



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

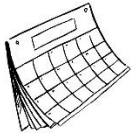
Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Website: fccej.org



Worship Services & Intergenerational Activities



Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: fccej.org/v5/calendar

You may also visit our Facebook events page: facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/

We offer regular worship and fellowship opportunities, too! These include:

- ⊕ **Sunday Worship** at 9:00am via Teleworship @ youtube.com/c/fccej
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Sunday Service at 10:30am @ zoom.us/j/980588369
- ⊕ **Saturday Worship**, 1st Saturday of Each Month at 4:30pm (*recess in July and August*)
@ zoom.us/j/403773331
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am and 8pm @ facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ zoom.us/j/740803865
- ⊕ **Outdoor Pastoral Visits**, Wednesdays at 10am @ Church Grounds (Parking Lot and Thrift Shop.)
- ⊕ **Prayer Circle**, Wednesdays at 7:30pm @ us02web.zoom.us/j/84731198775
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, Thursdays at 8am @ zoom.us/j/97659276694

Ways to Donate to Our Church

Your donation could support our music, youth programming (e.g. Vacation Bible Camp), missions (e.g. Jamaica Missions), adult enrichment (e.g. Sermon Talkback, JOY), Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, and more! We are also a United Church of Christ “5 for 5” participant in these fundraisers: *Per Capita* (\$14/member is our goal), *One Great Hour of Sharing*, *Strengthen The Church*, *Neighbors In Need* and *The Christmas Fund*. We appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! Here are some ways that you may help our ministry:

- ✓ **Shop at Amazon.com** using *Amazon Smile*. We receive 0.5% of your purchases! Visit smile.amazon.com ... navigate to the “Charities” section and search for “First Congregational Church of Essex Junction”
- ✓ **Send a Check or use BillPay!** Your bank might offer Billpay, a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail. Please, contact your banking institution for more details. All checks should be made payable to “FCCEJ.” Be sure to note the reason for your donation in the check’s memo line (e.g. “food pantry”). Payments should be mailed to:
 - **Attn: Financial Secretary, FCCEJ, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452**
- ✓ **Use PayPal!** We accept electronic donations through PayPal. Visit our donation page: paypal.me/fccej. A PayPal account is not required to donate money!
- ✓ **Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!** The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell or reload. *Want to get started?* Email Doug, our Church Administrator, for details: welcome@fccej.org.

Questions about your payment? Do you wish to increase your pledge? Contact our Financial Secretary, Pat Seaver, by email at vttri2@aol.com

Order of Worship
August 16, 2020: Live Streaming

Introductory Music

Begins at 8:45 a.m. with music and pre-worship notes
Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Light a candle at home,
Sit in a comfortable spot,
Center yourself w/ breathing

Service Input Preparation: Text NOW to make the service run more smoothly.

- 1 Thankfulness: Text Rev. Mark one thought of gratitude [802 922-1773]**
- 2 Kid's Names: Text Rev. Mark your child's name for Children's Message**
- 3 Prayer Requests: Text Rev. Josh your Prayer Requests [920 858-6601]**

Welcome

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

Welcoming God's Light into Worship

An Opening Reading on Gratitude [w/ congregation sharing – text in]

A Few Key Announcements

**Wednesday morning @ 10 am pastoral visits in Parking Lot
or scheduled walks**

or talks under the shade of a tree

Wednesday Evening Prayer [Zoom]

Morning/Evening Devotions [webpage]

Ed Steele and Dismas House help

preparing meals for folks transitioning from prison

To help call Ed @ (802) 871-5897 or edwardmsteele@msn.com

Church Tours / Nearly New Sale / Thrift Shop Porch Sale

Saturday August 22 [drop off at 7:30 a.m. that day]

Tours with reservation

Pleased to have Carol Spradling back

Along with Finally @ First leading music today

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartman, Ed Guild,

Francis Gravel and Josh Simon

orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road

**Kevin and Judy McCullen
Marsha Duell**

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Mryna Doney

**I hear the crying of the hungry in the deserts where they're wandering;
Hear them crying out for heaven's own benevolence upon them;
Hear destructive power prevailing, I hear fools falsely hailing
To the crooked wits of tyrants when they call.**

I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

**I hear the sounds of tearing pages and the roar of burning paper;
All the crimes and acquisitions turn to air and ash and vapor;
And the rattle of the shackle far beyond emancipators;
And the lowliest who gather in their stalls.**

I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

**So while you sit and whistle Dixie with your money and your power,
I can hear the flowers growing in the rubble of the towers.**

I hear leaders quit their lying.

