



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
Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 19, 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 *Adagio Cantabile from Sonata Pathétique Op. 13* Beethoven**

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.

Musical Introit *Mvt. 2 from Symphony No. 9* Antonín Dvořák
arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram**

Call to Worship Deacon
Leader: Welcome to First Church, a place where we lift up the many and varied ways that people experience the Living Presence of God.

People: Before humanity, the earth knew God through the Spirit's power over the elements of existence when it brought order out of chaos.

Leader: Sarah and Abraham knew God in the blessing of family as they envisioned their offspring numbering more than the stars of the universe. Joseph experienced God in his dreams: Noah in the sign of the rainbow, Moses in a burning bush and political freedom from the Egyptians.

People: Isaiah found God in the temple with incense, visions and an invitational call. Hannah found God in answered prayer and a priestly promise. Jeremiah found God in an almond branch and a potter's wheel.

Leader: Ruth found God in the midst of hardship and Esther in risking her life for her people. Elijah found God in a still small voice and Elisha in a chariot of fire. Micah and Amos found God in words of justice in a time of great injustice.

People: Mary and Joseph found God in angelic visions and a small vulnerable child. The disciples found God in a rogue Messianic figure while Paul found God in scales that clouded his vision and a voice that indicted. Dorcas found God in making tunics for her friends, and the Ethiopian Eunuch in a discussion with a stranger and a pool by the side of the road.

Leader: God comes to us in many ways. Open your hearts that you may see clearer. Open your minds that you might understand. Open your ears that you may hear God's invitation. Come, let us worship the God who reaches out to humanity in diverse and creative ways. Come, let us worship our God.

Opening Hymn

Bring Many Names

#11**

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..... Laurie Chipman

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. Josh Simon

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah **

Congregational Hymn of Choice

For the middle hymn, the minister will ask the congregation for suggestions to sing. This affords the congregation the opportunity to choose their favorite hymn for all of us to sing. Luckily, our new Music Director is capable of site reading and helping us live into this congregational way of worshipping in the summer.

A Celebration of Our Graduates

Leader: Come, let us gather as a community to pay tribute to and honor those among us who have worked hard to graduate from school. Will the following graduates please come forward.....

Ethan Goedken, Shannon Kelly, Austin Oliver, Joshua Sharp, Manu Shrestha

People: When one part of our body celebrates with joy, all of us share in that joyful celebration. We, your brothers and sisters of the faith, think that you are great and are thrilled that you are a part of our family of faith!!! We admire your efforts and wish you well as you set out on your new journey.

Parents, Family and Friends of Graduates: We have nurtured our loved ones and offered them our support and love. We are proud of you and want the best for you. We celebrate with our family of faith in wanting only the best for you.

Graduates: We thank God for life and for the gifts of the heart, mind, soul and strength that have allowed us to reach this day of accomplishment. We thank God for the support of our families and the support of the people in this church.

Leader: Armed with your degree and girded with all of our love and support, go forth from this place strengthened to succeed, poised to prosper and eager to engage the world.

Graduates: This place has helped plant the power of God in every fiber of my being; this community has taught me that the love of Christ rests within my heart; this family of faith has offered me gifts beyond measure. We take these blessings with us whether we will be here next week or whether we will be journeying to new places.

People: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace.

Everyone: Amen and Alleluia!!!

Our Graduates Then and Now

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: I Kings 18-19 [page 253]

Rev. Mark Mendes

New Testament: Luke 8:26-39 [page 52]

M.I.D. Josh Sharp

Anthem

Pastorale

J.S. Bach**

Ed Guild on Organ

Summer Meditation

The Shifting Sands of Knowing God

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God Rev. Josh Simon

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Fanfarinette from Suite in A Minor RCT 5*

Rameau**

***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**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#593**

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

Gigue from French Suite No. 5 in G Major BWV 816

J.S. Bach**

*Please stand if you are able

**Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.

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 and Ed Guild for the beautiful music this morning!

Community Concerts @ First presents

Ray Vega Jazz QuARTet - Sunday, July 10 at 7pm

You won't want to miss this concert featuring local jazz greats Ray Vega/Trumpet, Michael Hartigan/Piano, Jeremy Hill/Bass, and Geza Carr/Drums. Concert proceeds support FCCEJ community outreach and Dismas House.

Ray Vega has established himself as one of the innovators of the international Jazz and Latin music scenes. A multi-talented trumpeter, percussionist, composer, and arranger, he presents Jazz from a refreshingly original and contemporary perspective. You might also know him as host of VPR's Friday Night Jazz and UVM faculty member.

\$20 suggested donation. Tickets are available in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship as well as on the FCCEJ website, at the church office or at the door.

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 grounds 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!

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is this Thursday, June 23 from 2 to 6pm.

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 19

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 20

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Noontime Book Group, Marvin Lounge

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, June 21

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Missions Team, Marvin Lounge & Zoom

7pm: CE Committee, 2nd Floor Program Room

7pm: Communications Team, Zoom

Wednesday, June 22

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, June 23

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge

2pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Racial Justice Task Force, Zoom

7pm: HRC, Marvin Lounge

Friday, June 24

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market & Cafe

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Friday afternoon: Outdoor Ministry Camping Trip, Lake Carmi

Saturday, June 25

All Day Event: Outdoor Ministry Camping Trip, Lake Carmi

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 26

Sunday Morning: Outdoor Ministry Camping Trip, Lake Carmi

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 given by the Hogel Family
in memory of
Bruce Arthur Hogel*

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



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 August 18



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