



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
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 31, 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 Classic Style* Gordon Young**

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 *Psalm 46.10* Anonymous**

Call to Worship, Inspired by Genesis 2 and Psalm 51 Deacon Maureen McKenzie
Leader: And the Eternal God formed humanity from the dust of the ground and breathed life into humanity and humanity become soulful. At times, our souls feel lost and wearied. The psalmist aids us with a prayer, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

People: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your liberating salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. May our souls be filled, and our spirits renewed today.

Opening Hymn** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* **#282*

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer Deacon Maureen McKenzie
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

Romans 8: 26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God
[sing three times]

#283**

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

Prayer Response

Hear Our Prayer

#769**

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Romans 12: 1-8

John 10: 1-10

Anthem

God Gives Us Those Who Love Us

John Carter**

Summer Meditation

A Path to Life

Rev. Josh Simon

Hymn

There's a Spirit in the Air
[vs. 1, 6, 7]

#294**

Offering Our Gifts to God Rev. Josh Simon
Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication
Offertory *Prayer* Cesar Frank
Edited by jon Spong**

***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**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

#286**

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**

Prelude in C and Prelude in F

J.S. Bach**

*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
 - ⇒ 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 Ed Guild for the beautiful music this morning!

Weekly Calendar - July 31 - August 7

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, July 31

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

Tuesday, August 2

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
6:30pm: *BSA Troop 624 District Meeting, Fellowship Hall*

Thursday, August 4

8:30am: *Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall*
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
6:30pm: *Eagle Scout Board of Review, 2nd Floor Program Room*
7pm: HRC, Marvin Lounge

Saturday, August 6

8am: *Divine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*
9am: *Crafting Group, Marvin Lounge*
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Monday, August 1

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

Wednesday, August 3

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
6:30pm: *Crafting Group, Marvin Lounge*
7pm: *BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

Friday, August 5

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
9:30am: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, August 7—Communion Sunday

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary
10am (after worship): Racial Justice Task Force, Church Grounds
10:30am: Music Library Organization, Sanctuary
11:30am: Music Committee, Marvin Lounge & Zoom
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Rev. Mark is on vacation till August 2.

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

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

- ◆ 9am to 11:45am - Program starts at 9am. Parents can drop off beginning at 8:45am or stay and join us. Outside on the church lawn or inside on a rainy day.
- ◆ Join the fun! Registration is open and ready! Register online: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/vacation-bible-camp/>. Same link to sign up and volunteer!
- ◆ You & Me Toddler (not potty-trained, attend with an adult) up thru current 5th graders
- ◆ Youth Assistants – 6th grade and up

VB Camp Team is Coming Together!

- ◆ All volunteers arrive by 8:30am for our morning team meeting and depart by noon. Not sure where or how to get involved? Contact Laurie—lchipman@fccej.org. There's a place for everyone at VB Camp!

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

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

- ◆ September 2-4th at Grande Isle State Park - <https://vtstateparks.com/grandisle.html>
- ◆ Make your reservations and send Laurie your site number

Racial Justice

The Racial Justice Task Force holds a vigil for racial justice after worship on the first Sunday of every month.

The group also meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm. All are welcome to join us in meaningful discussions on racial justice issues and plans to how to participate in the work of racial justice.

Contact Carolyn Rushford with questions or for more information: cjrushford@comcast.net.

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. To get started, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216>. We receive 0.5% of your purchases!
- ⇒ Send money via PayPal. Visit paypal.me/fccej. (A PayPal account is not required to donate.)

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

Grace Goodwin

Russ & Lilo Kinaman

Family and friends of Arlene Bickford

The McGearly Family

Cara and her son

Wayne

Laurie and Brian Chipman & Family

Bruce Giannuzzi

Joe and Ann Wells

Sean McKenzie

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>

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>



Wednesday Night Searchers

7pm in Marvin Lounge and via Zoom:

<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