



# 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  
Sunday, November 21, 2021  
First Service: 8:30 a.m.

**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

The Order of Worship

*Our First Service with organ and traditional choir is streamed and begins at 8:30am with access on our webpage @ [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org). You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with our praise band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and it is not streamed.  
Our Faith Formation Program for all children occurs during the second worship service.*

*Currently, masks are required for all attendees.*

*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All  
In the Spirit of Christ*

Prelude

For the Beauty of the Earth

Conrad Kocher  
arr. by Victor Labenske

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

*Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some significant events and or announcements in our shared life.*

Musical Introit

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

Call to Worship ..... Deacon Rusty Sargent

Leader: Four hundred years ago on a shore far away, a small band of pilgrims embarked on a journey to build a new society grounded in God's word and Christ's message of love.

**People: They were met by a band of natives who befriended them, shared their food and helped them survive a harsh winter.**

Leader: These Separatists and Native Peoples lived together in peace for 50 years. They shared a harvest meal with games and conversation that broke down barriers and led to our modern day celebration of Thanksgiving.

**People: May our meals, conversations and time together this Thanksgiving be filled with peace and good conversation. May we all seek to help our neighbors in need.**

Leader: Come, o thankful people, come. Let us give thanks to God for our many blessings.

Come, O thankful people, come,  
 raise the song of harvest home;  
 all is safely gathered in  
 as the winter storms begin;  
 God our Maker doth provide  
 for our wants to be supplied;  
 come to God's own temple, come,  
 raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field,  
 all the stores the gardens yield,  
 all the fruits in full supply  
 ripened 'neath the summer sky,  
 All that spring with bounteous hand  
 scatters o'er the smiling land,  
 all that liberal autumn pours  
 from its rich o'erflowing stores.

These to you, our God, we owe,  
 source from whom all blessing flow;  
 and for these our songs we raise,  
 grateful vows and solemn praise.  
 Come, then, thankful people, come,  
 raise the song of harvest home;  
 come to God's own temple, come,  
 raise the song of harvest home.

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer ..... Deacon Rusty Sargent

*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..... Laurie Chipman

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer  
 Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other  
 Text prayers to Rev. Mark @ [802-922-1773]  
 Musical Prayer Response Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:25-34

Read by Rusty Sargent

Do Not Worry

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Parent feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Parent knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Anthem

We Come to Say Thank You

Pepper Choplin  
Sanctuary Choir

Sermon

No Worries

Rev. Mark Mendes

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

Invitation & Prayer of Thanksgiving..... Rev. Mark Mendes

*Thank you to those at home who are joining us  
and financially supporting our ministry.*

*Thank you to folks in the sanctuary who are present  
and offering their gifts in the basket provided.*

*Thank you to everyone who has sent in their pledge card for 2022  
and for everyone planning to send it in shortly.*

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
 Who wondrous things has done, in who this world rejoices,  
 Who from our parents arms, has blessed us on our way  
 With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
 And keep us in God's grace and guide us when perplexed,  
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, our Parent now be given,  
 To Christ and Spirit too, our help in highest heaven,  
 The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
 For thus it was is now and shall be ever more.

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

**\*Sung Community 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.  
 God now in peace, in faith and in love.

\*Postlude

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

George Elvey—tune  
Henry Alford—words

\*Please stand if you are able.

## A Few Key Announcements:

- ◆ Sunday Worship - Two Services - 8:30am\* and 10:15am

\*First service streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)

We are pleased to offer in-person worship with COVID precautions in place. This includes masking and social distancing regardless of vaccination status.

Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. The elements will be sealed and passed out to the congregation.

- ◆ Music: Marie Johnson and Denise Keating are leading Sanctuary Choir  
Rick Dooley leads our Praise Band *Finally @ First* at second service at 10:15am.
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel, Linda Lou Parker and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech!

