



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
Sunday, October 24, 2021
Theme: The Importance of Vision
Second Service: 10:15 a.m.

The Order of Worship

Our Streamed service begins at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday but you are welcome to watch it any time thereafter. As you do so light a candle at home, sit in a comfortable spot, and center yourself

WelcomeRev. Mark Mendes: Lead Pastor

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

Musical Introit

Open My Eyes

Manibusan
Finally @ First

Call to WorshipDeacon Myrna Doney

Leader: Welcome to Jesus' house, a place to explore your relationship with the Divine and share what you find with others who are also searching.

People: Together our chances of understanding God increase. We share stories, challenge assumptions and open our hearts and minds to each other and the mysterious presence of God.

Leader: Together we also share our journey.

People: We share the birth of our children and the grief of our losses. Together, we share the agonies of defeat and the joy of triumphs. As one community, we share meals, hugs, compassion, mercy, fear and friendships.

Leader: Come, on this beautiful Sunday, let us be united in our desire to praise our Creator and continue to discern divine guidance for our lives

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

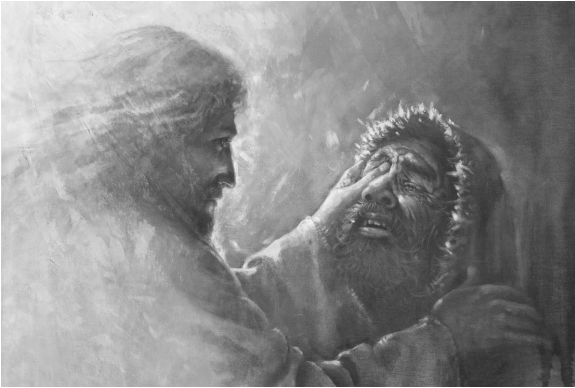
Loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

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.

Children's Message

Rev. Josh Simon: Associate Pastor

After the Children's Message, kids are invited to leave the sanctuary with Laurie for the Faith Formation Program.

Opening Hymn

Open the Eyes of my Heart
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You,
I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You,
I want to see You
To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
(repeat)
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you
(repeat x 3)

Baloche

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Mark Mendes

Text prayers to Rev. Mark @ [802-922-1773]

Musical Prayer Response

Lord, I Need You

Jacques Berthier

Lord I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need you.
You're my one defense, my righteousness,
Oh God, how I need you.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 34

Read by Rev. Ron Faux

Praise for Deliverance form 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.

Anthem

I Will Lift My Eyes

Norman
Finally @ First

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 ThanksgivingRev. Josh Simon

Closing Hymn

Taste and See

Moore

Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.

Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times.
Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord;
for God has been so good to me. (Refrain)

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord, who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free. (Refrain)

Worship the Lord, all you people.
You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
in God we need put all our trust. (Refrain)

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

Miller

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 us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step 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

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
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 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)



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]

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

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]