



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.



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
May 2nd, 2021: Live Streaming
Journey into New Life
Communion Sunday

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:

*People are reminded to Retrieve their Communion Elements.
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, Sign Up online or call Doug

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: During the Season of Easter, Jesus came back to his followers and taught them about new life and empowered amazing acts of faith.

People: Simple fishermen lectured learned religious leaders, lame people walked, dead people were raised from the dead, women participated fully in the life of the community, prisons were opened, resources freely shared as any had need and those excluded from God and the temple for centuries were welcomed into the full life of the early church.

Leader: May Christ’s Resurrection Spirit continue to embolden us to new heights of faith, amazing acts of power and love beyond measure. Amen and alleluia!

Opening Hymn

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (#459)

by Carol Spradling,
Music Director
& Jim Coates

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount: I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come, come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it wander from the love I’ve known; Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for you very own.

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

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Judy Larrabee

Children’s Message.....Laurie Chipman, *Christian Education Director*

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.

Acts 20:7-12 The Raising of Eutychus by Paul

“Paul’s Farewell Visit to Troas”

On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, ‘Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.’ Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

Anthem

Stand Up

by Finally @ First

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Sermon

“The Dynamic of Paul’s Ministry”

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Rev. Mendes will invite everyone to Christ’s table
and then offer everyone Christ’s bread*

*Then Rev. Simon will offer everyone Christ’s cup
and then offer a Prayer of Thanksgiving.*

Everyone at home will partake during the service

Everyone in the sanctuary will partake after the service

For those of you worshipping in the sanctuary, Rev. Mark will lead you out to the table in the parking lot where the elements will be spread out and individually wrapped. Rev. Josh will dismiss you from the sanctuary where you are invited to exit the church and make a wide circle around the table in the parking lot. Then Rev. Mark and Rev. Josh will direct you concerning the taking of the elements. After communion, people are free to stay and talk at safe distances or return to your cars.

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

**[Verse 1]: We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored**

**[Chorus]: And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love**

**[Verse 2]: We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land**

[Chorus]

**[Verse 3]: We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride**

[Chorus]

**[Verse 4]: All praise to the Creator
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
God's only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one**

[Chorus]

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@fcej.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
Carolyn Toof's Niece



**The flowers on the altar are given by
Myrna Doney
In memory of her beautiful mother,
Fern**

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 Larrabee [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]