I hear babies quit their crying.

I hear soldiers quit their dying, one and all.

I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

**I hear the tender words of Zion, I hear Noah's waterfall,
Hear the gentle lamb of Judah sleeping at the feet of Buddha
And the prophets from Elijah to the old Paiute Wovoka
Take their places at the table when they're called.**

I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

I hear them all, I hear them all, I hear them all

Children's Message

Meeting and Greetings Along the Road: Hannah, John & Nicholas Wermer

Offering our Gifts to God

Invitation

Anthem

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Text the prayers you want the minister to include during the prelude:

Rev. Josh @ 920 858-6601

Sacred Readings: Romans 11

Israel's Rejection Is Not Final

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? 'Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.' But what is the divine reply to him? 'I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written,

**‘God gave them a sluggish spirit,
eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear,
down to this very day.’**

And David says,

**‘Let their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling-block and a retribution for them;
let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,
and keep their backs for ever bent.’**

The Salvation of the Gentiles

So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their stumbling salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their defeat means riches for Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy.

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, do not vaunt yourselves over the branches. If you do vaunt yourselves, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. You will say, ‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.’ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity towards those who have fallen, but God’s kindness towards you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

All Israel Will Be Saved

So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written,

**‘Out of Zion will come the Deliverer;
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.’
‘And this is my covenant with them,
when I take away their sins.’**

As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!

**‘For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counsellor?’
‘Or who has given a gift to him,
to receive a gift in return?’**

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen.

Anthem by Finally @ First

Remedy

Zac Brown Band

Sermon

Whose In and Whose Out?

Rev. Mark Mendes

*If you have any questions about the scripture or the sermon,
feel free to text them at any time during the sermon at 802 922-1773.*

Closing Hymn

Just as I Am

**Just as I am without one plea but that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because you promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down:
Now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Benediction and blowing out our candles

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now is 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, watching from above.
God now in peace, in faith and in love**

Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour: meeting ID # 980 588 369

Our Prayer Ministry

Richard Ansell	Nancy Allen & Family	Kristin (Wayne & Nancy Hall's daughter)
Eric Lindholm	Regina (Steve Gorniak)	Leo Martel's Family
Shera (Andrea Goedken's friend)	Judy Allen's Niece	Muriel Dandurand (Doug Ovitt's grandmother)
Jane (Myrna Doney's friend)	Jane Schneider & Family	Sharon & Her Mother (Pat Seaver's Family)
Those defending us or harmed by the Coronavirus	Ines Eley & Family	

Prayer Requests may be emailed to welcome@fccej.org. If you wish for the prayer recipient's name to be acknowledged during worship services, please, send your request many days in advance so that we may accommodate you.

Altar Flowers



*The altar flowers are given by
Nancy Engle & John Ferris
In loving memory of Marion Ferris.*

Flowers may be retrieved by their respective buyers. Please, contact the church by calling 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100; or email welcome@fccej.org.

Announcements

- ⊕ Our "FCCEJ Weekly Updates" eNewsletter now contains important weekly announcements about our Heavenly Food Pantry, Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop, Capital Campaign Updates, and more! Hard copies will be available when in-person worship returns to our Sanctuary:
<https://mailchi.mp/fccej/2020-weekly-update-33>
- ⊕ Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" newsletter is available by "snail mail" and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. Visit this link to read our latest issue: fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/
- ⊕ Find us on social media!



FCCEJ

youtube.com/c/fccej



FIRSTCONGREGATIONALE

J

facebook.com/firstcongregationalej



@1STCHURCHEJ

twitter.com/1stChurchEJ



FCCEJ.ORG

Have something important to share?

Please, email your announcement to Doug Ovitt, Church Administrator: welcome@fccej.org. If you want an announcement televised during worship, then please, send a photographic representation of your announcement in either **.jpg** or **.png** file format to jsimon@fccej.org.

Ministry Directory

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]

Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Church Administrator: Doug Ovitt [welcome@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: Jenny Bourn [jennybourn4@gmail.com] & Laura Marthaler [Laura.marthaler@gmail.com]

Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]

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

Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]

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

Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Treasurer & Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]

Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580], Judy McCullen [878-9794]

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

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Missions: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Barb Smith [310-2491]

Stewardship: Jessica Moos [399-8068], Shannon McCullen [922-8792]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: Justin King [238-6273], Jessica Moos [399-8068]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Sue Wood [879-6552] OR woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]