



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
October 3, 2021
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 at home: light a candle, sit in a comfortable spot, center yourself with breathing and prepare your communion elements.

Prelude

Shout to the North

Martin Smith

Arr. Victor Labenske

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

Music: 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,
Linda Lou Parker and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech.

Musical Introit by the Sanctuary Choir

Cares Chorus

Kelly Willard

Call to Worship

Leader: God comes to us in Word and Spirit and calls us to a table set for all who hunger.

People: We hunger for grace and forgiveness; we hunger for justice and peace.

Leader: God knows and meets our deepest hungers with bread which always satisfies.

People: Thanks be to God who blesses and feeds all human yearnings, and who does this through our human hands.

Hymn

I Sing as I Arise Today

St. Patrick; Tune: Hamburg

**I sing as I rise today! I call on my creator's might:
The will of God to be my guide, The eye of god to be my sight.**

**The word of God to be my speech, The hand of God to be my stay,
The shield of God to be my strength, The path of God to be my way.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer by 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

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Mark Mendes

E-mail prayers to Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773

Musical Prayer Response by the Sanctuary Choir: The Two-fold Amen

Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:18-24

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So, the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Mark 10: 13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Anthem Come, Share the Lord Bryan Jeffrey Leech
Sermon The Gift of Partnership Rev. Josh Simon

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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Revs. Mark and Josh

All are welcome to receive communion. Our bread is gluten free, and the juice is non-alcoholic. The Deacons will distribute the bread and juice to you in your pews. For those of you attending worship online, please have your communion elements ready.

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

Closing Hymn Glory, Glory Hallelujah # 2 African-American Spiritual

**Glory, glory hallelujah,
since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah!
since I laid my burdens down.**

**I feel better, so much better,
since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better,
since I laid my burdens down.**

**Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!”
since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!”
since I laid my burdens down.**

**I am dancing Miriam's dance now,
since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam's dance now,
since I laid my burdens down.**

**I am climbing Jacob's ladder,
since I laid my burdens down.
I am climbing Jacob's ladder,
since I laid my burdens down.**

**Every round goes higher and higher,
since I laid my burdens down.
Every round goes higher and higher,
since I laid my burdens down.**

Pastoral Benediction: Rev. Josh Simon

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

We Will Glorify

Twila Paris

*Immediately after the service, everyone is welcome to come out to the side yard
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

Carlene and Susanne Lawrence's Funeral Service

Today, at 2:30, there will be a funeral service for Carlene Lawrence and her daughter Sue Mason. The family wishes to invite everyone to the service and for the time of fellowship immediately thereafter. In lieu of flowers, people are invited to offer memorial donations to C.I.D.E.R., an organization that offers transportation to folks in the islands. Their address is P.O. Box 13, South Hero, VT 05486. If you would like to send a card to the family, please send them to Carla Lawrence at 3 Meadow Crest Lane, Waterbury, VT 05676.

CONFIRMATION BEGINS

There will be a Confirmation Class offered this year for anyone eighth grade or above who is interested in learning more about the faith. We will meet on Thursday nights from 7:30—9:00 p.m. in the Marvin Lounge. Throughout the year, we will go on five field trips to various other faith traditions [both Christian and non-Christian] and end with a retreat where every confirmand will write out their faith statement to share with the congregation on Pentecost Sunday on June 5, 2022. We hope everyone will consider taking advantage of this significant life experience. Just come to class if you are interested or email Rev. Mark of your interest @ mmendes@fcej.org.

Due to all of our staff being on vacation or at conference events, **Sermon Talkback will be CONCELED** on Tuesday October 6th.

Wednesday Night Searchers Begin

Wednesday Night Searchers will begin anew on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Our first session will be focusing on Richard Peace's book, "Holy Conversation: Talking about God in Everyday life." The books will be available on Sunday October 3rd for those of you that want to get a head start; read the first chapter. We meet from 7—9 p.m.

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

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
Bruce and Linda Lou Parker
In Memory of
Erica Ann Parker Eastham

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]