



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
First Sunday after Pentecost
June 12, 2022

During the summer months, we have one service that starts at 9am and is both live in the sanctuary and streamed [www.fccej.org]. Both of our choirs are enjoying the beautiful weather and some down time, while we celebrate and welcome individuals and small groups of people to offer their musical abilities to the congregation; please contact Bethany Blake if you are interested.

Currently, mask wearing is up to each individual.

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

Prelude *Sheep May Safely Graze* J.S. Bach**

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, and then encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Book.

****A special welcome to Bethany Blake [our new Music Director] and her family.****

Musical Introit *I Hear the Voice of Jesus Say* Thomas Tallis**

Call to Worship Deacon

Leader: Creator God, thank you for offering us the beauty of your created world. Everyone can draw strength and comfort from the good earth. It is a gift of grace for all people.

People: Thank you God for the gift of beauty, awe and inspiration.

Leader: Covenantal God, thank you for establishing ethics, values and ways of being that make your law a good guide for life. Thank you for creating standards that everyone, rich or poor, powerful or weak is charged with following.

People: Thank you, God, for helping us live meaningful lives.

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, thank you for blowing where you will and touching all hearts, minds, souls and strengths with gifts, insights and faith.

People: Thank you, God, for leading us through our days.

Leader: Jesus Christ, thank you for breaking down the barriers between humanity and God and welcoming absolutely everyone into your way of life. Thank you for your gifts of love, forgiveness and mercy.

People: Thank you for loving me, Jesus.

Leader: Come, let us worship a God who consistently reaches out to all of humanity in striving to build a kingdom of unity and peace.

Opening Hymn *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* #506**

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

Children's Message

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 PrayerRev. Ron Faux

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Congregational Response *Give Thanks* Henry Smith**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks.**

Hymn *There Is a Balm in Gilead* #553**

Scripture Reading	Romans 4:1-12 & 5:1-5	
Anthem	<i>Toccata in G Minor</i>	Johann Pachelbel**
Sermon	<i>Justified by Faith: Then and Now</i>	Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Sarabande from "Suite 17 in F Major"*

Johann Jacob Froberger**

***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.**

***Closing Hymn**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

#588**

Benediction

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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Ludwig van Beethoven
 arr. by Harold DeCou**

*Please stand if you are able

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A Few Key Announcements:

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship - 9am through June, July, and August
 - ⇒ In-person and streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)
 - ⇒ We are pleased to offer in-person worship—masks are optional
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month. The elements are 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!
- ◆ Thank you to Bethany Blake for the beautiful music this morning!

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 at Grande Isle State Park - <https://vtstateparks.com/grandisle.html>
- ◆ Make your reservations and send Laurie your site number

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!

Celebrating Graduates

Do you have a graduate in the family? Graduation Sunday is June 19!

Email Jen at the church office (welcome@fccej.org) the following info:

- ◆ Name of graduate
- ◆ Graduation/recent picture & baby/young picture
- ◆ School (high school, undergrad, graduate) & degree if applicable
- ◆ Their plans for the future

The deadline for submissions is **noon, June 13**. Contact the church office for more information.

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is Monday, June 13 from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

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 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.

Weekly Calendar - June 12 - June 19

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, June 12

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Tuesday, June 14

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
6pm: *Marie Johnson Piano Recital, Sanctuary*
6:30pm: *Boy Scout Three Rivers District Meeting, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge & Zoom

Thursday, June 16

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Saturday, June 18

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
10am: *Crafting Group, Marvin Lounge*
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
3pm: Hogel Memorial & Reception, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
5pm: *Boy Scout District Dinner, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Grounds*

Monday, June 13

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
5:30pm: Heavenly Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Wednesday, June 15

8am: *Life Line Screening, Fellowship Hall*
8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop-off, Kitchen
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Planned Giving, Marvin Lounge
7pm: *BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

Friday, June 17

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market & Cafe
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 19

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Is your group meeting through the summer or taking hiatus till September?
Please let the office know so we can maintain an accurate calendar.
Thank you!

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

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.

Victims of gun violence and their families

Jack & Sally Hartfiel

Cara and her son

Wayne

Jon & Karen Putnam

Family and friends of Fern Feather

Bruce Giannuzzi

Joe and Ann Wells

The Family of Mary Gellatly

Sean McKenzie

All those suffering due to
the violence in Ukraine

Graduates and their families

...and all persons affected by COVID19

Altar Flowers are a lovely way to remember & honor loved ones and special occasions. There are several spots still available for 2022.

Sign up through our website:

<https://www.fccej.org/v5/serving-others/get-involved/>

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*



Summer Sunday Worship @ 9am

Communion on 1st Sundays

Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.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 6/15

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, 8am every Friday at Martone's
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, Every 3rd Friday at 1:30pm
Marvin Lounge—next meeting is June 17



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](https://www.fccej.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]

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

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