



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://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; Monthly Communion, 1st Sundays @ <http://youtube.com/c/fcej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Worship @ <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation**, Sundays @ 9am via Zoom [Link in Weekly Newsletter] (2nd Sundays, Church Grounds)
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am @ <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>



WAYS TO GIVE

Visit this link to Give: <http://www.fcej.org/v5/giving>

Special Offering: Outdoor Ministry

Sunday, February 21st

Your giving supports Vermont children and youth spending a week in God's creation on the top of Pine Mountain, worshipping at Chapel Rock, rock climbing, hiking, crafting, making new friends, sharing, learning, and growing in their faith...*and so much more!*

Mail payments to:

Attn. Financial Secretary
FCCEJ
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

NEWSLETTERS

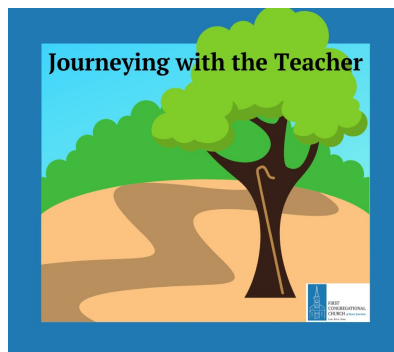
Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements!

View current and past issues here: <http://bit.ly/3rlsISv>

Our "SPIRIT@FIRST" monthly newsletter is available by snail-mail and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit our archive:

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



We have a robust digital ministry! Find us online:



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fcej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Order of Worship
February 14th, 2021: Live Streaming
The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Journey with the Teacher

The Order of Worship

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.

1 **Thankfulness:** Text Rev. Josh your Prayer Requests [920 858 6601]

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

Prelude

Welcome..... Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

*“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 Devotions [webpage]

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

Church offices closed Monday, Feb. 15th (Presidents Day)

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Special Offering: Outdoor Ministry—Feb. 21st (see insert previous page)

Lenten Schedule Begins

Ash Wednesday February 17th at 7:00 p.m.

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..... Mark & Cindy Chadurjian

Prayer of Invocation.....Lauren Starkey, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn

We Are the Church

by Sanctuary Choir

By Richard K. Avery & Donald S. March © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.
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**I am the Church. You are the church. We are the Church Together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together.**

**The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people.**

**I am the Church. You are the church. We are the Church Together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together.**

**We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,
with many different stories from all times and places.**

**I am the Church. You are the church. We are the Church Together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together.**

**Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes the church is building,
a place where all are welcome and always it's learning.**

**I am the Church. You are the church. We are the Church Together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together.**

**And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it is saying**

**I am the Church. You are the church. We are the Church Together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together.**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Linda Bogardus

Children's Message..... Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

Offering Our Gifts to God..... Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

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

Please, text your prayer requests to Rev. Mark Mendes @ 802-922-1773

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Sacred Readings: Matthew 5:43-48

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.’

Anthem Amazing Grace/Pachelbel's Canon by Sanctuary Choir
Gretchen Owens, *Oboe*

Sermon “Loving Those Who Oppose Us” Rev. Josh Simon,
Associate Pastor

Closing Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling by Sanctuary Choir

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

Benediction and blowing out our candles

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let me walk with my fellow in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

Please, join us for Fellowship Hour — Meeting ID# 980588369 OR bit.ly/31dXQ76



God of Light, Hear Our Prayer

Richard Ansell
(Carol Spradling's father)

Paul Hyde & Family

Kristin
(Nancy & Wayne Hall's daughter)

Nancy Hayes

Ilya
(Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Irving Bartlett

Nancy Hinsdale
(Mindy Bickford's mom)

Bruce Giannuzzi

The Poratti Family

Russ & Alma Wilson

Bruce Giannuzzi

The O'Neil Family

Nancy
(Carolyn Toof's friend)

Gary Knapp
(Jackie Knapp's Son)

Jed Cilley & Family

Steve Mitchell

David
(David Irwin's friend)

The Shearer Family

All persons affected
by the Coronavirus

The Forbes Family

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

The altar flowers are given by Deb Holland
In honor of Duke & Emily Ehler, in celebration of their birthdays,
and with love from their family.

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

Visit this link to reserve yours: bit.ly/33JWlxj

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email welcome@fceej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fcej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fcej.org]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fcej.org]

Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fcej.org]

Church Administrator: Doug Ovitt [welcome@fcej.org]

Music

Director, Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fcej.org]

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

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

Men @ First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

Officers

President: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Vice President: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Financial Secretary: Rob Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]

Auditors: Betsy Weischedel [922-2094] & Steve Wood [878-3068]

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580]

Deacons: Judy Pomainville [236-0604]

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Human Resources: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Missions: Ed Steele [871-5897]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Carl Wermer [879-7650]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: Justin King [238-6273]

Recognized Group Leaders

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sue Wood [878-3068] [woodsusanjane@gmail.com]

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]