



# 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

**Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://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 & FELLOWSHIP



**Sunday Worship @ 10am**  
**Communion on 1st Sundays**  
**Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)**



**Daily Devotionals**  
**Weekdays @ 8am**  
**[facebook.com/firstcongregationalej](https://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej)**



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



**Life Story/Memoir Club**  
**3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm**  
**Contact Pete Schmalz for Zoom Link**  
**[pnschmalz@comcast.net](mailto:pnschmalz@comcast.net)**



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



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

## 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/>

## 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.**

## Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 23, 10 am  
in person and online



FACEBOOK

[bit.ly/39039ht](https://bit.ly/39039ht)



INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgZf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgZf)



INTERNET

[www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://bit.ly/3oPpBv9)

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
July 4, 2021: Live Streaming  
Journey of the Spirit: God's Governing Hand**

**The Order of Worship**

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**Live Stream begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements and introductory music which begins approx. five minutes before 10 am.**

**As worship begins**

**Light a candle at home**

**Sit in a comfortable spot,**

**Center yourself w/ breathing**

**Prelude**

**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**

**Faith Formation: materials in Narthex for pickup @ services**

**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**

## Call to Worship [Myrna Doney]

Leader: God's creative Spirit brought order out of chaos at the foundation of the earth. God's law brings order to humanity's crazy self-absorbed ways. God's prophetic word offers justice when humanity's power gets too centralized and God's wealth too concentrated.

**People: With eyes of faith, we can see God's spirit continuing to move across the ages offering order, freedom, justice and empowering liberty to all people. Be with your nations and peoples, O God, and help us all to work together to make a better world.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Living God of the Universe. Come, let us sing our love for our country and God's guidance of it. Come, let us devote our lives to making our nation a better place in which to live,

## Opening Hymn

## O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

*[People are invited to sing softly while keeping their masks on]*

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed God's grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed God's grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with sisterhood, from sea to shining sea.**

**Prayer of Invocation by Deacon: Myrna Doney [in person]**

**Children's Message by Rev. Mark Mendes**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer..... Rev. Josh Simon**

E-mail prayers to Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601  
NOTE AND EXPLAIN: 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.

**Musical Prayer Response**

**Sacred Readings**

**Isaiah 42:1-9: The Servant, a Light to the Nations [Myrna Doney]**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the LORD, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

**Romans 13:1-10: Being Subject to Authorities [Rev. Mark]**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

**Love for One Another**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

**Anthem by Denise Keating**

**Sermon**

**God's Guiding Hand**

**Rev. Mark Mendes**

**Sermon Questions: Text Rev. Mark @ [802 922-1773]**

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

**Invitation**

**Doxology**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Pastoral Benediction: Rev. Mendes**

**Sung Congregational Benediction**

**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.**

**Postlude**


## 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@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
David (David Irwin's friend)  
Nancy Hayes  
Russ & Alma Wilson  
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)  
Steve Mitchell  
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)  
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  
Warren Vanslette (Doug Ovitt's brother)  
Jordan  
Jonah Moos' Father

...and all persons affected by COVID19



The flowers on the altar are given by  
Amy McIntyre  
In memory of Robert Trimble

## ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

Visit this link to reserve yours: [bit.ly/33JWlxj](https://bit.ly/33JWlxj)

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.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](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

**Heavenly Food Pantry:** Valerie Gabert [879-0109]