## Faith Formation & Youth

- ◆ Families begin in the Sanctuary, then following the Children's message at second service all are welcome to follow Laurie to Fellowship Hall where we have 2 air purifiers running. (Transition to our peer rooms will not happen until the majority of our 5-12 year olds are vaccinated.) We spend time getting to know each other, talking about a bible story and do an activity or two. PreK through 8th grade, high school youth are welcome to be helpers.
- ◆ Next Youth Gatherings ~ The Gathering meets weekly every Sunday, 6:30-7 pm. This Sunday we're working on the Christmas pageant. Performing not your thing? No worries - there are positions with costumes, props, tech - something for everyone!

**The Giving Tree is here!** We are once again collection gifts for children in Essex Junction, Essex Town and Westford. You have the option of picking up a tag from the Giving Tree in the Narthex or going online and signing up via Sign Up Genius. Each tag identifies a gift for a child and for each child there are three tags. Two of the tags ask for gifts of clothing that the child needs and the third tag asks for a book, game, toy or gift card for the child. Please consider taking a tag or two to bring a smile and some Christmas cheer to a local youngster. If you do take a tag(s), be sure to sign your name on the sheet by the tree identifying the tag number(s) that you have taken. Wrapped or bagged gifts, with the tags securely attached, need to be returned to the church no later than **Friday, December 10**. We will be distributing the gifts on December 17. Families that we help have expressed how much they appreciate the gifts we give their children and the joy that abounds on Christmas Day. **Please remember to label your gifts.** To use the online option, visit our website at [www.fccej.org/Serving Others/Get Involved](http://www.fccej.org/Serving_Others/Get_Involved) - click the Sign Up Genius link on the right of the page.

If you choose a gift(s) using Sign-up Genius, please mark your wrapped or bagged gift with the number associated with your gift - Ex. 5C - so we will know who the gift belongs to. You are welcome to be as creative as you like when marking the gift. Thank you for your support of this important connection to our community!

# 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

Catherine McMaster's sister : Margaret Sprague  
Robert Howe  
The Family of Mary Gellatly  
Jordan  
Sean McKenzie  
Jaime Real  
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  
Ann Gray  
in memory of Pilgrim ancestors*

## 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.

### CONNECTIONS:

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our "Weekly Update" eConnection:  
<http://bit.ly/3rlslSv>

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 @ 8:30 & 10:15**  
**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>



**Wednesday Night Searchers** 7pm in the Marvin Lounge—on hiatus till January



**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# 802-879-7650]

**Finally @ First Director:** Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

**Men @ First Director:** Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

## Officers

**President:** Cathy Shearer [802-878-6023]

**Vice President:** Brenda Dawson [802-881-5253]

**Financial Secretary:** Rob Sinkewicz [802-878-4470]

**Treasurer:** Dan Petherbridge [802-879-0261]

**Clerk:** Christine Sinkewicz [802-878-4470]

**Historian:** Ann Gray [802-878-4088]

**Auditors:** Betsy Weischedel [802-922-2094] & Steve Wood [802-878-3068]

## Committee Chairs

**Christian Education:** Lisa Clark [802-872-5849]

**Communications:** Francis Gravel [802-318-6235]

**Deacons:** Judy Pomainville [802-236-0604]

**Finance & Pastoral Relations:** Cathy Shearer [802-878-6023]

**Hospitality:** Jen Dooley [802-578-0230]

**Human Resources:** Brenda Dawson [802-881-5253]

**Missions:** Paula Sargent [802-879-3598]

**Music:** Denise Keating [802-345-8900]

**Nominating:** Dick Harris [802-644-6488]

**Stewardship:** Kathryn Brennan [802-878-9509]

**Trustees:** Kaki McGeary [802-879-2062]

**Ushering:** Marlene Frank [802-872-9126]

## Recognized Groups

**Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop:** Sue Wood [802-878-3068] [woodsusanjane@gmail.com](mailto:woodsusanjane@gmail.com)

**Heavenly Food Pantry:** Valerie Gabert [802-879-0109]