



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
All Saints Sunday
November 6, 2022**

Our First Service with organ and traditional choir is streamed and begins at 8:30 a.m. 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 is in person starting after the Children's Message at the 10:15am service. Nursery care is available at both services for infants through 3 y/o. On the first Sunday of the month, the Sanctuary Choir and organ play at both services.

Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude

Sonata in E minor No. 5 movement 1, Largo

Antonio Vivaldi**

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.

Musical Introit

Smile On Us, Lord

Douglas E. Wagner**

Call to Worship Deacon Carolyn Rushford

Leader: Come, as we enter this Holy Ground, let us shed our lives of all the burdens that weigh us down. Come, let us open ourselves to the Living Presence of God Almighty!

People: Come, let the grace of God wash over me through the friendship of those surrounding, through the power of the Word, through the mystical union of communion and through ardent prayers of these faithful people.

Leader: Come, let us lean on the saints for guidance, those removed by time, and those within our lives and world still inspiring us to life and love. Come, let us worship our God.

*Opening Hymn

For All the Saints

299**

During the singing of the first hymn, people are invited to come forward and light a candle for one of the saints in their lives. Feel free to say their name right out loud as you light the candle. We may not hear you, but God surely will. We will start this ritual by naming our members who have died this last year and lighting a candle for them.

John Adams

Emily Ehler

Bruce Hogel

Judy Murtha

Arlene Bickford

Thomas Gibbs

Tom James

Marge Shepard

Lynn Coddington

Connie Goode

Kristen Kinaman

Craig Watt

Marsha Duell

Sandra Hathaway

Steven Kolvoord

Dave Eaton

Floyd Hewett

John Mauger

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you teach us through the centuries to simply love: love and take care for the created order, love and cherish our relationship with you, love and treasure our neighbor and love ourselves without measure. We are so sorry that we fail in this simple, long standing request.

Forgive us for not taking care of the world.

Forgive us for not nurturing our relationship to you.

Forgive us for not thinking about others.

And forgive us for neglecting our own well being.

Help us integrate your love into our psyche and ways of being so that we might sincerely follow you. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Luckily, God loves us and embedded in that belief is complete forgiveness. When we fall short of God's vision of love, God always forgives us. Jesus forgives all of you today.

People: We accept God's mercy and will use it to pay it forward.

Leader: Amen and Alleluia...The Good News of Christ's victory!!!

Children's Message Rev. Mark Mendes

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

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.

After Children's Message, children return to their families at First Service and transition to Faith Friends (PreK—2nd) at Second Service. Children return to their families to share Holy Communion.

Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer Rev. Josh Simon

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response

Twofold Amen

Vincent Persichetti**

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.

New Testament Scripture Readings

Epistle	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	[page 159]
Gospel	John 20:11-23	[page 88]

Anthem

So Near to God Am I

Eville, arr. James Gillette **

Communion Meditation

The Heart of the Faith

Rev. Mark Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Communion Music *Prepare to Receive Him* Bach, arr. Randolph Currie **

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will celebrate communion to honor the saints of our church and lives. The elements will be passed out to both the First and Second Services where we will eat the bread together and then drink the cup separately.

Special note: All the bread offered today is gluten free. All juice used is non-alcoholic.

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

*Thank you to everyone, both at home and in the sanctuary,
who are financially supporting our ministry.*

Invitation and Offertory *Toccata IV in G Minor* [excerpt]

Frescobaldi**

*Doxology and Prayer

#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. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

#295**

Benediction

Pastoral 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

Concerto in G, 3rd movement

Georg Philipp Telemann**

*Please stand if you are able

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 (802) 878-5745.

Victims of gun violence and their families
Family and friends of Floyd Hewitt
Family and friends of Marsha Duell
Ann Gray
Malley Powell
Faith Truax
Family and friends of John Mauger
Fletcher Coolidge
Gordie

Grace Goodwin
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
...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar are given by Melissa Ward
In Memory of Diane, Ronald and David.*

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 November 18



Sunday Morning Worship

- In person & streamed @ 8:30
- In person & Faith Formation @ 10:15

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](https://zoom.us/j/740803865)



Wednesday Night Searchers

7pm in Marvin Lounge and via Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/8327218334](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8327218334)



Lunchtime Book Group

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



INTERNET



YOUTUBE



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/39039ht

bit.ly/3rlfgZf

fccej.org

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship - 8:30 and 10:15
 - ⇒ In-person and streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej (8:30 service only)
***Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.*
 - ⇒ 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 the Sanctuary Choir and Bethany Blake for the beautiful music today! Sincere appreciation to Eddy Malave for sharing his musical gifts on the viola.
 - ◆ Email Pastor Josh @ jsimon@fccej.org with your college students addresses.
- Sunday Morning Faith Formation—10:30am**
- ◆ Pre-K through 2nd Grade—Faith Friends after our Children’s Message at 2nd service
Parents, please come pick up your children by 11:30

Important Pledge Information

Please note that any pledge payments made between now and the end of the year will automatically be applied to 2022, **UNLESS** you indicate in the memo line or with a note, that it is to be applied to your 2023 pledge.

