



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 31, 2021
Theme: The Continuing Importance of Reformation Sunday
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

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Brian Doersken
Finally @ First

Call to Worship Deacon Pete Schmalz

Leader: This exact date is the 504th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 thesis on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany. Following Jesus and the movement of the Holy Spirit, he and other reformers challenged the Roman Catholic Church to live more faithfully.

People: The Protestant Reformation opened scripture to everyone's native language, expanded the ways in which people worshipped and organized churches, and freed everyone to approach God on their own terms.

Leader: First Congregational Church in Essex Junction continues to shape its mission and ministry around the insights and wisdom of those reformers. Our freedom to worship and run our church as we so choose comes directly from the early reformers, many of whom paid a high price for their actions.

People: Today of all days, we give thanks to the many reformers through the ages who put their faithful hearts on the line to secure our freedom. We freely worship and praise our God who inspired that movement and who continues to challenge us to apply Christ's gospel to a new generation of believers.

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise our Ever-Reforming God, knowing in our hearts that *"God still has more light and truth to break forth from the Word"*.

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; and “to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength”, and “to love one’s neighbor as oneself”,—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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: The Bible—A Key to the Faith.....Rev. Mark Mendes
Laurie Chipman

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

Opening Hymn

Blessed Be Your Name

Matt & Beth Redman

**Blessed Be Your Name; In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow;
Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed Be Your Name; When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness;
Blessed Be Your name**

Refrain:

**Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord; Still I will say...**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your glorious name**

**Blessed be Your name; When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be';
Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed be Your name; On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering;
Blessed be Your name**

Refrain:

**Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord; Still I will say...**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your glorious name**

**You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your name! (2x)**

Refrain:

**Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord; Still I will say...**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord; Blessed be Your glorious name**

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Josh Simon

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

Musical Prayer Response

Lord, I Need You

Matt Maher

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.**

Anthem Give It All Away David Frey & Ben McDonald
Finally @ First

Sermon Gifts of Reformation Rev. Mark Mendes
Sermon Questions: Text Rev. Mark @ [802-922-1773]

Offering Our Gifts & Annual Pledge Cards to God
Invitation & Prayer of ThanksgivingRev. Josh Simon

As Finally @ First plays, everyone is invited up to the altar to offer their weekly gift to the church AND their yearly pledge card. If you have already pledged, please come forward anyway using the provided "I've Already Pledged to the Church" slip. Everyone who gives financially to the church should feel proud of being a full partner in our ministry to our members and the wider world. Feel free to smile, dance a bit and celebrate all the good things we do together at First Church.

Closing Hymn **They'll Know We Are Christians** **Peter Scholtes**
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,

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

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@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
Emily Broude
Carlene Lawrence's Family
Duke Ehler and the Family of Emily Ehler
College Students (and their parents!)

...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar
are given by
Wayen & Nancy Hall
in honor of their
52nd wedding anniversary*

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

All altar flowers request slots for 2021 are fulfilled!

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email 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://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)



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

[fccej.org](https://www.fccej.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]