



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, 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.fccej.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!*

Please, 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/3rlslSv>

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

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



We have a robust digital ministry! Find us online:



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Order of Worship
February 21st, 2021: Live Streaming
The First Sunday of Lent
Jesus' Journey of Transformation
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. Mark your Prayer Requests [(802) 922-1773]

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

Prelude

Welcome..... Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior 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

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Lenten Schedule Begins

Wednesday Night Offerings at 7:00 p.m.

Mark: Gifts of the Dark Wood

Josh: The Letter of James

Laurie: Faith Formation Families

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartman,
Ed Guild, Francis Gravel and Rev. Josh Simon
orchestrating the technology today.

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Carolyn and Michael Harris

Prayer of Invocation..... Gary Hartmann, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn America the Beautiful by Sanctuary Choir

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, Thy liberty in law.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Erna & Scott Deutsch

Children’s Message by Rev. Josh

Offering Our Gifts to God.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Invitation [Special Offering for Outdoor Ministry]

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

Lighting the Lenten Candle.....The McGeary Family

Text your prayers to Rev. Josh @ (920) 858-6601

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: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Anthem

I Will Lift My Eyes
By Bebo Norman © 2006 Appstreet Music
Used by Permission CCLI #11051841

by Finally @ First

Sermon

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

Rev. Mark Mendes,
Senior Pastor

Closing Hymn

Standing in the Need of Prayer

by Finally @ First

***I* 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.**

***2* 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]***

(continued on next page...)

**3 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]**

**4 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]**

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

The altar flowers are given by LindaLou Parker
In loving memory of Erica Ann
And her parents Vernon and Marjorie Bliss

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

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

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

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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

Director, **Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony:** Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.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: Francis Gravel [802-318-6235]

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: Dick Harris [644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: [PENDING]

Recognized Groups

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

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]