



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>

amazon smile



Visit this link to support FCCEJ:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216>

Mother's day is May 9th

Find the perfect gift at smile.amazon.com
to generate donations, at no extra cost!



Special Offering: Per Capita
Collected on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 9th)

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/>



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for all
ucc.org

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FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
May 9th, 2021: Live Streaming
Journey into New Life
Mother's Day

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 [(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

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: In the beginning, whether actual or metaphorical, whether in a week or a million years, God created a world full of abundant life.

People: From petunias to pines, from panthers to peacocks, from Parisians to peculiar people of every persuasion: God made a perfect and perpetuating world of wonder.

Leader: God's shared power offered freely at the dawn of time continues to thrive and offer all of us healing and new life. Jesus teaches us how to tap into divine power and make the world a better place.

People: Come, let us celebrate God's ongoing presence in our lives as we look for wholeness in our journey home.

Leader: Come, let us worship our Lord and Ancient Travelling Partner.

Opening Hymn

Take My Gifts

by Sanctuary Choir

By Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing
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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.*

**Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.**

**Now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!**

**Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,**

**spiced with humor, laced with laughter--
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.**

**Take whatever I can offer--
gifts that I have yet to find,**

continued on next page...

**skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,**

**things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.**

Prayer of Invocation..... Carolyn Rushford, *Deacon*

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road..... Sheila and Wayne Hathaway

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer..... Rev. Ron Faux

Text prayers to Rev. Mark who will forward them to Rev. Ron: (802) 922-1773

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..... Rev. Josh Sharp

Luke 8:40-56 “A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed”

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus’ feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, ‘Who touched me?’ When all denied it, Peter said, ‘Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.’ But Jesus said, ‘Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.’ When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.’

While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader’s house to say, ‘Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.’ When Jesus heard this, he replied, ‘Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.’ When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child’s father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, ‘Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him, knowing that she

continued on next page...

was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, ‘Child, get up!’ Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Anthem

We Are One Body

by Finally @ First

Dana Scallon / John Michael Talbot © 2005 Troubadour for the Lord Music
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Sermon

“The Echoing Laughter”

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God.....Rev. Mark Mendes, Senior 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

I Hear Them All

by Finally @ First

David Todd Rawlings and Ketch Secor
(C) 2006 Cracklin 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.*

[Verse]: I hear the crying of the hungry in the deserts where they're wandering; Hear them crying out for heaven's own benevolence upon them; Hear destructive power prevailing, I hear fools falsely hailing To the crooked wits of tyrants when they call.

[Refrain]: I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

[Verse]: I hear the sounds of tearing pages and the roar of burning paper; All the crimes and acquisitions turn to air and ash and vapor; And the rattle of the shackle far beyond emancipators; And the lowliest who gather in their stalls.

[Refrain]

[Verse]: So while you sit and whistle Dixie with your money and your power, I can hear the flowers growing in the rubble of the towers. I hear leaders quit their lying. I hear babies quit their crying. I hear soldiers quit their dying, one and all.

[Refrain]

[Verse]: I hear the tender words of Zion, I hear Noah's waterfall, Hear the gentle lamb of Judah sleeping at the feet of Buddha And the prophets from Elijah to the old Paiute Wovoka Take their places at the table when they're called.

[Refrain] x3

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
Bruce Giannuzzi
Russ & Alma Wilson
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)
Steve Mitchell

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
Carol Spradling
Barb (Donna Burnett's friend)



**The flowers on the altar are given by
Howard & Janne Giles
In honor of David and Anne Cozzens**

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]