



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 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org **Website:** www.fccej.org



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
August 29, 2021: Live Streaming
Theme: Cultivating your Garden

The Order of Worship

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

It Is Well With My Soul

by Denise Keating, Piano

Philip Bliss

Welcome..... Rev. Ron Faux, Minister of Visitation

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: Recommend Mask wearing, 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

Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator, bid a fond farewell

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel
and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech.

Musical Introit

Life Uncommon

by Laura Cunningham-Firkey

& Stephanie Field

By Jewel Kilcher © 1998 WB Music Corp
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Call to Worship..... Carolyn Rushford, Deacon

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made....

People:let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: God has given us life and both skills and intellect to survive and even thrive in this beautiful world.

People: Thank you God for providing.

Leader: Come, let us be grateful for the many gifts God has given us. Come, let us lift our voices of praise to our Creator and Provider. Come, let us worship God as one United Church of Christ

Opening Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God #419

by Marie Johnson, Organ

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in who this world rejoices,
Who from our parents arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in God's grace and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God, the Father now be given,
To Christ and Spirit too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was is now and shall be ever more.**

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

Children's Message.....Rev. Mark Mendes, Senior Pastor

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer..... Rev. Mark Mendes, Senior Pastor

E-mail prayers to Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773

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.

Musical Prayer Response

Into my Heart

by Marie Johnson, Organ

Henry D. Clarke

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Sacred Reading

Exodus 20:17..... Read by Rev. Ron Faux, Minister of Visitation

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Anthem

Child of Love

by Laura Cunningham-Firkey

Ed Cash, Scott Cash, Franni Cash, and Martin Cash & Andrew Bergthold

& Stephanie Field

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Sermon

“On Cultivating a Vegetable Garden”

Rev. Ron Faux

Sermon Questions? Text Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773

Offering Our Gifts to God..... Rev. Mark

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

Blest Be the Tie that Binds #393

by Marie Johnson, Organ

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

**Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes,
Each other's burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
a sympathizing tear.**

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

Pastoral Benediction.....Rev. Ron Faux, Minister of Visitation

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

This Little Light of Mine

Arr. by Victor Labenske
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by Denise Keating, Piano

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 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)
Patty Garvey
Dave Johnson

Joe and Ann Wells
Carol Spradling
Friends & Family of Barb Auch (Donna Burnett's friend)
John Mauger
Robert Howe
Matt McGeary & Family
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Jonah Moos' Father
Sean McKenzie
Harsh Shah
Jaime Real
Path & Faith Lavelly
Claire Glatz
Ann Gray
Emily Broude



The flowers on the altar are given by
Carolyn Toof
To honor our Staff
At FCCEJ

...and all persons affected by COVID19

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

All altar flowers request slots for 2021 are fulfilled!

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email welcome@fccej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our "Weekly Update" eNewsletter:
<http://bit.ly/3rlsISv>

Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" eNewsletter*
<http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

*available in a printed, snail-mailed format

RETURNING PROGRAMS!

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am, Martone's (starts September 10th)
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm Marvin Lounge (starts September 17th)



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



Sermon Talk Back (Hybrid Format!)
Tuesdays @ 8:30am, Marvin Lounge
...and Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



Life Story/Memoir Club
3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm
Contact Pete Schmalz (pnschmalz@comcast.net)



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, Marvin Lounge
Zoom component is on hiatus



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

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

Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Currier Bell Choir: Alison Wermer [clwerme@msn.com; P# 879-7650]

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

Men @ First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

Officers

President: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Vice President: Brenda Dawson [1-802-881-5253]

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 Pomainville [236-0604]

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Human Resources: Brenda Dawson [1-802-881-5253]

Missions: Paula Sargent [879-3598]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Dick Harris [1-802-644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: 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