



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

The First Sunday after Epiphany

January 8, 2023—First Service

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. Nursery care is available at both services for infants through 3 y/o. Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude

Prelude on "*What Wondrous Love is This*"

John G. Barr**

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Welcome 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

I've Just Come From the Fountain

**

African American spiritual

arr. James Capers

Call to Worship Deacon Alison Wermer

Leader: The trees and decorations are put away; the resolutions are written and on the refrigerator; life is slowly returning to normal.

**People: In season and out of season the name of the Lord is to be praised.
Today, we come to let go of the worries of the world and soak in the
presence of God.**

Leader: We moved from the anticipation of Advent to the joy of Jesus' birth; now we enter the season of Epiphany, the season that highlights the times when the Spirit of the Living God was manifested clearly in the lives of the faithful.

**People: Faith is a journey and the church year guides us through the twists
and turns of lives shaped and molded by our relationship to God.**

Leader: Come, let us remember the waters of new life. Come, let us deepen our relationship with the Living God. Come, let us sing of our faith in and through our lives.

Prayer of Invocation & **Unison Lord’s Prayer**..... Deacon Alison Wermer
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..... 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. Mark Mendes

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other
Prayer Response *Baptized in Water* Trad. Gaelic melody**

Hymn *Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult* **#172****

Scripture Readings
Historical Acts 10:34-43 [page 98]
Gospel Matthew 3:13-17 [page 2]

Anthem *The People Who in Darkness Walked* Dundee**
melody *The CL Psalmes of David*, 1615; harmony Thomas Ravenscroft

Sermon *Same Message, Different Day* Rev. Mark Mendes

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

Offertory

The Summons

Trad. Scottish**

arr. John Bell

#778**

***Doxology and Prayer**

**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

Forward Through the Ages

#377**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***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

Toccata IV in G minor

Girolamo Frescobaldi **

[excerpt]

*Please stand if you are able

A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ 8:30 and 10:15. Streamed via 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 1st Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Faith Formation for PreK through 8th at 10:30 in Peer Rooms
- ◆ 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!

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 Gary Smith

Family and friends of Joshua LaPierre

Family and friends of Floyd Hewitt

Maureen Evans

LaPierre Family

Elizabeth Stone

Bernie Currier

Joyce Jacobs

Ann Gray

Malley Powell

Faith Truax

Fletcher Coolidge

Grace Goodwin

Dan Harmon

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 honor of all pets.*

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

ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ♦ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesdays at 8:30am in Marvin Lounge & Zoom:
<http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ♦ **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



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Heavenly Food Pantry

The food distribution days for January are Monday, January 9 at 5:30pm and Thursday, January 26 at 2pm. We continue to need the following items: Juice, Baked beans, Canned pasta, Chunky soups, Canned green beans, and small bags of dry cat food. We can also use dozen-sized egg cartons.

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 REALLY 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.

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 5-6:15pm in the Sanctuary. Wear comfortable, non restrictive clothing. Bring a mat or borrow one. Donations (to FCCEJ) welcome, but not required.



JUMP will be holding their third Online Auction February 1-10, 2023. The theme again will be "Showing Love for JUMP". The success of this JUMP fundraiser will be based on the number and type of items being auctioned and the number of people who place bids on those items. Please help spread the word about JUMP seeking donations for the auction and encouraging people to bid on items in February.

Please contact Margaret Welch for more information: 802-862-2428 or auction@jumpvt.org.

Community Concerts @ First presents—Paul Asbell, Blues Guitar

Sunday February 5, 2023 at 3pm in the Sanctuary ~ \$20 suggested donation

Please join us for the first concert of the 2023 CC@F season! Blues guitarist Paul Asbell will share fresh takes on blues and jazz standards, old-timey country tunes, and original pieces from the "American roots" tradition.

Concert proceeds will support Essex CHIPS and FCCEJ. Tickets are available by calling the church office or online via this link: <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/118903>

Dates to Remember:

Monday, January 9—Heavenly Food Pantry Distribution, 2:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 13—Farewell Potluck dinner for Pastor Josh, 6pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 15—Pastor Josh final Sunday at FCCEJ

Monday, January 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Church office closed all day

Sunday, January 22—FCCEJ Staffing Model Congregational Discussion after each service

Wed., February 1—FCCEJ Staffing Model Congregational Discussion, 7pm, Marvin Lounge

Sunday, February 5—FCCEJ Annual Meeting

Weekly Calendar: January 1- January 8

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, January 8

8:30am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
11:30am: Music Committee, Sanctuary
Junior Youth, Youth Room, Marvin Lounge
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm: HS Youth, Youth Room, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, January 10

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, Sanctuary
6:30pm: BSA Three Rivers District Roundtable, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, January 12

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, January 14

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 9

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
2:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, January 11

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

Friday, January 13

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6pm: Pastor Josh Farewell Potluck, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

Sunday, January 15

8:30am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

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

Men at First Director: Bill Bickford

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