'I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?' They answered, 'Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.' So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him.

But Peter made him get up, saying, 'Stand up; I am only a mortal.' And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; and he said to them, 'You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?'

Cornelius replied, ‘Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.” Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.’

### Gentiles Hear the Good News

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

### Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Special Anthem

On the Willows There

from Godspell  
perf. by Lauren Cunningham-Firkey

*This beautiful song from the musical Godspell tells the story of Psalm 137 where the Israelites sang their song in a foreign land despite their hardships and the uncertainty of their future.*

Sermon

“Remembering Who We Are”

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.*

*[Verse 1]*

**We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored**

*[Chorus]*

**And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love by our love  
Yes they'll know we are Christians  
By our love**

*[Verse 2]*

**We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land**

*[Verse 3]*

**We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity  
And save each one's pride**

*[Verse 4]*

**All praise to the Creator  
From whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus  
God's only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit  
Who makes us one**

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)*

*Cait (Cathie Goodheart's friend's daughter)*

*Ines Eley & Family*

*Jane Schneider & Family*

*Barb Blanchette's Family*

*All persons affected by the Coronavirus*



**The altar flowers are given by  
Louise Kolvoord  
In memory of Phil Kolvoord**

**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).

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS**

**SIGNUP HERE:** <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

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-5832900>

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]