



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; Communion, 1st Sundays @ <http://youtube.com/c/fccej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Worship @ <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation**, Sundays @ 9am via Zoom (2nd Sundays on Church Grounds)
 - *Linked in Weekly Newsletter*
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am @ <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ⊕ **Life Story/Memoir Club**: 3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm via Zoom.
 - *For details, contact Pete Schmalz pnschmalz@comcast.net or P#879-3352*
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, Thursdays at 8am @ <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
- ⊕ **Noontime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays at 11:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/626841083>

Easter
SUNDAY
• HE IS RISEN •



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. If you wish to contribute content, it is due by the 3rd Friday of each month (except in November and December when it is due on the 2nd Friday.) Visit our archive:

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



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Order of Worship
April 4th, 2021: Taped Service
Easter Sunday

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Be sure to have your communion elements on hand,

Light a candle at home,

Sit in a comfortable spot,

Center yourself w/ breathing.

Although this service is pre-recorded, you may text prayer requests and thoughts of gratitude to the pastors for later use. You may also note your thoughts and prayers in our YouTube live feed's chat.

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

Morning Devotions: Rev. Mark w/ Anne LaMott [webpage]

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

Pick up bags of Materials @ admin door

Note: Last Zoom online! Future dates in-person @ church parking lot
except during inclement weather.

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

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

Musical Introit

In the Garden (#237)

Fisher Irwin, *Euphonium*

Call to Worship [*Please join in from your homes and in church*]

Leader: Christ Is Risen!

People: Christ Is Risen indeed!

Leader: Two Thousand and seventeen years ago, God raised Jesus of Nazareth from a cold stone tomb into a new resurrected life and it changed the world.

People: Jesus lives.

Leader: From then until present day, people from all cultures, races, educational background, economic situation and gender status have personally experienced the Risen Christ.

People: Jesus lives in us.

Leader: Jesus' teaching on love still inspires us to live better lives. Jesus' healing touch still works through time and space. Jesus' sense of justice and inclusion still challenges us to live in peace with everyone.

People: Jesus lives in the world.

Leader: We come to celebrate Christ's resurrection long ago. But let us also come to celebrate Christ's continuing presence and revelation in our midst. Come let us sing praises to our God and King.

Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (#233)

by Sanctuary Choir

*Participants in the Sanctuary are asked not to sing the hymns.
A soft hum and singing in your mind's eye is allowed.*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Al – le – lu – ia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Al – le – lu – ia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al – le – lu – ia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Al – le – lu – ia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Al – le – lu – ia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Al – le – lu – ia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Al – le – lu – ia!
God has opened paradise, Al – le – lu – ia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Al – le – lu – ia!
Following our exalted Head, Al – le – lu – ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al – le – lu – ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al – le – lu – ia!

Prayer of Invocation.....Amy McIntyre, *Deacon*

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Don and Suzanne Foss

Children’s Message..... Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Deanne McDonald and her mother, Lyn

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

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.

Anthem Ain’t-a That Good News by Sanctuary Choir

William Dawson © 1990 Neil A. Kjos Music Company
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

Sacred Readings: Mark 16:1-8 “Christ’s Resurrection”

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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.

Anthem Spirit in the Sky by Finally @ First

Norman Greenbaum © 1969 BMI
Used with Permission CCS License #12390

Sermon “Deafening Silence” Rev. Mendes Mendes

Anthem How Can I Keep From Singing by Heavenly Harmony

arr. Sarah Quartel © Oxford University Press
Used with Permission OneLicense #728093-A

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

Closing Hymn

Lord I lift Your Name on High

by Finally @ First

*Participants in the Sanctuary are asked not to sing the hymns.
A soft hum and singing in your mind's eye is allowed.*

Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music
Used with Permission CCLI License # 11051841

Verse:

**Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us**

Chorus:

**You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky**

[Verse]

[Chorus, x2]

Lord I lift Your name on high

Sung Congregational Benediction

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.**

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

The flowers on the altar are given by:



Our Church

in loving memory of Bill Adams, Marion Schneider, Leo Martel,
Russell Schneider, Barbara Blanchett, Pat Seaver, George Jackson,
Elizabeth Cilley, Marilyn Hyde, Helen O'Neil, Phyllis Hogel, and Irving Bartlett

Brian & Laurie Chipman

in honor and memory of all grandparents

Andrea & Stephen Sharp

in honor of all the Healthcare workers who have been amazing during the pandemic

Mark & Karen Mendes

in memory of George and Margaret Mendes

Jane Schneider

in loving memory of Russ Schneider

Alison & Carl Wermer

in memory of Robert and Dorothy Knox

Rich Higgins

in memory of Diana Higgins, from her family

Rose Drost

in memory of Ernest Drost

Joanne Irwin

in memory of Alan Irwin

Carolyn Toof

In loving memory of Dick Toof

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)

David (David Irwin's friend)

Steve Mitchell

Paul Hyde & Family

The Shearer Family

Nancy Hayes

The Forbes Family

Jane MacFarland (Sue Wood's cousin)

Bonita (Judy McCullen's friend)

Judy (Cathie Goodheart's cousin)

Marsha Duell

Peat Taylor

The Bartlett Family

Arlene & Bill Bickford

Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)

Rusty Sargent

Betty Moody & Family

Annette Manley (Jessica Moos's mother)

All persons affected by the Coronavirus

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, need prayers for yourself or a loved one, or require a call from a pastor, contact 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: Marlene Frank [872-9126]

Recognized Groups

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

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]