



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>
 - Limited Hybrid Worship. Register here: <https://bit.ly/31Txoip>
- ⊕ **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>

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.



Journey into New Life

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

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
Live Streamed Service
April 11th, 2021
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

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

Faith Formation for Families with Children & Youth – Sundays 9 – 10 am
outside (through June 6th)

- All are invited to join wearing masks & practicing social distancing
- In case of rain, we will switch to ZOOM (*announcement will be posted by 8:30 am on our Facebook Discussion Group*)
- @Home option still available – contact Laurie to sign up for take home bag

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Tonight @ 7pm: Cancer Patient Support Foundation—Ringling of the Bells

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartmann, Ed Guild,

Francis Gravel and Rev. Josh Simon orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

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

Leader: Last week we celebrated Jesus rising from the dead and changing the world forever. Hymns and flowers, prayers and reflections, all offered praise to the one who offers us new life.

People: Christ's new life brought a sense of hope into the world.

Leader: Jesus kept coming back to encourage the disciples, clarify his teachings and instill God's love into the hearts of his followers.

People: Christ's returning visits instilled divinity into his movement.

Leader: Jesus keeps showing up, drawing people together in love and teaching them how to live with purpose in peace.

People: Christ is alive and dwells among us in the 21st century!

Leader: Come, let us continue to celebrate the new life that Jesus brings into the world and our lives. Come, let us continue to see Christ's resurrection as a vision that keeps on giving.

Opening Hymn

Here I am to Worship

by Finally @ First

Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music

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

**Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You**

*Chorus: Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

**King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor**

[Chorus x2]

Here I am...

Prayer of Invocation.....Myrna Doney, *Deacon*

Meeting & Greetings Along the Road..... Ciaran and Kathryn Brennan

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

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road..... Doug Olufsen

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.

Sacred Readings:

John 20:19-31 “Jesus Appears Again”Read by Rev. Ron Faux

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

(continued on next page...)

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Anthem

One Day
Matisyahu © 2009 Sony Music Entertainment
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by Finally @ First

Sermon

"The Stated Purpose"

Rev. Mark Mendes

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

In the Garden (#237)

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.*

**I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.
And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.**

**He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing.
And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.**

*(continued on
next page...)*

**I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
But he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling.
And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.**

Benediction and bringing Christ's Light into the World

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.**

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



The flowers on the altar are given by
Joanne Irwin
In loving memory of Alan Irwin

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

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

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

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)

Patty Garvey

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 McGearry [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]