



# 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)





My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul -  
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Savior still is living.  
What though the shadows gather 'round?  
A new song Christ is giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
Since Love commands both heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
And hear their death knells ringing;  
When friends rejoice both far and near,  
how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell and dungeon vile  
our thoughts to them are winging;  
When friends by shame are undefiled,  
how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
And day by day this pathway smooths,  
since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine since I am Christ's -  
how can I keep from singing?

**Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer ..... Deacon Myrna Doney**

***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

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

Text prayers to Rev. Mark @ [920 858-6601]

Musical Prayer Response            Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier  
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Reading

Psalm 34

Read by Rev. Ron Faux

Praise for Deliverance from Trouble

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.  
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,  
and was saved from every trouble.  
The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:46-52

Read by Laurie Chipman

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’ And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Anthem

Amazing Grace / Pachelbel’s Canon

arr. by  
Jean Anne Shafferman

Sermon

Vision and Sight

Rev. Mark Mendes

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

Offering Our Gifts to God

Kathryn Brennan Shares Why She Gives to the Church

Invitation & Prayer of Thanksgiving .....Rev. Josh Simon

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.*

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
Nothing surpasses the love you impart –  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
Ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
Now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
You, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.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

Norma Edwards  
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  
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 Jen Dooley  
In memory of Dot & Joe Pine,  
Harry Dooley & John Simko*

## 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

### 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/fcej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fcej)



**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 ([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](http://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]

**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:** Jen Dooley [578-0230]

**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]