



# 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)   **Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**A United Church of Christ**  
**September 4, 2022**

*During the summer, we have one service at 9am 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](http://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.*

***Currently, mask usage is up to the individual.***

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

Prelude

Sonata in C Major K 330, movement 1  
[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

Call to Worship

Leader: As our worship begins, we remember the people who have loved us into being, who worked to provide food on our tables, who despite struggles made us who we are. They were not perfect, but they tried their best.

**People: Our hearts are open to the work of God and to the ways God is leading us to have compassion for our neighbors and for their well-being. Their well-being connects to our well-being, and ours to them.**

Leader: Let us take a break from our busy lives to praise God, give thanks for the work of God, and nourish our souls.

**\*Opening Hymn**

***O Grant Us, God, a Little Space***

**#516\*\***

Call to Confession-from UCC website

Leader: Our God is a God of grace and transformation. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary of this place.

### **Confession-from Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies**

**People: We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our work is not always done in a manner that affirms and honors each other. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We have judged other workers for not living up to our standards. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits. Forgive the sins we have committed against each other and help us to repairs the harms done.**

### Words of Assurance

Leader: What has been in the past does not have to define the future. God's grace can transform you, will transform you. Receive this good news and move in a new direction.

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

**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

*Prelude in C Major BWV 846,*  
from the *Well-Tempered Clavier Bk I* [excerpt]

J.S. Bach

### **Congregational Hymn of Choice**

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-24

Anthem

*Sonata in A Major K 331*, movement 1 [excerpt]

W.A. Mozart

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Leader: Praise be to God as we gather to partake in the meal of reconciliation and restoration.

**People: We come together, as the Body of Christ, at this table to share in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, our teacher and friend.**

*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.***

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church ..... Rev. Josh Simon

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

**\*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.**

*Thank you to those at home who are joining us and financially supporting our ministry.*

*Thank you to folks in the sanctuary who are present and offering their gifts during the offering.*

**\*Closing Hymn**

**O for a World**

**#575\*\***

Benediction

Pastoral 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

*Sonata in C Major K 309, movement 1 [excerpt]*

W.A. Mozart

\*Please stand if you are able

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!
- ◆ \*\*Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A.  
All Rights Reserved.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Welcome Back Sunday, NEXT SUNDAY September 11**

- ◆ Two worship services—8:30 and 10:15am
- ◆ Directory pictures taken after each service—we're hoping to get an updated pictorial directory completed soon!
- ◆ Activities and food outside after second service
- ◆ Mark your calendars and join us as we kick off another awesome program year!

### **Heavenly Food Pantry**

The next food distribution is Monday, September 12 at 5:30pm.

We are in need of the following food items:

- Baked beans, Canned pasta, Chunky soups, Canned corn & canned green beans

The pantry continues to need 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](mailto: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](http://www.fccej.org/Serving-Others/Heavenly-Food-Pantry).

### **Community Concerts at First**

Come enjoy the melodious tunes of folk group **Cricket Blue with Trio Arco** on Sunday, September 25 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. You might think of Simon & Garfunkel when you first hear Cricket Blue, or of Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. But their music is equally evocative of literary voices. Laura Heaberlin and Taylor Smith are equal parts musicians and storytellers. NPR Music calls Cricket Blue “master storytellers” and the All Scene Eye says Cricket Blue “sets a new standard for fiction-folk.”

Tickets available after worship, online, and by calling the church office. \$20 suggested donation. Concert proceeds support FCCEJ community outreach and Doctors without Borders for Ukraine relief.

## 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call (802) 878-5745.

Victims of gun violence and their families  
Family and Friends of John Wermer  
Family and friends of Dave Eaton  
Gordie  
Grace Goodwin  
Russ & Lilo Kinaman  
Family and friends of Arlene Bickford  
The McGeary Family  
Cara and her son

Dan Harmon  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
Joe and Ann Wells  
Sean McKenzie & Sandy Wynne  
All those suffering due to  
the violence in Ukraine  
Students and families as they navigate  
“back-to-school”  
...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Janne Giles  
In celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Howard & Janne -  
Married on September 1, 1972 at FCCEJ*

### 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*

### ONGOING PROGRAMS

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, 8am every Friday at Martone’s
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, Every 3rd Friday at 1:30pm  
Marvin Lounge—next meeting is September 16



**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>



**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



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



FACEBOOK

[bit.ly/39039ht](https://bit.ly/39039ht)



INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgzf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgzf)



INTERNET

[fccej.org](https://www.fccej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://bit.ly/3oPpBv9)

# Weekly Calendar - September 4—September 11

\*Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections\*

## Sunday, September 4

Through Sunday Morning: Outdoor Ministry  
Camping Trip, Grand Isle State Park  
9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary  
10:15am: Racial Justice Task Force Vigil,  
Church Grounds  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

## Tuesday, September 6

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

## Thursday, September 8

8am: Calcutta Committee, Zoom,  
9am: Jamaica Leadership Team, Zoom  
*6pm: Pack 630 Meeting, Fellowship Hall*  
6:30pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Saturday, September 10

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

## **Important Reminder—**

As our fall programs gear back up, please remember to contact the church office and confirm that your meetings are scheduled on the master calendar. Thank you!

## Monday, September 5—Labor Day

Church Office Closed All Day  
8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## Wednesday, September 7

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*6pm: Boy Scouts, Marvin Lounge*  
*6:30pm: Eagle Scout Board of Review,  
2nd Floor Programming Room*  
*7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

## Friday, September 9

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

## Sunday, September 11

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary  
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms  
11:30am: Welcome Back Picnic, Church Grounds  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*

# 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—Co-Chairs

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