



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
September 19, 2021: Seminary Sunday
Theme: God's Abiding Presence
First Service: 8:30 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

Be Thou But Near

J. S. Bach

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 @ 2nd 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

What Does the Lord Require of You

Jim Strathdee

Call to Worship [Deacon]

Leader: Some would propose that our Living God is with us every second of the day, encouraging, supporting, comforting and challenging us to live into the Great Commandment of Love.

People: The God of Truth guides our thoughts and brings us to wisdom; the God of Justice seeks equality and compassion for all people; the God of Peace draws us together and centers our hearts on the Divine; the God of Love teaches us how to nurture our relationships and make the world a kinder place in which to live.

Leader: Come, let us seek our God in our hearts, minds, souls and bodies. Come let us worship and praise our the Living God.

Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious the Ancient of Days
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as night,
Not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

Your life is life giving, to both great and small
In all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers
Then wither and perish, but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do;
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

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.

Children's Message.....Rev. Josh Simon: Associate Pastor

Welcoming Karen Dolan from Essex Community Justice

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Mark Mendes

E-mail prayers to Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773
Musical Prayer Response by the Sanctuary Choir
Threefold Amen

Scripture Reading.....Psalm 139

The Inescapable God

**O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

**Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

**For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

**My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.**

**O that you would kill the wicked, O God,
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—
those who speak of you maliciously,
and lift themselves up against you for evil!
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Anthem

You Are Mine

David Haas

Sermon

“What God Knows”

Seminarian Josh Sharp

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

**Offering Our Gifts to God..... Rev. Josh Simon
Invitation
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Closing Hymn

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

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**O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret, help me bear, the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way**

**Teach me your patience, let me be in closer, dearer company;
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.**

**In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way
In peace that only you can give, with you, O Savior, let me live.**

Pastoral Benediction: Seminarian Josh Sharp

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

Sung Congregational Benediction

Go Now in Peace

**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.
God now in peace, in faith and in love**

Postlude

Festal Postlude

Charles Gounod

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 or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Bruce Giannuzzi
David (David Irwin's friend)
Nancy Hayes
Russ & Alma Wilson
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)
Patty Garvey
Dave Johnson
Joe and Ann Wells

Carlene Lawrence's Family
Carol Spradling
Friends & Family of Barb Auch (Donna Burnett's friend)
Robert Howe
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Jonah Moos' Father
Sean McKenzie
Jaime Real
Path & Faith Lavelly
Claire Glatz
Ann Gray
Emily Broude

The flowers on the altar are given by
Tom and Marlene Frank
In Memory of Robert "Papa" Murphy

...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 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)



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



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fcej.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]