



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](https://www.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](https://www.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

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements! View current and past issues here: <https://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/>

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 6, 2021: Live Streaming
Journey of the Spirit

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:

*Have your communion elements ready for later in the service
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

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 10 a.m. today - outside

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

Wade in the Water (African American Spiritual)

by Finally @ First

Call to Worship

Leader: God created the beauty of the earth.

People: God's Spirit is etched into every created thing.

Leader: God created every living creature.

People: All God's critters have a place in the choir!

Leader: God created every single human being.

People: All of us are children of the Living God.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate God's eternal presence all around us. Come, let us be grateful for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Come, let us worship our God.

Opening Hymn

Shout to the North

by Finally @ First

Martin Smith © 1995 Curious? Music UK
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People are invited to sing softly while keeping their masks on.

**Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete**

**[Chorus]: Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth**

**[Verse 2]: Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our awesome God of love**

(Chorus)

**[Bridge]: We've been through fire
We've been through rain
We've been refined
By the pow'r of God's name
We've fallen deeper
In love with You
You've burned
The truth on our lips**

(Chorus)

**[Verse 3]: Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By God's grace again we'll fly**

(Chorus)

Prayer of Invocation.....Maureen McKenzie, *Deacon* [in person]

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

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

E-mail prayers to Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601

Please, note 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

by Finally @ First

Ken Medema (C) 1973 Hope Publishing Company
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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

Luke 3:7-22: Jesus’ Baptism.....Laurie Chipman, *CE Director* [taped]

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Genesis 2:4b-7: Humanity's Creation

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

Anthem

Multiplied

by Finally @ First

Bear & Bo Rinehart © 2013 NeedToBreathe Music
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Sermon

“God is Everywhere”

Rev. Mark Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion [for our streaming attendees]

*Revs. Mark and Josh will invite everyone to join them at Christ's table,
then we will all partake of the elements at the same time.
Afterwards, Rev. Josh will offer a Prayer of Thanksgiving.*

Offering Our Gifts to God.....Rev. Josh Simon

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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (#282) [taped]

by Men @ First
with Mindy Bickford

**[Refrain]: Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.**

**[Verse 1]: Upon the mountain my God spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.**

continued on next page...

**Looked all around me; it looked so fine,
I asked my God if all were mine.**

(Refrain)

**[Verse 2]: Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, but not the soul.
There's only one train on this track;
it runs to heaven, then right back.**

(Refrain)

(Repeat Verse 1)

(Refrain)

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.**

**THE SERVICE CONTINUES OUTSIDE
IN THE SIDE YARD
AROUND TABLES**

After the benediction, everyone is invited to follow Rev. Mark out to the side yard where we will celebrate a baptism, communion and honor and say good-bye to one of our sacred members who will be moving. Everyone is asked to form a circle around the white tables.

The Sacrament of Baptism.....Zhonghua Wang

The Sacrament of Communion

As we make a large circle around the white tables, one person from every family or friend group is invited to take turns retrieving a plate with the communion elements and return to your small group. Uncover the elements and open the juice container. Following the ministers' direction, we will all partake of the elements together.

HONORING & SAYING GOOD-BYE TO CAROLYN HARRIS

Presentation of Plaque and Flowers

continued on next page...

**Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life
is like to that above.**

**When we are called to part
it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.**

Benediction

Go Now in Peace

by Finally @ First
& Sanctuary Choir

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, holding you in love.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

*FREE Ice Cream
courtesy of Mr. Ding-a-Ling
Truck @ Parking Lot
and a Time of Fellowship*



From assembling Faith@Home bags for families to hosting our hospitality table and setting up the parking lot for Faith Formation Outside... many thanks to this year's volunteers and CE team! We couldn't do it without you!

*Jenny Bourn - Donna Burnett - John Burnett
Lisa Clark - Sue Conti - Sharon Dettenrieder
Erna Deutsch - Jim Glatz - Doug Olefson - Judy Roy
Barb Smith - Terry Stein - Allison VanSteensburg*



Reset for Renewal

Part of the **Strengthen the Church Offering** supports youth and young adult ministry. 2020 scabbled many plans for such ministries, including the delay of the much-appreciated **National Youth Event**. Youth and Young Adult Ministers wondered how to effectively reach out during the pandemic and sought peers' support.

In part supported by Strengthen the Church funds, the Rev. Trayce Potter organized a "Reset for Renewal" event for people working with youth and young adults. "Reset for Renewal" was a virtual gathering to foster relationships that provided space for leaders to reclaim their resilience and ministerial gifts and reconnect with young people's pulse amid today's world. Throughout three days, participants had the opportunity to meet and gather with like-minded individuals who are doing youth ministry in various contexts within the United Church of Christ and beyond. A diverse group of keynote speakers brought thoughtful and timely messages to help participants as leaders called to disciple young people in difficult times.

"Reset for Renewal" occurred during this unique time of a global pandemic, the uprising of white supremacy, a chaotic election season,

and a general dis-ease across the country. Participants openly wept as they processed the weight of their calls and position, shared the challenges in their personal lives, and looked forward to a time when life returned to a routine that allowed face to face interaction with the youth in their lives.

A few quotes highlight the joy and experiences shared.

“Best conference EVER! Genuine and so full of the Holy Spirit Thank you all!” - Dorine DeCarli

“It’s been such a blessing to be with everyone. Just what I needed, right when I needed it <3” - Kim Looney

“This was what so many in our churches and other ministry settings were desperately in need of during this extraordinary time.” - Lisa Hart

**Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering
make meaningful events like **Reset for Renewal**
possible.**

**Gifts to the
Strengthen the Church Offering
Renew the
United Church of Christ.**

Renew!





Fellowship

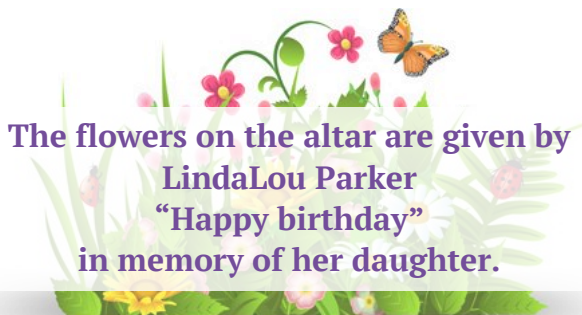
Please, join us for Fellowship Hour — Meeting ID# **980588369** OR bit.ly/31dXQ76

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
Betty Moody & Family
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 Mauer
Robert Howe
Matt McGeary
Mary Gellatly



The flowers on the altar are given by
LindaLou Parker
"Happy birthday"
in memory of her daughter.

...and all persons 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]

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]