



# 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**  
**Christmas Day - December 25, 2022**

***The First Sunday of Christmas***

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

Prelude                      Sarabande from *Nouvelles Suites de Pièces de Clavecin*  
Jean-Philippe Rameau\*\*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey  
you are welcome in this place.*

Musical Introit                      *Once in Royal David's City*                      H. J. Gauntlett; A. H. Mann\*\*

Call to Worship .....Deacon Gary Hartmann

Leader: We greet you kindly and warmly on this Christmas morn. Merry Christmas!  
Christ is born.

**People: Merry Christmas! All Advent we prepared our hearts for the celebration  
of the Christ child's birth!**

Leader: He is known as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

**People: Our hearts are prepared to joyfully receive the Christ child's gifts of  
peace and love.**

Leader: With excitement, we join the chorus of angelic messenger by singing  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing...

**Opening Carol                      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*                      #144\*\***

Prayer of Invocation .....Deacon Gary Hartmann

**Carol                      *Away in a Manger*                      #124\*\***

Lighting the Christ Candle

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer** ..... Rev. Ron Faux

**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.**

Prayer Response                      *Angels We Have Heard On High*                      Arr. Erich Goldschmidt\*\*

Deacon Gary Hartmann

**#154\*\***

Rev. Josh Simon

Rev. Josh Simon

**#132\*\***

J.S. Bach\*\*

**#778\*\***

J.S. Bach\*\*

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

Victims of gun violence and their families

Family and friends of Wayne Hathaway

Family and friends of Floyd Hewitt

Maureen Evans

LaPierre Family

Prajna Faux

Elizabeth Stone

Bernie Currier

Joyce Jacobs

Ann Gray

Malley Powell

Faith Truax

Fletcher Coolidge

Grace Goodwin

Dan Harmon

Joe and Ann Wells

Sean McKenzie & Sandy Wynne

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: <http://bit.ly/3rlslSv>

Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" eNewsletter\* <http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>  
\*available in a printed, snail-mailed format



#### Sunday Morning Worship

- In person & streamed @ 8:30
  - In person & Faith Formation @ 10:15
  - Communion on 1st Sundays
- Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)



#### Sermon Talk Back

Tuesdays at 8:30am in the Marvin Lounge and Zoom:  
<http://zoom.us/j/740803865>

### ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ⊕ **Tai Chi Class**, Tuesdays at 10:15pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ⊕ **Yoga @ First**, Tuesdays at 5pm in the Sanctuary
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone's
- ⊕ **Lunchtime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays in Marvin Lounge
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge



FACEBOOK

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

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

# Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Betty Adams.....In honor of family  
Bill Bickford Sr..... In memory of Arlene Bickford  
Mindy & Bill Bickford..... In memory of our dear mother, Arlene Bickford  
Dave & Bethany Blake..... In memory of victims of gun violence  
Jenny Bourn..... In memory of Thomas Connelly  
Brian & Laurie Chipman..... In honor of all grandparents and great-grandparents  
Bill Coddington..... In memory of Lynn  
Sue & Dennis Conti ..... In honor of our family  
Sharon Dettenrieder..... In memory of Doug Dettenrieder and Eric Dettenrieder  
Myrna Doney ..... In honor of Christmas love  
Jen & Rick Dooley ..... In memory of Harry Dooley, and Dot & Joe Pine  
Howard & Janne Giles..... In memory of Howard & Lois Giles and David & Anne Cozzens  
Gary Hartmann ..... In honor of Rev. Josh Simon's new ministry  
and in memory of my dad, Bill Hartmann  
Hoy Family.....In honor of Thomas & Sarah Hoy, Guy & Sandy Stone, and our children  
Joanne Irwin.....In honor of my family and in memory of Alan  
Linda B. Jackson ..... In memory of George A. Jackson  
Marie & David Johnson ..... In memory of loved ones  
Jen Kelly ..... In honor of Matthew, Scott, and Leona  
Derek Lyman ..... In memory of Brian Latuch and Phyllis Buchanan  
Judy & Kevin McCullen..... In memory of Ed & Peg Hurst, and Donna McCullen  
McGeary Family..... In memory of Nancy, Bev, Bob, Colleen, Kathryn, Trevor, and Kevin  
Mark Mendes..... In memory of George, Margaret, and Jessica  
Elizabeth Miller ..... In honor of Mark Dolye and In memory of Dorothy Hart  
Jessica & Jonah Moos ..... In memory of Leora Moos and Annette Manly  
Mally Powell ..... In honor of the Christmas season  
Carolyn Rushford.....In memory of my grandparents  
Sanctuary Choir..... In memory of John Mauger and Marsha Duell  
Andrea & Steve Sharp..... In honor of the fantastic staff at FCCEJ  
Cathy & Thomas Shearer..... In memory of Malcolm Forbes and Pat Shearer  
Josh Simon.....In honor of Kelly Simon & Bobbie Simon  
Lauren & Gorden Starkey..... In memory of our parents: Gorden & Garnet Starkey  
and Richard Busciglio  
Heather Stein ..... In celebration of the Christmas season  
Ann Marie Sullivan.....In honor of Michael & Ann Marie's 45th anniversary  
Beth Volker ..... In memory of Joan McGrath Greve  
Carl & Alison Wermer..... In memory of our parents: Bob, Dorothy, Kerstin, John

# **Weekly Calendar: December 25 - January 1**

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

## **Sunday, December 25**

### **Christmas Sunday**

10am: Worship, Sanctuary

*11am: The Vine Nepali Congregation,  
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall*

*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

## **Tuesday, December 27**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary

## **Thursday, December 29**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## **Saturday, December 31**

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## **Monday, December 26**

### **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, December 28**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

## **Friday, December 30**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## **Sunday, January 1**

10am: Worship, Sanctuary

*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*

### **Dates to Remember:**

**Monday, December 26**—Church office closed all day

**Sunday, January 1**—One service at 10am

**Monday, January 2**—Church office closed all day

**Tuesday, January 3**—Committee reports due for Annual Meeting

**Friday, January 13**—Farewell dinner for Pastor Josh—details TBA

**Sunday, January 15**—Pastor Josh final Sunday at FCCEJ

### **A Few Key Announcements**

- ♦ Sunday Morning Worship - 10am today and next Sunday, 1/1/23
  - ⇒ Regular Sunday morning worship is 8:30 and 10:15. Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej) (8:30 service only)
  - \*\*Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.
  - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.
- ♦ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel, and Linda Lou Parker, operating the live stream tech!
- ♦ Thank you to Bethany Blake for the beautiful music today!