



# 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  
October 10, 2021

Theme: The Gift of Money

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

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Daniel E. Ganthop  
Marie Johnson, Organ

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 with Faith Formation @ Second Service

Hybrid Service: Masks Required, soft singing allowed

Welcome to Mark Redman from Spectrum

Music: Marie Johnson and Denise Keating leading Sanctuary Choir

Our Traditional Sanctuary Choir Leads Music at our 1st Service @ 8:30 a.m.

Laura Cunningham Firkey is leading our Praise Band ***Finally at First***

Our Praise Band Leads our Second Service @ 10:15 a.m.

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

Musical Introit

*Glorify Thy Name*

Donna Adkins  
Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship ..... Deacon Pete Schmalz

Leader: Let us be thankful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon all of us in this nation of abundance, stability and peace.

**People: Thank you God for food aplenty for our families, freedom to travel and explore life as we desire, homes to shield us from the heat and cold while providing us with comfort, health care to minister to our physical and psychological needs, schools to educate and draw us toward wisdom and faith to challenge our self-aggrandizement and keep us grounded in love and justice.**

Leader: Thank you, Spirit of the Living God, for leading us to meaning, joy, and significant lives.

## Opening Hymn

## O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

## #42

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honors of your name.**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.**

**Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer.....Deacon Pete Schmalz**

**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. Mark Mendes, Senior Pastor

Welcoming Mark Redmond from Spectrum

**Memorial Hymn**

**In the Garden**

**#237**

*Today we will sing this great old Easter Hymn in loving Memory of Dorothy Knox,  
acknowledging her dedication to our church, our fondness for her,  
and our belief that her presence lives on in God's eternal realm.*

**I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.**

**Refrain: And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.**

**He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.**

**[Refrain]**

**I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Tho' the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling.**

**[Refrain]**

Pastoral Prayer .....Rev. Josh Simon

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

Musical Prayer Response

Jesus Draw Me Close

Rick Founds  
Sanctuary Choir

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.” ’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.

Pastoral Benediction ..... Rev. Mark Mendes  
*Immediately after the service, everyone is welcome to come out to the side yard for a  
time of fellowship and refreshments. If inclement weather, then in the Fellowship Hall.*

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.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

# 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.

Bruce Giannuzzi  
David (David Irwin's friend)  
Nancy Hayes  
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)  
Patty Garvey  
Dave Johnson  
Joe and Ann Wells  
Maureen MacKenzie

Catherine McMaster's sister : Margaret Sprague  
Robert Howe  
The Family of Mary Gellatly  
Jordan  
Jonah Moos' Father  
Sean McKenzie  
Jaime Real  
Path & Faith Lavelly  
Claire Glatz  
Ann Gray  
Emily Broude  
Carlene Lawrence's Family  
College Students (and their parents!)

...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar are given by  
Beth Volker in memory of John Denver  
who died 24 years ago on Oct. 12.*

*&*

*By Carl and Alison Wermer in  
celebration of Dorothy Knox 's life and  
the Knox-Wermer Family Reunion.*

## ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

All altar flowers request slots for 2021 are fulfilled!

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

### ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am,  
Martone's
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm  
Marvin Lounge



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



**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

[fccej.org](https://fccej.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:** Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

## Music

**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:** 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]