



# 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, January 16, 2022—10am  
**The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

The Order of Worship

*Our Service is streamed and begins at 10am with access on our webpage @ [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org). You can watch that service any time thereafter.*

*Our Faith Formation Program for all children occurs via Zoom at 9:30am.*

***Currently, masks are required for all attendees.***

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

Prelude	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace	Sebastian Temple arr. by Mark Hayes Denise Keating, piano
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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	What a Friend We Have in Jesus	Charles Converse
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Call to Worship .....Deacon Rusty Sargent

Leader: Join us for worship because as Martin Luther King Jr said, "I cannot be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be,

**People: and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be."**

Leader: "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny.

**People: Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."**

Leader: Come, let us rejoice in God's empowering Spirit and open ourselves to the reality of our connection to the network of mutuality.

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

God who has brought us thus far on the way;

God, who by your might, led us into the light,

keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;

Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,

true to our God, true to our native land.

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..... Rev. Mark Mendes

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

**Musical Prayer Response**

Lead Us From Death to Life

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world

let peace fill our universe.

## Scripture Reading

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

### John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Anthem

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Charles Gabriel  
Denise Keating, piano

Sermon

Can Anything Good Come from Nazareth?

Rev. Josh Simon

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

*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 on the way out.*

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

**\*Hymn**

**We Shall Overcome**

**#570**

**O Savior, let me walk with you  
We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
we shall overcome some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
we shall overcome some day.  
Our God will see us through,  
our God will see us through,  
our God will see us through some day,  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
our God will see us through some day.**

**Benediction**

Pastoral Benediction .....Rev. Josh Simon

**\*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.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

**\*Postlude**

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

Charles Gabriel  
arr. by Roger House  
Denise Keating, piano

**\*Please stand if you are able**

## **COVID-19 Updates**

The recent surge in COVID-19 cases weighs heavily on our minds and in our hearts. The Deacons, along with staff and church leadership, are closely monitoring the situation and have made the following adjustments to current programs:

- ◆ We will offer one Sunday worship service at 10am that will be in-person and streaming. **Masks are required for in-person worship.**
- ◆ All church committees will meet via Zoom for the month of January.
- ◆ Internal and external groups may decide whether to meet in person or in remote fashion. All in person gatherings must require masks and contact tracing.
- ◆ Sermon Talkback will meet via Zoom during January.
- ◆ Coffee Clatter at Martone's is on hiatus for the month.

## **A Few Key Announcements:**

- ◆ Sunday Worship - One service at 10am through the month of January.
  - ⇒ In-person and 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.
  - ⇒ Fellowship Hour is online via Zoom at 11:15am:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83168357605>
- ◆ Music: Sanctuary Choir and Finally at First Praise Band are on hiatus for the month of January
- ◆ 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**

- ◆ Faith Formation ~ PreK through 8th grade
  - ⇒ Starting THIS Sunday, January 16th, Faith Formation will be hybrid at 10:30am for the remainder of January. To keep our program running while COVID-19 cases are rising, Laurie will be Zooming from Marvin Lounge on Sunday mornings. This will allow folks at home to remain engaged and connected. If you prefer to worship in-person, children will begin in the Sanctuary, as usual. FCCEJ will send an update for February and Faith Formation plans will be included in the update. Parents should receive an email from Laurie with the Zoom link and password. If you don't receive it, please reach out to her at [lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org).
- ◆ Youth Gathering ~ 6th grade through 12th grade
  - No gathering this evening—next meeting is January 23.
  - Need the link? Email Pastor Josh or Laurie.

## 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Josh Ludwig  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
David (David Irwin's friend)  
Nancy Hayes  
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)  
Patty Garvey  
Dave Johnson  
Joe and Ann Wells

The Family of Mary Gellatly  
Jordan  
Sean McKenzie  
Jaime Real  
Claire Glatz  
Emily Broude  
College Students (and their parents!)

...and all persons affected by COVID19

## ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

To sign up for altar flowers,  
visit our website:  
[fccej.org/Serving Others/Get Involved](http://fccej.org/Serving Others/Get Involved).  
Use the Sign Up Genius link.

### CONNECTIONS:

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

Our “Weekly Update” eConnection:  
<http://bit.ly/3rlsSv>

Our monthly “SPIRIT@FIRST”  
eNewsletter\*  
<http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

*\*available in a printed, snail-mailed format*



**Sunday Morning Worship @ 10am**  
Communion on 1st Sundays  
Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)



**Sermon Talk Back**  
Tuesdays at 8:30am via Zoom through  
January: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



**Wednesday Night Searchers**  
7pm via Zoom—next meeting is January 19  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272183334>



**Noontime Book Group**  
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, via Zoom in  
January

Coffee Clatter is on hiatus for the month of January



FACEBOOK

[bit.ly/39O39ht](https://bit.ly/39O39ht)



INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgZf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgZf)



INTERNET

[fccej.org](http://fccej.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]