



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, February 27, 2022—10am
The Order of Worship

Today, we are offering one worship service at 10am which is both in person and streamed live and available afterwards on demand on our webpage: fccej.org.

Starting next week, we will switch back to our normal two service schedule.

Our First Service with organ and traditional choir is streamed and begins at 8:30am with access on our webpage @ 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 is hybrid offering both in person and zoomed connections starting at 10:30am.

Currently, masks are required for all attendees.

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

Prelude

Via Dolorosa

Billy Spragur & Niles Borup**

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

Spirit Song

John Wimber**

Call to WorshipDeacon Alison Wermer

Leader: Each day, we are greeted with the sun bringing light and warmth into our lives. The sun warms the earth, grows the plants, heats our homes, provides energy for our consumption and sustains life.

People: God's Son brings light and warmth into our lives. Jesus' love warms our hearts and lights our way. Jesus' word feeds our souls and teaches us how to live. Jesus gives us energy to meet each day with hope and sustains our lives with his presence.

Leader: Come, let us draw strength and live from God's Sun/Son. Come, let us worship our God. Come, let us be grateful for life.

**Beautiful Jesus, Head of all creation,
God and blessed Mary’s child.
I want to love you, praise and adore you,
joy of my soul so long desired.**

**Beautiful sunshine, clear lovely moonlight,
stars shine like angels ranked through space.
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer,
in perfect beauty love and grace.**

**All earthly beauty, all celestial radiance
fade when compared to Jesus’ face.
Let me not cherish beauties that perish,
let me this lovely good embrace.**

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord’s Prayer..... Deacon Alison Wermer

***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.**

Gospel Scripture Reading

Luke 9:28-36The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Children’s Message..... Laurie Chipman

Pastoral PrayerRev. Josh Simon
 A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer
 Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other
 Musical Prayer Response If My People Will Pray Jimmy Owens**

Hymn **Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us** #583

**Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,
 Fed us freely from her body, God has called us into light.**

**Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
 lifted us and healed our sorrow, God has walked with us in life.**

**Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
 left behind our brothers, sisters, God still calls us into life.**

**When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
 tread the path of peace and justice, God still walks with us in life.**

Gospel Scripture Reading

Luke 9:37-43Coming Down the Mountain

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Anthem Change My Heart Oh God Eddie Espinosa**

Sermon Walking in the Light Rev. Mark Mendes

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.*

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
Who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
And has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword**

God's truth is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah, glory, glory hallelujah.

Glory, glory hallelujah, God's truth is marching on.

**God has been there in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps
Where they built a sacred altar in the evening dews and damps
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps**

God's day is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah, glory, glory hallelujah.

Glory, glory hallelujah, God's truth is marching on.

**God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
And is sifting out the hearts of all before the judgement seat;**

O be swift my soul to answer, be jubilant my feet

Our God is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah, glory, glory hallelujah.

Glory, glory hallelujah, God's truth is marching on.

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.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

***Postlude**

Where the Sprit of the Lord Is

Stephen Adams**

All music performed by Denise Keating on piano

***Please stand if you are able**

****Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.**

A Few Key Announcements:

- ◆ Sunday Worship - One service at 10am through February
 - ⇒ In-person and streamed via [youtube.com/c/fceej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fceej)
 - ⇒ 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 1st 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/87536093221> / Meeting ID: 875 3609 3221
- ◆ Music: Sanctuary Choir and Finally at First Praise Band both return in March
- ◆ 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 Hybrid - PreK up through 8th grade

- ◆ In person (masked) & online @ 10:30am
- ◆ Gathering in Marvin Lounge following Children's Message
- ◆ Participating online? Feel free to arrive early & chat with a volunteer
- ◆ All volunteers are vaccinated — everyone must be masked, regardless of vaccination status.
- ◆ High school youth are welcome – reach out to Laurie & be a helper
- ◆ Gathering Circle & story conversation/questions & activity (link for activity in Weekly email)

Nursery is OPEN for vaccinated & masked adults & infants – 3 yrs

- ◆ Air Purifier is running & worship speaker

Young Apostles ~ 3rd through 5th grade and a parent or grandparent

- ◆ Next meeting is Sunday, March 14 at 4pm

Youth Gathering ~ 6th grade through 12th grade

- ◆ No Gathering on February 20 and 27 due to Winter Break. Next Gathering is March 6.

New Member Class

Rev. Mark will be leading a New Member Class after worship TODAY February 27. We'll be meeting in the Marvin Lounge and via Zoom.

Essex Eats Out—Friday, March 4

Essex Eats Out will be offering a drive-through meal of soup, bread and dessert. We are looking for soup makers and cookie bakers. For more information and to sign up, please visit our website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A48AAAD2CA2FF2-essex>.

Ash Wednesday Service—March 2 at 7pm

Begin your 2022 Lenten journey with your faith family this Wednesday in the Sanctuary. Join us for this meaningful service of contemplation and imposition of ashes.

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@fceej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

The family of Tom James
The family of Lynn Coddington
Donna & John Burnett
Don Lorraine
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
Sharon Dettenrider
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Sean McKenzie
Jaime Real
Claire Glatz
Emily Broude
Students (and their parents!)
...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar
are given by Carolyn Rushford
In celebration of the engagement
of her son, Nick to his fiancé, Mackenzie.*

CONNECTIONS:

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

Our “Weekly Update” eConnection
<https://www.fceej.org/v5/serving-others/get-involved>

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

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

RESUMING IN MARCH—

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am, Martone’s
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm Marvin Lounge



Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15am
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fceej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fceej)



Sermon Talk Back
Tuesdays at 8:30am in person in the Marvin Lounge and via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/740803865>



Wednesday Night Searchers
7pm in the Marvin Lounge and via Zoom—next meeting is **March 9**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272183334>



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, in the Marvin Lounge and via Zoom.



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fceej.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

Organ: Marie Johnson

Piano: Denise Keating

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Officers

President: Cathy Shearer

Vice President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]

Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel & Steve Wood

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Lisa Clark, Derek Lyman

Communications: Francis Gravel

Deacons: Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Hospitality: Jen Dooley

Human Resources: Cathy Shearer

Missions: Paula Sargent

Music: Denise Keating

Nominating: Dick Harris

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Kaki McGeary

Ushering: Marlene Frank

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sue Wood

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert