



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.

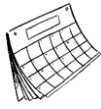
**1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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

Website: www.fccej.org



WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



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; Monthly Communion, 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 & 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>



Visit this link to read our special
Stewardship message for Christmas:
<http://bit.ly/2KHgldR>



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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
- ⊕ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: paypal.me/fccej. A PayPal account is not required to donate money!
- ⊕ **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

Order of Worship
January 3rd, 2021: Live Streaming
The Second Sunday After / 10th Day of Christmas

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Prepare your communion elements for later in the service,

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.

1 **Thankfulness:** Text Rev. Mark your Prayer Requests [802 922 1773]

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

Prelude

Welcome.....Rev. Mark Mendes

*“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

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Faith Formation from 9 – 9:30 a.m. on line

Music: Carol, F@F and Sanctuary Choir

Annual Reports are due to Doug asap

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 Giannuzzi Family
Lori, Bruce, Anna and Matthew

Prayer of Invocation.....Deacon Jonah Moos

By Daniel Gardner

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**My life is in You, Lord,
My strength is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's in You. [Repeat]**

**I will praise You with all of my heart.
I will praise You with all of my hope.
With all of my life, and all of my strength.
All of my hope is in You.**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Mary Anne Warren

Children's Message.....Rev. Mark Mendes

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

Invitation

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer.....Rev. Josh Simon

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

Sacred Readings: John 1:1-18 "John's Theological Birth Narrative"

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Anthem Mary Was the First One to Carry the Gospel by Finally @ First
By Mark Lowry & William Gaither.
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Sermon "In Jesus Was Life" Rev. Mark Mendes
If you have any questions for Mark about the scripture or the sermon, feel free to text them at any time during the sermon at 802 922-1773.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

During this time, Rev. Mark and Rev. Josh will invite you to join them in taking the communion elements. Despite being in separate places, we will all partake at the same time, connecting us spiritually with everyone else in the congregation.

Closing Hymn How Can I Keep From Singing by Finally @ First
By Robert Lowry, Adapted by Rick Dooley

**My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain:

**No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord o'er heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
it sounds and echoes in my soul
how can I keep from singing? [Refrain]**

**What though the tempest 'round me roar,
I hear the truth, it liveth;
what though the darkness 'round me close,
songs in the night it giveth. [Refrain]**

(continued on next page...)

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am Christ's,
how can I keep from singing? [*Refrain*]**

Benediction and Blowing out of the 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

2020 Annual Meeting Sunday*

*Sunday, February 7th, 2021
One Worship Service @ 10 A.M.
Meeting @ 11:15 A.M.*

At our Annual Meeting in 2019, the congregation voted to change the by-laws and shift the date of the Annual Meeting to the 1st Sunday in February, which would give our financial officers more time to get the church's financial reports in order. Thus, our Annual Meeting this year will be on February 7th after the ONE worship service at 10:00 a.m. or roughly at 11:15 a.m. Everyone is welcomed to attend and speak, and members are welcome to come and vote. The Meeting will be held on Zoom this year and that identifying number will be sent out closer to the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Church Staff, Officers, and Recognized Group Leaders: Content for the Annual Report must be submitted by Sunday, January 3rd, 2021. Please, email your report to welcome@fceej.org.

**This is an informal notice about the annual meeting. The formal warning/warrant approved by our Church Clerk will be sent by snail mail to all active members around mid-January.*

PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)

Ilya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Malcolm Forbes (Cathy Shearer's father)

Linda Jackson & Family

Roger & Sandy Daly

Nancy Hinsdale (Mindy Bickford's mom)

Grandma Culley (Dorothy Kress's Grandma)

The Poratti Family

Damaris Morales

Bruce Giannuzzi

Kristin (Nancy & Wayne Hall's daughter)

All persons affected by the Coronavirus



The altar flowers are given by
Marlene & Tom Frank
In loving memory of Eric H. Frank
& Patricia Herbert



Have something important to share? Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator. The address is 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 Rev. Josh Simon @ jsimon@fcej.org.

2021 Altar Flower Chart is online! Visit this link to reserve a date: bit.ly/33JWlxj

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. To arrange for a pickup, please contact our staff: welcome@fcej.org or 1 (802) 878-5745

NEWSLETTERS

SIGNUP HERE: <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji> —Our weekly update newsletter contains important weekly announcements about Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, Capital Campaign Updates, and more! Here is a link to this week's issue:

<https://mailchi.mp/fcej/2020-weekly-update-5883140>

Our "SPIRIT@FIRST" monthly newsletter is available by snail-mail and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit this link to read through our archives:

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

Find us online! Click the icon or link:



youtube.com/c/fcej



facebook.com/firstcongregationalej



instagram.com/fcej_802



[FCCEJ.ORG](http://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]

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

Asst. Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus [872-8972]

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]