



# 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) **Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
September 12, 2021: Welcome Back Sunday  
Theme: The Irony of Leadership  
Second Service: 10:15 a.m.

The Order of Worship

*Live Stream begins at 8:15 a.m. with announcements and introductory music which begins approx. five minutes before 8:30 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

Philip Bliss

by Denise Keating, Piano

Welcome..... Rev. Mark Mendes: Lead Pastor

No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey  
you are welcome in this place.

A Few Key Announcements

2 Services Begin: Faith Formation @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service [in and out]

Hybrid Service: Masks Required, soft singing allowed

Richard Gagne: Executive Director of Dismas House

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, Francis Gravel  
and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech.

Musical Introit by the Sanctuary Choir

*Gather Us In*

*Marty Haugen*

Call to Worship..... Carolyn Rushford, Deacon

Leader: Today is welcome back Sunday and we are glad you are here today.  
Despite being concerned and cautious, we continue to look to the future of  
our church with hope.

**People: Our church is important in our lives. Our church connects us to the Living God; our church teaches us about Christ's abundant love and radical acceptance; our church draws us into a community of like minded folks who seek to make the world a better place.**

Leader: Come, fellow journeyers, come let us worship and praise our God and seek ways to be more faithful in our lives.

## **Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer by Deacon Jonah Moos**

***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.**

Sacred Reading..... James 3:1-12

Read by Laurie Chipman

### Taming the Tongue

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Opening Hymn by Marie Johnson**

**Beautiful Jesus**

**# 44**

**Beautiful Jesus, head of all creation  
God and the blessed Mary's child; I want to love you,  
Praise and adore you, joy of my soul, so long desired.**

**Beautiful springtime, lovely, green and hopeful;  
All earth exhales its sweet perfume; Jesus is sweeter  
Jesus is purer, sad hearts at this rejoice and bloom.**

**Beautiful sunshine, clear lovely, moonlight,  
Stars shine like angels, raked through space; Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines clearer, in perfect beauty, love and grace.**

**All earthly beauty, all celestial radiance,  
Fade when compared to Jesus' face; Let me not cherish  
Beauties that perish; let me this lovely good embrace.**

Welcoming Richard Gagne from Dismas House

Scripture Reading.....Mark 8:27-38

Read by Ron Faux

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rev. Josh Simon

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

Musical Prayer Response by the Sanctuary Choir

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” by Ken Medema

**Anthem by Sanctuary Choir    *In the Midst of New Dimensions*    Julian Rush**

**Sermon**

**The Irony of Leading**

**Rev. Mendes**

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

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

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Closing Hymn**

**Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant**

**# 539**

**Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ light for you in the shadow of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony;  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

Pastoral Benediction: Rev. Mark Mendes

Immediately after the service, everyone is welcome to come out to the side yard for refreshments and for the BLESSING of the BACKPACKS.

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 by Denise Keating***

***This Little Light of Mine  
Arr. by Victor Labenske  
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***Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour: meeting ID # 980 588 369***

# 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](mailto:welcome@fcej.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  
Joanne Irwin  
In Memory of Alan Irwin

...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@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.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://fcej.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/fcej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fcej)



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



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



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



FACEBOOK

[bit.ly/39O39ht](https://bit.ly/39O39ht)



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

[fcej.org](https://fcej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://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](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

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