



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
Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2023
Second Service

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. Nursery care is available at both services for infants through 3 y/o. Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Greeting and Announcements

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

A Special Welcome to Rev. Karen Mendes from the First Baptist Church of Burlington

Musical Introit

You Are the Voice

David Haas**

Call to Worship Deacon Amy McIntyre

Leader: Welcome to our congregation where we seek to commune with the very presence of God.

Pulpit Side: We will seek God in the scriptures and reflections of them.

Lectern Side: We will seek God in the music we hear and sing.

Pulpit Side: We will seek God through prayer.

Lectern Side: We will seek God in the fellowship of kindred hearts.

Pulpit Side: We will seek God in standing up for love and justice.

Lectern Side: We will seek God in the work of Christ's Church

Leader: Jesus calls us to seek God through our hearts, minds, souls and physical bodies. In all we are and all we do, we are called to look for God in our every day lives that we might be nurtured and nourished. Come, let us worship and praise our God.

***Opening Hymn**

Companions on the Journey
[handout]

Carey Landry**

Prayer of Invocation & **Unison Lord's Prayer**..... Deacon Betty Buscglio
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.

New Testament Gospel Reading Matthew 17:1-13 [page 14]

Children's Message..... Rev. Mark Mendes

The Congregation Sings as the Children Come Forward

Jesus loves the little children,
all God's children of the world.
Whether young or old or new,
Jesus loves us through and through,
Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.

The Congregation Sings as the Children Return to Their Families

God has made us all a rainbow.
Colors dancing 'round and 'round.
In our hair and skin and eyes,
big and little, every size,
God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Ron Faux

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response ***Holy Ground*** **Christopher Beatty****
This is holy ground, we're standing on holy ground.
For our God is present, and where God is, is holy.
This is holy ground, we're standing on holy ground.
For our God is present, and where God is, is holy.

Old Testament Scripture Reading Exodus 34:29-35 [page 63]

Anthem *Spirit in the Sky* Norman Greenbaum**

Sermon *The View Is Great Up Here* Rev. Mark Mendes

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

Rev. Mark Mendes

*Thank you to everyone, both at home and in the sanctuary,
who are financially supporting our ministry.*

Invitation & Offertory *How Great is Our God*

Chris Tomlin**

***Doxology and Prayer**

#778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

Shine Jesus Shine
[handout]

Graham Kendrick**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Mark Mendes

***Sung Community 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 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

**

*Please stand if you are able

A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ Heartfelt welcome to Rev. Karen Mendes this morning!
- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ 8:30 and 10:15. Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej) (8:30 service only)
 - **Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Faith Formation for PreK through 8th at 10:30 in Peer Rooms
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel, and Linda Lou Parker, operating the live stream tech!
- ◆ Thank you to Rick Dooley and Finally @ First for the beautiful music today!

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 (802) 878-5745.

Victims of gun violence and their families

LaPierre Family

Elizabeth Stone

Bernie Currier

Joyce Jacobs

Grace Goodwin

Dan Harmon

All those suffering due to the violence in Ukraine

...and all persons affected by COVID19

The flowers on the altar are given by Melissa Ward in honor of all grandparents

Last week's flowers were given by Riley Elliot in memory of his son, Max

CONNECTIONS:

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

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

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

*available in a printed, snail-mailed format

ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ◆ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesdays at 8:30am in Marvin Lounge & Zoom:
<http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ◆ **Tai Chi Class**, Tuesdays at 10:15pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **Yoga @ First**, Tuesdays at 5pm in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone's
- ◆ **Lunchtime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays in Marvin Lounge
- ◆ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution day for February is Thursday, February 23 at 2pm. We continue to need the following items: Juice, Baked beans, Canned pasta, Chunky soups, Canned green beans, small bags of dry cat food, and dozen-sized egg cartons.

The pantry needs help to fulfil the delivery part of its mission. If you have an hour or so available on a food pantry day and the means to deliver 8-10 bags of food, then the pantry could REALLY use your help. Please call the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to welcome@fccej.org. We appreciate all the support as we continue the pantry's mission of seeing that no one goes hungry! www.fccej.org/Serving-Others/Heavenly-Food-Pantry.

Leadership Workshop - Sunday, February 26 from 1 to 3pm

We have a busy church with hundreds of people volunteering to help make our church run smoothly and effectively. The Leadership Retreat is for any member, especially those who serve on committees or as an officer of the church, who wishes to better understand how FCCEJ works. How do congregational church meetings run? What is the relationship between the staff and the committees? What are by-laws and what do they say about how committees should run? Do we have other policies and procedures that we need to follow? What authority does Church Council have over committees and groups? How does the church handle its money in a safe and responsible way? These questions and more will be answered at the Leadership Retreat on February 26th from 1 to 3pm. If you serve on a committee, you are strongly encouraged to come and if you just want to find out what makes this church tick, then feel free to come and discover how we do things here.

Planned Giving Seminar

You are invited to a Planned Giving Seminar on March 16, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Holly LeMieux, a local estate planning attorney, will be the presenter. Covered topics will include estate planning, wills, and elder law. Whether FCCEJ benefits from your planned giving or not, the Planned Giving Committee encourages everyone to have a written plan (such as a will, trust or estate plan). The Planned Giving Seminar is free and open to church members and friends of FCCEJ. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, February 21..... | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5pm to 7pm,
Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, February 22 | Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary |
| Sunday, February 26..... | FCCEJ Leadership Training at 1pm,
Fellowship Hall |
| New Members Class | Sunday, March 12 in Marvin Lounge after 2nd Service |
| Thursday, March 16 | Financial Planning Seminar, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, March 19..... | Pretzel Sunday |

Weekly Calendar: February 19—February 26

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, February 19

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship,
Sanctuary & Streaming*
10:15am: Peer Groups (PreK-8th grade)
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 21

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10:15am: Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary
5pm—7pm: Pancake Supper, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Missions, Marvin Lounge
CE, 2nd Floor Program Room
Communications, Conference Room

Thursday, February 23

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge
10:30am: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
2pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Marvin Lounge
6pm: Cub Scouts Lion Den,
2nd Floor Program Room
6:30pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm: Youth/Parent Gathering, Marvin Lounge
Racial Justice Task Force, Youth Room

Saturday, February 25

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 20

President's Day - Church Office Closed All Day
8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group,
Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, February 22

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm: Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 24

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 26

8:30* & 10:15am: All-Family Worship,
Sanctuary & Streaming*
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com]
Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]
Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]
Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

Music

Chair of Music: Denise Keating
Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley
Men at First Director: Bill Bickford

Officers

President: Catherine Shearer
Vice President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville
Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]
Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]
Assistant Treasurer: Matt Clark
Clerk: Brenda Dawson
Historian: Ann Gray
Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel & Steve Wood

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Derek Lyman
Communications: Francis Gravel
Deacons: Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs
Finance & Pastoral Relations: Judy Larrabee Pomainville
Hospitality: Jen Dooley
Human Resources: Catherine 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