



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.

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Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Pastoral Prayer **and Antiphonal Lord's Prayer**

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Antiphonal Lord's Prayer for Indonesia /GMIT

Congregation: Our God who art in Heaven

KCN:

- Who art present in the Hindu temple, the Muslim mosque, the Catholic cathedral, the Protestant church, the sacred forests
- Who art with us in Essex Junction, Vermont and Kupang, West Timor
- Who created us with differences that we might celebrate them;

Congregation: Hallowed be your name.

KCN:

- Hallowed be thy many names in eastern Indonesia:
Allah: for Christians and Muslims; Tuhan: for Christians; Uis Neno/Uis Pah: for indigenous Timorese ; Lama Tuak: for the people of Rote, Deo Rai: for the people of Sabu; Lahtal: for the people of Alor

Congregation: Your Kingdom come

KCN:

We pray for Your Kingdom, a Kindom, to come to this land of 273 million people. We have seen glimpses of it last year when poor neighbors helped even poorer neighbors after the devastating Cyclone Seroja leveled many villages in East Nusa Tenggara Province, striking land on Easter Sunday. We cowered under thin tin roofs in the dead of night, listening to the cyclone's locomotive roar for hours and hours; all electricity gone, clinging to our fading handphones to have a few last prayers with friends we worried we might never see again; yet your Kindom came in the following days, weeks, and months in the form of food and clothing; pastoral care and comfort; services for those lost and healing for those wounded; and, even now, a year later, your church—the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor—continues its journey to reconstruct hundreds of churches and parsonages that were completely destroyed.

Congregation: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

KCN:

Thy will is done on the island of Sabu where the men's fellowship initiated a program to restore mangrove forests that once sheltered the coast; mangroves completely destroyed by seaweed production, felled for firewood, or taken as fodder to feed goats. The will to stop the abrasion in Sabu seeks to return the coastline to the way You created it; the way you intended it to be.

Congregation: Give us this day our daily bread.

KCN:

As we pray for five-year-old Ino who is only two feet tall. He is one of nearly 84,000 children in East Nusa Tenggara Province who suffers from stunting, a condition of impaired growth and development due to poor nutrition and repeated infection. Stunting in the first two years of life contributes to poor educational performance, lost productivity and, chronic diseases in adult life. Grant the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor bread for the journey in their efforts to combat stunting.

Congregation: And forgive us our debts

KCN:

- Forgive us Indonesians our foreign debt of US \$420 billion.
- Forgive us members of the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor our theologies of curse and punishment that blame those who became ill or die of communicable diseases as somehow deserving of it. This makes people hide their symptoms of Covid, of HIV/AIDS, and of other diseases for fear of being ostracized;
- Forgive our leadership that gives Rico, an openly gay man, an unholy ultimatum: either choose celibacy for life or choose not to seek ordination.

- Forgive us the debts we owe our children, having destroyed the rainforests of Papua and Kalimantan and the wildlife in them, replacing them with millions of hectares of palm oil plantations, a process that releases billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the air.

Congregation: As we forgive our debtors.

KCN:

- As we forgive those who once excluded pastors from our church and denied them their calling for no fault of their own.
 - ◆ As we have provided counseling and guidance to women pastors, victims of domestic violence, and sought to reinstate them as fully employed after years of being shunned by church Synod leadership.

Congregation: And lead us not into temptation

KCN:

- Lead us not to loan sharks, pawn shops, and to the temptations of easy credit that would have us sacrifice our children's futures for commercial goods, so many of them cheap and obsolescent, to satisfy our hunger of consumerism.
- Lead us not to sacrifice meaningful church programs for the sake of building cathedrals.
- Lead us not to lose our identity as your humble servants by turning our worship of you into a performance for us.

Congregation: But deliver us from evil.

KCN:

- From the evil that killed Adelina Sau, a domestic worker from a poor Timorese village, who was exploited and tortured by her Malaysian keeper, fed rotten food, and forced to sleep on the apartment balcony with a savage dog that bit. Adelina died of organ failure at the age of 21, another young woman of eastern Indonesia who suffered at the hands of human traffickers.
- Help us to name and address the evils surrounding us.

Congregation: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

KCN:

- For your kingdom, O God, is that of an extended family and elongated table of communion that stretches around the globe,
- Yours the power of water that grows food in dry places, and
- Yours the glory of resilience to keep our hope, Your hope, alive forever.

All: Amen.

Musical Prayer Response

Ken Medema**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Anthem

Within These Walls

Pepper Choplin**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today, the Deacons will pass out plates of gluten free bread and juice to each pew. Please unwrap your plate and wait for the direction of the minister to receive your communion elements. When the minister directs, dip your bread into the cup and partake immediately. People worshipping at home are encouraged to take their communion elements and partake at the same time as the congregation in the sanctuary. Together we are one body of Christ at First Church.

Special note: In order to welcome as many people as possible to Christ's table, all bread is gluten free and the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Lord be Glorified

Bob Kilpatrick**

Offertory Prayer

*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.*

*Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

#395

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***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 Tune in D Major

Henry Purcell**

*Please stand if you are able

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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
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

The flowers on the altar are given by Carl Wermer

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 5/4



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

Weekly Calendar - May 1 - May 8

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday May 1 - Communion Sunday

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th), Peer Rooms
11:30am: Music Committee, Marvin Lounge
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1pm: Racial Justice Task Force Vigil, Church Grounds

Monday, May 2

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, May 3

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: Boy Scouts Troop 624 District Meeting, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, May 4

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Planned Giving Committee, Marvin Lounge
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6pm: Boy Scouts, Marvin Lounge
6:30pm: St. Andrew's Pipe Band, 2nd Floor Program Room, Sanctuary
7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, May 5

8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: Choir Practice, Sanctuary
7pm: Confirmation, Marvin Lounge

Friday, May 6

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market & Cafe
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm - 6pm: Essex Eats Out, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 7

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday May 8 - Mother's Day

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th), Peer Rooms
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups