



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 @ 9-10am, weekly on church grounds
 - Except during inclement weather; then via Zoom; 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.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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
April 25th, 2021: Live Streaming
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Journey into New Life

Our 9th Anniversary of Being Open & Affirming

Order of Worship

*Live Stream begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements and introductory music
beginning approx. five minutes before 10am.*

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 one thought of gratitude [(920) 858-6601]
- 2 Prayer Requests: Text Rev. Mark your prayer requests [(802) 922-1773]

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

New Member’s Class Offered today (*Info on back page of this bulletin*)

Hybrid Service, Sign Up online or call Doug (802 878 5745)

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

Faith Formation for Families with Children & Youth

– Sundays 9 – 10 a.m. outside (through May 30th)

- ◇ 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

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann and Francis Gravel operating the live stream tech.

Musical Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, Christ’s Resurrection Spirit continues to invigorate the season of Easter and offer new life to a hungry aching world.

People: We welcome Christ’s Spirit into our lives through good works and acts of charity.

Leader: One way Christ’s Resurrection Spirit continues to live in our congregation is through the extravagant welcome offered to our LGBTQ friends, members and strangers.

People: Another way Christ’s Resurrection Spirit lives on is when we fight to defeat the evil of racism, condemn white supremacy and celebrate times when equality and justice win the day.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the new life we see blooming around us. Come, let us celebrate Christ’s resurrection. Come, let us look for ways to live ever-more faithfully into God’s peaceable kingdom.

Opening Hymn

I’ll Fly Away (#595) Carol Spradling, *Music Director*
& Jim Coates

**Some glad morning when this life is o’er,
I’ll fly away;
To a home on God’s celestial shore,
I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away).**

[Chorus]: **I’ll fly away, Oh Glory
I’ll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,
I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away).**

**When the shadows of this life have gone,
I’ll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away)**

[Chorus]

**Just a few more weary days and then,
I’ll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I’ll fly away (I’ll fly away)**

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

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Eric Lindholm

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

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Shannon McCullen & Kevin Woloszynski
and feline friends

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

E-mail 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 Reading..... Laurie Chipman, *Christian Education Director*

Acts 9:36-43: “The Raising of Dorcas by Peter”

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Anthem With My Own Two Hands by Finally @ First
Ben Harper © 2003 BMG Gold Songs
Used with Permission CCS License #12390

Sermon “Good Works & Acts of Charity Lead to New Life” Rev. 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

**[Chorus]: Go make a dff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**We are the salt in the earth, called to let the people see
The love of God in you and me
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be seen
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

[Chorus]

**We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need
The face of God for all to see
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace**

[Chorus]

Pastoral Benediction..... Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

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

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, need prayers for yourself or a loved one, or require a call from a pastor, contact welcome@fccej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)
Ilya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)
Bruce Giannuzzi
David (David Irwin's friend)
Nancy Hayes
Bruce Giannuzzi
Russ & Alma Wilson
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)
Steve Mitchell

The Shearer Family
The Forbes Family
Bonita (Judy McCullen's friend)
Marsha Duell
The Bartlett Family
Jane MacFarland (Sue Wood's cousin)
Judy (Cathie Goodheart's cousin)
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)
Peat Taylor
Betty Moody & Family
Rusty Sargent
Jessica Moos & Family
Andrea & Tom Sramek (Maureen McKenzie's
niece and husband)
Patty Garvey
Dave Johnson
Stephen Hayes
Joe and Ann Wells
All Persons Affected By The Coronavirus



The flowers on the altar are given by
Andrea & Steve Sharp
in honor of our anniversary

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

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

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



New Members

New Members Class

(Today!) *Sun., April 25th @ Noon*

In order to become a member of First Church, everyone is invited to join us for a New Member's Class where we get to know each other, learn about First Church and get an understanding of the United Church of Christ, our denomination. We offer two to three classes a year for those interested and hold them after worship on a Sunday morning. The class lasts a couple of hours.

Official Event Page:
<https://bit.ly/3tPdHom>

Join Us via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3vc1Fpc>

(Short Bit.ly link provided to make typing easier and goes directly to Zoom meeting. Original details are available on our official Facebook event page. <https://bit.ly/3tPdHom>)

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]