



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
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 3, 2022

During the summer, we worship at 9am with a hybrid service: both live in the sanctuary and streamed through our webpage @ www.fccej.org. You can watch that service any time thereafter.

During the rest of the year, we have two services every week: a more traditional service with organ and choir at 8:30am and a less traditional service with a praise band at 10:15am.

Currently, mask wearing is determined by the individual.

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

Prelude Prelude in G Major BWV 902a 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.

Musical Introit God Bless America Irving Berlin**
Beth Volker, soloist

Call to Worship Deacon
Leader: We may be wearied by the world around us. We look for God's divine presence in worship, in the beauty of the earth, in art, in music, and in stories. The sacred can be found in all of these.

People: Let poetry, music, art, plays, and musicals reveal to us the divine. May the divine presence spark within us delight, hope, and joy.

Leader: Like Maria sings in The Sound of Music, "When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when we're feeling sad,

People: we'll simply remember our favorite things."

Leader: Let the music wash over us, let God restore us, let the Holy Spirit gather us, and may the teachings of Jesus inspire us.

Opening Hymn** ***As We Gather at Your Table **#332****

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..... Rev. Josh Simon

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. Ron Faux

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response Prelude on *What Wonderful Love is This*

John G. Barr**

Congregational Hymn of Choice

For the middle hymn, the minister will ask the congregation to select a hymn.

Scripture Readings

Philippians 1: 12-14; 2: 1-4; 4: 2-9

Anthem

My Favorite Things
Melinda Hinsdale, soloist

Rogers/Hammerstein**

Summer Meditation

Sustaining Joy

Rev. Josh Simon

Communion

Today, we 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 immediately partake.

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.

Communion Anthem

*Sarabande from Partita No. 4
in D Major BWV 828*

J.S. Bach**

Offering Our Gifts to God Rev. Josh Simon

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Edelweiss

Rogers/Hammerstein**

Melinda Hinsdale & Bill Bickford, duet

***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**

This is My Song

#591**

Benediction

Benediction Rev. Josh Simon

***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

Toccata in F Major (excerpt)

Dieterich Buxtehude**

*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, Beth Volker, Melinda Hinsdale, and Bill Bickford Jr. for the beautiful music this morning!

Weekly Calendar - July 3 - July 10

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Today, Sunday, July 3—Communion Sunday

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary
11:30am: Music Committee, Marvin Lounge
1pm: Racial Justice Task Force Vigil,
Church Grounds
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 5

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*

Thursday, July 7

8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 9

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11am: David Jones Memorial Service, Sanctuary
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, July 4

Independence Day—Church Office Closed
8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Music Sub-Committee,
2nd Floor Programming Room
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, July 6

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 8

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 10

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Ray Vega QuARTet Concert, Sanctuary

Rev. Mark is on vacation till August 2.

Please contact Rev. Josh with any pastoral needs: 920-858-6601.

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

Community Concerts @ First presents

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

Community Concerts at First is thrilled to host the Ray Vega Jazz QuARTet. Come and enjoy 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.

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

- ◆ August 8-12th from 9am to 11:45am - Outside on the 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!

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is Monday, July 11 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.

Nearly New Lawn Sale and Bake Sale - Saturday, July 23rd, 9am to 1pm

- Donations can be dropped at the Church from 7am to 9am on the day of the sale
- Please note the following for donations:
 - Furniture is accepted and if not sold will be put out for free. If the furniture is still not taken by Sunday then we ask you to come back to pick-up.
 - Books: Cook books, fiction, non-fiction and children's books. Please no college textbooks or instruction manuals.
 - Please individually wrap baked goods for easy selling.
- Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop will be open to accept clothing donations.
- No stuffed animals please.
- Please contact Linda Bogardus at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net for more information. Thank you!

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

Sally Hartfiel

Cara and her son

Wayne

Jon & Karen Putnam

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



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)

On hiatus till September



Noontime Book Group

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

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



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

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