



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

April 17, 2022—First Service

EASTER SUNDAY

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.

Currently, mask wearing is determined by the comfort level of the individual.

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

Order of Worship

Prelude

Trumpet in Dialogue

Louis Nicolas Clerambault**

He Arose

Robert Shackleton

arr. by Robert Lowry**

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 and highlight significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to sign the Friendship Book.

Musical Introit

He Is Risen

Don Besig / Nancy Price**

Call to Worship:

Reader: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen indeed!

Leader: On this sacred morning, we come to proclaim our faith in God and remember the morning long ago when Jesus awoke and changed the world with the miracle of resurrection.

People: Out of despair, hope came to life. If Jesus overcame death, then kings can be brought down, injustice can be challenged and goodness can overcome evil.

Leader: Jesus calls us to this hope. Jesus empowers us to overcome. Jesus demands optimism. As we greet this Easter dawn, let us never forget the power the resurrection unleashes

People: We will never give up because Jesus is on our side. We will never be stuck in darkness because Jesus lights our way. We shall overcome.

Leader: Come, let us follow Jesus and live life to the fullest.

Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

#233

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Peter Schmalz

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 Seats

**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 & **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**..... Rev. Josh Simon

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray.....

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

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.

Musical Prayer Response

In Remembrance of Me**

Words by Ragan Courtney, Music by Buryl Red

Hymn

I Come to the Garden Alone

#237

Scripture Readings

One of Peter's Earliest SermonsActs 10:34-43, page 98

One Resurrection Story..... John 20:1-18, page 88

Anthem

Christ Arose

Music by Robert Lowry
arr. by Larry Shackley**

Meditation

The Sneaky Truth About God

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Offertory in F

LeMaigre

*Doxology

#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.**

***Hymn**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

#391

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

Trumpet Voluntary in D Major

Henry Purcell**

*Please stand if you are able

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A Few Key Announcements:

◆ Sunday Morning Worship - 8:30 and 10:15

⇒ In-person and streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej (8:30 service only)

⇒ We are pleased to offer in-person worship—masks are optional

⇒ Music:

Marie Johnson and Denise Keating lead the Sanctuary Choir at first service

Rick Dooley leads Finally @ First Praise Band at second service

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

◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel, Linda Lou Parker and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech!

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 1(802) 878-5745.

Family and friends of Fern Feather
Louise Kolvoord, grieving the death of her son, Steven Kolvoord
Deb & Aliyah Watt, grieving the death of
Craig Watt, husband & father
Donna & John Burnett
Don Lorraine
Josh Ludwig
Bruce Giannuzzi
Joe and Ann Wells
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Sean McKenzie
Claire Glatz
All those suffering due to the violence in Ukraine
...and all persons affected by COVID19

CONNECTIONS:

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

Our “Weekly Update” eConnection
[https://www.fccej.org/v5/serving-others/
get-involved](https://www.fccej.org/v5/serving-others/get-involved)

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

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

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, 8am every Friday at Martone’s
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, Every 3rd Friday at 1:30pm
Marvin Lounge—next meeting is May 20



Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15am
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: youtube.com/c/fccej



Sermon Talk Back
Tuesdays at 8:30am in the Marvin
Lounge and via Zoom: [http://zoom.us/
j/740803865](http://zoom.us/j/740803865)



Wednesday Night Searchers
7pm in Marvin Lounge and via Zoom:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/83272183334](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272183334) Next meeting is 4/27



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



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Today, Easter Sunday - All are worshipping together. Children's items are in the Narthex to take with you during worship. If children get the wiggles and need to move around, additional items are on a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can also see and hear the worship service. Children must be accompanied by a parent or youth.

Next Sunday, April 24th – Hands-on mission activity during second service.

Visit our Faith@Home page at www.fccej.org under Grow in Faith for more resources.

