



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 26, 2021
Second Service: 10:15 a.m.

The Order of Worship

Live Stream begins at 10:00 a.m. with announcements and introductory music which begins approx. five minutes before 10:15 am.

As worship begins

Light a candle at home

Sit in a comfortable spot,

Center yourself w/ breathing

Prelude

As the Deer

Martin Nystrom

Welcome..... Rev. Josh Simon: Associate Pastor

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

A Few Key Announcements

Masks Required, singing allowed

Faith Formation @ Second Service

Special Guest: Wanda Hines: Exec. Director of J.U.M.P

Music: Rick Dooley, Marie Johnson and Denise Keating

Sanctuary Choir [1st Service]: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First [2nd Service]: 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 Finally @ First

Give Me Love

George Harrison

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus has called us here this day.

People: We are here, although for some of us it was not an easy choice.

Leader: Often what we say and do are very different.

People: Help us follow God's will, not with lip service, but with true humility.

Leader: Come, now is the time to worship.

People: Now is the time of healing, restoration, and hope.

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer by Deacon

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.

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Children leave for Faith Formation after the children's message

Refrain:

**Lord, make us instruments of Your peace,
Where there is hatred let Your love increase;
Lord, make us instruments of Your peace,
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are your instruments of peace.**

Verse 1:

**Where there is hatred, we will so God's love;
Where there is injury, we will never judge.
Where there is striving, we will speak God's peace
To the people crying for release,
We will be God's instruments of peace.
(Refrain)**

Verse 2:

**Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight;
Where there is darkness, we will shine God's light.
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief,
To the millions crying for release,
We will be God's instruments of peace.
(Refrain)**

Welcoming Wanda Hines: Executive Director of J.U.M.P

Scripture Reading.....James 3:13-4:3, 7-8

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.
Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from?

Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Ron Faux

E-mail prayers to Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601
Musical Prayer Response by Finally @ First
“Multiplied” by Bo & Bear Rinehart

Anthem Imagine John Lennon

Sermon Punching Down Isn't the Answer

Sermon Questions: Text Rev. Josh @ [920 858-6601]

Offering Our Gifts to God..... Rev. Mark Mendes
Invitation & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn *I Hear Them All* Woody Guthrie

**I hear the crying of the hungry in the deserts where they're wandering
Hear their crying out for heaven's own benevolence upon them
Hear destructive power prevailing, I hear fools falsely hailing
To the crooked wits of tyrants when they call
I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all**

**I hear the sounds of tearing pages and the roar of burning paper
All the crimes and acquisition turn to air and ashen vapor
And the rattle of the shackle far beyond emancipator
And the lowliest who gather in their stalls
I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all**

**So while you sit and whistle dixie with your money and your power
I can hear the flowers growing in the rubble of the towers
I hear leaders quit their lying, I hear babies quit their crying
I hear soldiers quit their dying one and all
I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all**

**I hear the tender words from Zion, I hear Noah's waterfall
Hear the gentle lamb of Judah sleeping at the feet of Buddha
And the prophets from Elijah to the old Paiute Wovoka
Take their places at the table when they're called
I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all
I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all...
I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all...**

Pastoral Benediction: Rev. Josh Simon

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

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@fcej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

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

Robert Howe
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Jonah Moos' Father
Sean McKenzie
Jaime Real
Path & Faith Lavelly
Claire Glatz
Ann Gray
Emily Broude
College Students [and their parents!]

...and all persons affected by COVID19

The flowers on the altar are given by
Jen Dooley
In Memory of Pat Seaver

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]