



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
A United Church of Christ
August 7, 2022

During the summer, we have one service at 9:00 a.m. with our talented new organist and volunteer musicians. The service is live but streamed so that you can view it anytime thereafter.

Starting September 11th, we will offer two worship services. Our First Service, with organ and traditional choir, is streamed and begins at 8:30am, with access on our webpage: www.fccej.org. You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with our praise band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and it is not streamed. Our Faith Formation Program for children 3 years through 5th grade is offered during second service after Children's Moment.

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Currently, mask usage is up to the individual.

Prelude

Sonata in C Major K 545
[excerpt]

W.A. Mozart**

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

Movement No. 1 from Suite #2 in F Major

G.F. Handel**

Call to Worship Deacon
Leader: Welcome to our family of faith. In this place, everyone is accepted as a child of God. We are here to search for the Living Presence of the Divine and spread Christ's love everywhere.

People: We are united in offering an extravagant welcome to all. We welcome God and lift up the myriad ways the Mysterious Presence comes to each and every one of us. Today, we will try to incorporate the biblical truths of Isaiah into our daily lives.

Leader: Come, let us worship our Lord.

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: The Israelites murmured in the midst of miraculous gifts of nurture; the people crafted a golden calf in the midst of the eternal laws of life; the people cried for other gods in the midst of signs of wonder; the disciples wondered who Jesus was in the midst of sacred humility and abundant grace.

People: The people have always wandered away from God. Humanity has always strayed from the way. Each one of us turns to lesser and unfulfilling gods. We too often turn away from God in our daily choices of life.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts to God's mercy and forgiveness.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Creator and Creating God, thank you for the beauty that surrounds us and the earth that feeds us; forgive us when we pollute your universe and neglect to see you in the natural magnificence of Vermont. Risen and Reigning Son of God, thank you for embracing humanity and declaring all of us to be clean and worthy of your love; forgive us when we manufacture mockery, make mischief and manage malevolence. Empowering and Educating Spirit of God, thank you for endowing our hearts with the divine gifts of discernment, delight and dreams of a new dawn; forgive us when we fall prey to division, derision and diversion. Forgive us for turning away from your love and help us to live healthier lives. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: On the cross, Jesus cries out, "Forgive them for they know not what they do." And so in like manner, I declare to you that you are forgiven by a compassionate and merciful Lord.

**People: We accept your love and promise to live more God-centered lives.
Alleluia and amen!**

***Opening Hymn**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

#55**

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 Prayer & **Unison Lord's Prayer** Rev. Josh Simon

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Musical Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Congregational Hymn of Choice

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 1:1-4, 10-20

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Anthem

Fantasia in A minor BWV 904

J.S. Bach**

Summer Meditation

Isaiah's Way Forward

Rev. Mark Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today, the Deacons will pass out plates of gluten free bread and white grape juice to each pew. Please unwrap your plate and wait for the minister to direct you to dip your bread into the cup and 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 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.

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is this Monday, August 8 from 5:30 to 7:30.

Thank you to everyone who donated egg cartons—we are all set with those for the foreseeable future! We are in need of the following food items:

- Baked beans
- Canned pasta
- Chunky soups
- Jelly
- Canned fruit

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.

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 FCCEI

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

Dan Harmon

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](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

Weekly Calendar - August 7—August 14

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

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

Tuesday, August 9

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
9am—11:45am: Vacation Bible Camp,
Church Grounds
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
*6:30pm: BSA Three Rivers District Meeting,
Fellowship Hall & 2nd Floor Program Room*
7pm: Deacons, Zoom

Thursday, August 11

8am: Calcutta Committee, Marvin Lounge
9am: Jamaica Committee, Marvin Lounge
9am—11:45am: Vacation Bible Camp,
Church Grounds
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 6

8am: Divine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 8

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
9am—11:45am: Vacation Bible Camp,
Church Grounds
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
5:30pm: Heavenly Food Pantry Distribution,
Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Meeting,
Marvin Lounge
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, August 10

9am—11:45am: Vacation Bible Camp,
Church Grounds
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, August 5

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
9am—11:45am: Vacation Bible Camp,
Church Grounds
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 14

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

Events in italics = Local Community Groups