Young Apostles & Youth

- ◆ **Young Apostles** (3rd – 5th graders & their families)
 - ⇒ This group meets once a month with Laurie for fun-filled fellowship, recreation, mission projects, laughing & talking, and, most important, creating bonds that will steer our children into lasting friendships in their teen years.
 - ⇒ Next meeting: May 15, at 4pm. Come join the fun as we gather in Fellowship Hall, get to know each other, do a mission project activity together all in one hour.
- ◆ **Junior Youth and Youth Gathering** meet again on Sunday, May 24

Vacation Bible Camp ~ Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!

- ◆ August 8-12th from 9am to 11:45am - Outside on the church lawn or inside on a rainy day.
- ◆ Visit our website: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/vacation-bible-camp/> to register for camp or volunteer. Join the fun!
- ◆ Volunteers arrive by 8:30am and leave by noon.
- ◆ Currently recruiting: station leaders (craft, science & games), helpers before or during camp.
- ◆ Reach out to Laurie, CE Director, for questions: lchipman@fccej.org

FCCEJ Outdoor Ministry Camping Trips (Friday afternoon to Sunday morning)

Whether you like to camp in a tent, lean-to or a camper we hope you will join us!

- ◆ June 24-26 at Lake Carmi State Park - <https://vtstateparks.com/carmi.html>
- ◆ September 2-4th (Labor Day weekend) at Grande Isle State Park - <https://vtstateparks.com/grandisle.html>

Donate to FCCEJ

Your donations support music, youth, missions, adult enrichment, Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, and more! We are also a United Church of Christ "5 for 5" participant in these fundraisers: Per Capita, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund. Here are a few ways that you may help our ministry:

- ⇒ Send a Check or use BillPay. This is a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail. Please contact your banking institution for details. Please note the reason for your donation in the check's memo line (e.g., "missions").
- ⇒ Shop using Amazon Smile. We receive 0.5% of your purchases! To start, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216>
- ⇒ Send money via PayPal. We accept electronic donations! Visit paypal.me/fccej. (A PayPal account is not required to donate money.)



First Community Concert at First!

FCCEJ is thrilled to announce *Community Concerts at First* - a music series that celebrates amazing artists from Vermont and New England and brings our community together.

Vermont pianist Claire Black will perform our inaugural concert on Sunday, May 15 at 7pm. A classical pianist with a vibrant history of performances as a soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist, Ms. Black will present a program of solo piano music by Robert and Clara Schumann. Ms. Black trained at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Baldwin Wallace University. The concert program will highlight the gorgeous sound of FCCEJ's newly acquired 2001 Steinway B piano.

Community Concerts at First is an opportunity to hear great music and raise funds for FCCEJ and our community partners. The recipient organization for our May 15 event is Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington. The mission of Spectrum is *"to empower teenagers, young adults, and their families to make and sustain positive changes through prevention, intervention, and life skills services"*.

Reservations for Claire Black can be made in advance (recommended) or you can make a donation at the door. Seating is limited so make your reservation early! Suggested donation of \$20 per adult (under 18 free). For tickets, please call the church office, 802-878-5745, or stop by the table in Fellowship Hall after service.

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is Thursday, April 28 from 2pm to 6pm. The Food Pantry is allowing families to "shop" inside on a limited basis. Masks are still required for both volunteers and patrons. 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 to a neighbor in need, then the pantry could use your help. If you are interested, please call the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to welcome@fccej.org with your name, phone number and email address. Someone will be in touch with you. We appreciate all the support as we continue the pantry's mission of seeing that no one goes hungry!

For more information or to volunteer, please visit our website: www.fccej.org/Serving-Others/Heavenly-Food-Pantry

Food Drive

On Saturday, April 30, Essex Rotary is holding a Food Drive to benefit Heavenly Food Pantry. Stop by Price Chopper in Essex Town on Center Drive anytime between 9am and 1pm, pick up a flyer from a greeter on your way in and drop off a couple needed items at the table on your way out.

Looking for Paid Nursery Staff Person (or two)

Be the friendly and respectful person that greets and helps our youngest families feel comfortable and at home during worship here. Interested candidates must follow our Safe Conduct Guidelines for working with children. For more information or to apply, please contact Laurie or Pastor Mark.

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