



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



Sunday Worship @ 10am
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: youtube.com/c/fccej



Fellowship Hour
Sundays after worship
via Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>



Sermon Talk Back
Tuesdays @ 8:30am
via Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



Coffee Clatter
Thursdays @ 8am
via Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>



Daily Devotionals
Weekdays @ 8am
facebook.com/firstcongregationalej



Life Story/Memoir Club
3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm
Contact Pete Schmalz for Zoom Link
pnschmalz@comcast.net



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am
On-site! (Marvin Lounge)

Our Journey of the Spirit continues.....



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/39O39ht

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET



YOUTUBE

fccej.org

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements! View current and past issues here: [http://bit.ly/3rlsISv](https://bit.ly/3rlsISv)

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/>

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.



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
June 13, 2021: Live Streaming
Journey of the Spirit: Graduation 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:

*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 [(802) 922-1773] one thought of gratitude
- 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
A Few Key Announcements

Hybrid Service: Every other pew, soft singing, just come
Morning Devotions by Rev. Mark.....ceased for summer

‘Faith Formation: materials in the Narthex for use during worship’

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Dir. on medical leave of absence,
Filling in Marie Johnson and Denise Keating
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

Born this Way

by Finally @ First

Stefani Germanotti © 2011 Universal Music
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Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we come to celebrate the hard work of our graduates in the context of an abundant God.

People: We worship a God who blessed us with minds that reason, hearts that yearn for a better life and bodies that allow us to accomplish great feats.

Leader: Today, we come to celebrate the gift of grace found in loving parents, their precious children and the love of God for us all.

People: We praise a God who bestows the Holy Spirit generation after generation in the hearts, minds and souls of followers of the Spirit of God.

Leader: Today, we come to celebrate the power and presence of God's Word in our lives. Come, let us worship and praise our God.

Opening Hymn

Come and Journey with Me

David Haas (C) 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.
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by Finally @ First

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

**Come to the song, come to the dance,
Bring all you are, bring all you be.
Come with your voice, come with your heart.**

**[Refrain]: Come and journey with Me.
Come and journey with Me.**

**Come let the sun fill up your eyes.
Take the time to look around,
And love, just love, an walk with each other,**

(Refrain)

**Come and see, come and be.
Be all you are and all you can be,
And leave all behind and calm your mind.**

(Refrain)

Prayer of Invocation.....Amy McIntyre, *Deacon* [in person]

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Paula & Rusty Sargent

Children's Message..... Laurie Chipman, *CE Director* [in person!]

*Text prayers to Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601
Please, note the two slight changes.*

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.

Prayer Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children
Ken Medema (C) 1973 Hope Publishing Company
Used with Permission CCLI License # 11051841

by Finally @ First

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

***Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace***

Sacred Readings

I Corinthians 12:4-26 Gifts of the Spirit.....Read by Rev. Ron Faux, *Minister of Visitation*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

One Body with Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the

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members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Exodus 35:30-36:1 Gifts of the Spirit.....Read by Rev. Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

Then Moses said to the Israelites: See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; he has filled him with divine spirit, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft.

And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of artisan or skilled designer.

Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skillful to whom the Lord has given skill and understanding to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.

Anthem

Stand Up

by Finally @ First

Jennifer Nettles & Kristian Bush © 2006 Jennifer Nettles Publishing
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Sermon

“The Key to Success:
Gifts from the Lord”

Rev. Mark Mendes

A Graduation Litany

Leader: Come, let us gather as a community to pay tribute to and honor those among us who have worked hard to graduate from school. They are...

High School Graduates: Aliyah Watt, Walker Stapleton, Zach Schmalz, Carley Goedken, Vincent Hoffman, Ryan Clark, Caitlin McGeary, Ethan Czarny

College: Alex Dooley and Tom Helmstutler.

People: When one part of our body celebrates with joy, all of us share in that joyful celebration. We, your friends of the faith, think that you are great and are thrilled that you are a part of our family of faith!!! We admire your efforts and wish you well as you set out on your new journey.

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Parents & Family of Graduates: We have nurtured our loved ones and offered them our support and love. We are proud of you and want the best for you. We celebrate with our family of faith in wanting only the best for you.

Graduates: We thank God for life and for the gifts of the heart, mind, soul and strength that have allowed us to reach this day of accomplishment. We thank God for the support of our families and the support of the people in this church.

Leader: Armed with your degree and girded with all of our love and support, go forth from this place strengthened to succeed, poised to prosper and eager to engage the world.

Graduates: This place has helped plant the power of God in every fiber of my being; this community has taught me that the love of Christ rests within my heart; this family of faith has offered me gifts beyond measure. We take these blessings with us whether we will be here next week or whether we will be journeying to new places.

People: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace.

Everyone: Amen and Alleluia!!!

Our Graduates Then and Now

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

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (#351)

by Finally @ First

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

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

*continued on
next page...*

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

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 us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With every step 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.**



Congratulations
CLASS OF

2021



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

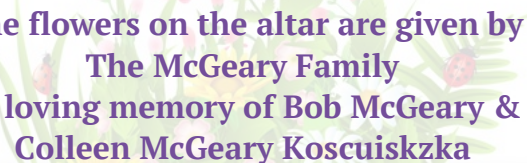
OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

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
Judy (Cathie Goodheart's cousin)
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)

Peat Taylor
Rusty Sargent
Jessica Moos & Family
Andrea & Tom Sramek (Maureen McKenzie's niece
and husband)
Patty Garvey
Dave Johnson
Joe and Ann Wells
Carolyn Toof's Niece
Carol Spradling
Friends & Family of Barb Auch (Donna Burnett's
friend)
The Family of Luisa Chernyshov
The Family of Stephen Hayes
John Mauger
Robert Howe
Matt McGeary & Family
The Family of Mary Gellatly

...and all persons affected by COVID19



The flowers on the altar are given by
The McGeary Family
In loving memory of Bob McGeary &
Colleen McGeary Koscuiskzka

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.

MISSION MOMENTS

June 13, 2021

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 4:26-34

Flourishing

Look around. What if just this was enough?

What if this choir was enough, for example?

Consider the miracle that each week, a group of mostly volunteers gathers to sing together in (occasionally im)perfect harmony. Whether there are three of them, or thirty or three hundred, isn't it some kind of miracle that week after week this group of working folks and retired folks and just plain folks leave their daily occupations and raise their voices together in song?

What if our youth and children were enough?

What if instead of worrying about the youth and children we don't have, we started noticing, naming and celebrating the youth and children we do have? If there are no children in this congregation right now, what if we recognized the abundance of children in our neighborhood, or in our nation or in our world? What if we asked ourselves to notice the way we can be in community with THOSE children?

What if this congregation's leadership was enough?

What if God has called to this place and time exactly the people with just the skills, passions and gifts of the spirit that are needed for this moment? What if the church of the future is happening right now, today?

What if our church building was enough?

What if God has granted us this space in this time so that we might recognize it not as a burden or a project, but as a gift that we are privileged to steward?

The farmer in today's scripture throws seeds recklessly on seemingly infertile ground as well as obviously healthy soil. This image invites us to think the same way about our ministries and presence in the world. Rather than being obsessed with scarcity, scanning articles about the church in decline and worrying about the bottom line, what if we looked around at what we do have? What if we allowed ourselves to imagine our church in a new way, as a part of God's kingdom that has not just enough, but more than enough to share?



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com]

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 McGeary [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]

Sermon Notes