



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All in the Spirit of Christ

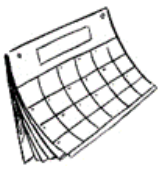
The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness 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 on 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>

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES: <https://bit.ly/3k83CyO>

Palm Sunday: 3/28 @ 10am via YouTube | Maundy Thursday: 4/1 @ 6pm via Zoom (TBD)

Good Friday: 4/2 @ 7pm via YouTube | Easter: 4/4 @ 6:30am via Facebook Live; 10am via YouTube

Please, mail payments
(payable to "FCCEJ") to:

Financial Secretary
FCCEJ

1 Church Street
Essex Jct, VT 05452

Do you have
questions about
donating or
pledging? Please, email
our finance officers.



finances@fccej.org

SPECIAL OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Learn More:
ucc.org/oghs

Collected on Sunday, March 14th
<http://www.fccej.org/v5/giving>

The United Church of Christ (UCC) works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

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
March 14th, 2021: Live Streaming*
The Fourth 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 one thought of gratitude [(802) 922-1773]

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

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

Hybrid Service Begins April 11th

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

Wednesday Night Offerings at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week Services and Activities

Maundy Thursday: April 1st @ 6:00 p.m.

Zoom ID # 822 8263 1516

Good Friday: April 2nd @ 7:00p.m.

[more info coming]

Sanctuary Prayer Time:

Monday March 29th - Saturday April 3rd

*(key
announcements
continue on next
page....)*

From 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in ½ hour slots
And Twenty Minute stays

Faith Formation Village Scavenger Hunt
7 homes with lesson and symbols given out
All walkable from church, All handouts are outside

Sunrise Service on Facebook Live at 6:30 a.m.: Rev. Mark

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

Musical Introit

Call to Worship [*New for Hybrid*]

Leader: We come here today to worship the Living God,
Creator of the Cosmos,
Life Giving Spirit of Humanity and
Humanity's Great Teacher of Love - Jesus Christ.

People: God is all around us.

Leader: God offers us the stars and the sun, the darkness and the light.
God meets us during the day and in the midst of the darkest night.

People: God is all around us.

Leader: God walks with us in both our joyful and our anguished times.
God celebrates life with us and sits with us in the darkest night of the soul.

People: God is all around us.

Leader: Come, let us attune our senses to the ways of the Divine. Come, let us align our behaviors with Christ's model of servant love. Come, let us journey with each other on our way home.

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Carol Daigle

Prayer of Invocation..... Maureen McKenzie, *Deacon*

[Verse 1] **Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 O sinner, why don't you answer?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.**

[Verse 2] **Knocks like Jesus,
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 Knocks like Jesus,
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 O sinner, why don't you answer?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.**

[Verse 3] **Can't you hear him?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 Can't you hear him?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 O sinner, why don't you answer?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.**

[Verse 4] **Jesus calls you,
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 Jesus calls you,
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 O sinner, why don't you answer?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.**

[Verse 5] **Can't you trust him?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 Can't you trust him?
 Somebody's knockin' at your door.
 O sinner, why don't you answer?**

Somebody's knockin' at your door. [Repeat Verse 1]

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road..... The Bartlett family
 Megan, Travis and Lincoln

Children's Message..... Laurie Chipman, *CE Director*

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer..... Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

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.

Lighting the Lenten Candle..... Rob and Maureen Evans

Sacred Readings

Luke 22:31-34, 54-62 Peter's Betrayal / Denial.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

“Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial”

‘Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!’ Jesus said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.’

“Peter Denies Jesus”

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, ‘This man also was with him.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’ Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, ‘Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about!’ At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.

John 21:15-19 Peter's Redemption.....Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

“Peter's Redemption and Faith”

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish

(Readings continue on next page...)

to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’

Anthem Lift Your Head, Weary Sinner by Finally @ First
David Crowder © 2014 Alletrop Music
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Sermon “Seeking True Faith” Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

Closing Hymn In the Cross of Christ I Glory (#193) by Sanctuary Choir

**1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
gathers 'round its head sublime.**

**2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.**

**3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.**

**4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

**5 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
gathers 'round its head sublime.**
Benediction and blowing out our candles

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.**

God of Light, Hear Our Prayer

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)

Bruce Giannuzzi

Ilya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Russ & Alma Wilson

The Poratti Family

The O'Neil Family

Bruce Giannuzzi

Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)

Nancy (Carolyn Toof's friend)

Steve Mitchell

Jed Cilley & Family

The Shearer Family

David (David Irwin's friend)

The Forbes Family

Paul Hyde & Family

Bonita (Judy McCullen's friend)

Nancy Hayes

Marsha Duell

Jane MacFarland (Sue Wood's cousin)

The Bartlett Family

Judy (Cathie Goodheart's cousin)

All persons affected by the Coronavirus

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

**The altar flowers are given by Sylvia Nyhagen
In memory of her husband, Ed Nyhagen.**

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: Paula Sargent [879-3598]

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]

Please note: This directory is still undergoing changes post-election. Roles are apt to change as committees reappoint chairs.