Also, after 2023 begins, if your contribution should be applied to your 2022 pledge, indicate that on your memo line or with a note, or it will be applied to your 2023 pledge.

There are some folks who choose to contribute more than they have pledged in a given year, or perhaps not be able to donate as much as they thought, so we will not be sure of your intent unless you write it on your check.

Also Important To Know –

If you do give this year for next year, we can credit toward your 2023 pledge on church records, but it will show as given in 2022 on your contribution statement! The same is true if you give in 2023 for 2022. It will show on your 2023 contribution statement. Your contribution statement will always reflect the year your money was received by the church.

Yoga @ First

- ◆ Come practice a compassionate, inquisitive sequence to integrate the mind, body, and soul. In each session, we will focus, breathe, build heat, strengthen, and relax. Tuesdays, from 5:00-6:15pm in the 2nd Floor Program Room. Wear comfortable, non restrictive clothing. Bring a mat or borrow one. Donations (to FCCEJ) welcome, but not required.

Get Out the Vote

- ◆ Vermont Interfaith Action is organizing Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Phone Banks on Sunday, November 6, 6:30-8:30pm & Monday, November 7, 6:30-8:30pm. Phone banking is done from the comfort of your home. The efforts are to encourage people to vote and for the passage of Prop 2, Article 1, fully abolishing slavery in the state's constitution. You can register for the phone bank by typing in this url: tinyurl.com/4duekrma

CRAFT FEST - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- ◆ Mark your calendar for this fantastic event! There are fun and fabulous opportunities for everyone at the Craft Fest!
- ◆ **Sweet Shoppe** - *A wide variety of homemade goodies and treats*
- ◆ **Silent Auction** - *Themed baskets, original artwork, gift certificates and more*
- ◆ **Luncheon** - *Chili, soup, mac & cheese, hot dogs, and drinks*
- ◆ **Nearly New** - *Gently used treasures galore*
- ◆ **Crafters** - *Local artists, including Jen Ellis, also known as Bernie's Mitten Maker*

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

- ◆ We are grateful that the Thrift Shop continues to be a successful outreach program here at FCCEJ! The shop is now stocked with fall and winter items. We welcome your donations on the days we are open: Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-1 and Wednesdays from 4-7. We are in particular need of jewelry—earrings, necklaces, watches, etc...
We hope you will visit us this fall and if you are interested in helping us out, please contact either Elaine Raymond, Sue Wood, or the church office.

20/30 Gathering

- ◆ Pastor Josh invites people in their 20s and 30s for dinner (potluck style) at the parsonage (3 Church St, Essex Jct) on Friday, November 6, 6-8 pm. RSVP to jsimon@fccej.org with the dish you plan to bring. See you then!

New Member's Class

- ◆ The New Member's Class is today in the Marvin Lounge at 11:30am, right after the second service. Lunch will be provided.
Together we are stronger. Together we can continue to change our corner of Christ's kingdom. Together we can commit to a journey with other like minded folks as we search for God's presence and guidance in our lives.

Heavenly Food Pantry

- ◆ The next food distribution is Monday, November 14 at 5:30pm.
We are in need of the following food items:
Baked beans, Canned pasta, Chunky soups, Canned green beans, and small bags of dry cat food. We are fine on egg cartons at this time.
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.
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: November 6 - November 13

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, November 6

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
11:30am: New Member Class, Marvin Lounge
Craft Fest Team, 2nd Floor Program Room
Music Committee Meeting, Zoom
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1pm: Racial Justice Task Force Vigil,
Church Grounds
4pm: Nursery Staff Gathering, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, November 8

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10:15am: Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, 2nd Floor Program Room
6:30pm: BSA Troop Three Rivers District Roundtable, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, November 10

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary
6:30pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, November 12

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
9am-3pm: Craft Fest, Church-Wide
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Monday, November 7

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, November 9

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6pm: Boy Scouts 624 Leaders Meeting, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers
7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 11

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
8:30am: Piano Tuning, Marvin Lounge
10:30am: Piano Tuning, Sanctuary
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 13

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3pm: Community Concerts @ First presents Tom Cleary—jazz pianist, Sanctuary
4:30pm: Holy Family Food Drive Delivery, Fellowship Hall