



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>
(Preregistration no longer required! Pews are available on a "first come, first served" basis.)
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour, after Worship @** <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation, Sundays @ 9-10am, weekly on church grounds;**
 - 9am until May 30th; meets once/final time on Sun., June 6th @ 10am
 - Meets on 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 pnsschmalz@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>

NEWSLETTERS

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements! View current and past issues here: <http://bit.ly/3rls1Sv>

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/>



Journey into New Life

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.



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
May 16th, 2021: Live Streaming
Journey into New Life

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. Mark one thought of gratitude [(802) 922-1773]
- 2 Prayer Requests: Text Rev. Mark 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: Every other pew, soft singing, just come

Morning Devotions: Rev. Mark [webpage]

Faith Formation for Families with Children & Youth

- Sundays 9am outside until May 30th;

- ...then meets last time on Sun., June 6th but one hour later than normal, 10am

- 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: The Season of Easter has seven Sundays to lift up the founding event of the Christian Church. It is the longest focused season of the church year. This year we have highlighted both Jesus’ resurrection stories and the times when Christ or the disciples raised folks from the dead.

People: Hearing about people being raised from the dead has highlighted God’s power, hope in the midst of despair, life in the death and a faith where God’s love for humanity triumphs at the end.

Leader: Come, let us enter into a world where God, life, goodness and joy hold sway and guide us into in lives of meaning. Come, let us worship the Living God of the Universe.

Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today (#233)

by Sanctuary Choir

People are invited to sing softly while keeping their masks on.

**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.....[in person] Judy McCullen, *Deacon*

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Mike & Ann Marie Sullivan

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

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

*E-mail prayers to Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601
(Please, note and explain two small changes to Lord’s Prayer)*

continued on next page...

Loving God, 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 do not let us fall 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*

John 11:17-44

“Jesus the Resurrection and the Life”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

“Jesus Weeps”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

“Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Anthem

I Will Lift My Eyes
By Bebo Norman © 2006 Appstreet Music
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by Finally @ First

Sermon

“Jesus Wept”

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

Closing Hymn

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music
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by Finally @ First

People are invited to sing softly while keeping their masks on.

[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

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 require prayers for yourself or a loved one; or if you wish for a call from a pastor, please 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
Russ & Alma Wilson
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)
Steve Mitchell
Marsha Duell

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
Carol Spradling
Barb (Donna Burnett's friend)
The Family of Luisa Chernyshov



**The flowers on the altar are given by
Phyllis Willey
In honor of Sue & Dave Eaton
Who now reside in Connecticut.**

...and all those souls affected by COVID19

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]