



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 Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

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

Gymnopédie No. 1

Erik Satie **

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

Oh, I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me
African American spiritual

**

Call to Worship Deacon Alison Wermer

Leader: Welcome to First Congregational Church. Here, we believe that everyone is called by God to live in faith and spread Christ's love to absolutely everyone. Come, let us worship.

People: The Holy Spirit is in all of us, giving us divine gifts to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly in this world. Jesus shows us how to follow.

Leader: Today, we celebrate Rev. Josh Simon's call to ordained ministry and celebrate the good work he has done among us.

People: Thank you, Josh, for sharing your gifts and being with us. We wish you well in your call to be the minister of Emanuel UCC Church in Hales Corner Wisconsin.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls all of us to minister to others. Come, let us recall all the good times and ministry of Rev. Simon. Come, let us gather together to praise the Living God.

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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier **

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic

Psalm 40: 1-11, 16

New Testament Gospel

John 1:35-51

Anthem

Canon for Peace

**

*Composed by Joseph Burt (June 15, 1940-Dec. 30, 2022), dear friend of Pastor Josh,
specifically for Josh's ministry.*

Sermon

Teaching Love

Rev. Joshua Simon

***Hymn**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

#393**

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

Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs

*Tune/Amazing Grace***

Words likely by James O'Kelly

***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**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

#400**

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

Courante from Partita No. 4 in D Major BWV 828

J.S. Bach ******

*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 and the Sanctuary Choir 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 Helen Sims

Family and friends of Joshua LaPierre

Marie Johnson

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 in honor and celebration of
Pastor Josh's ministry.*

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

Fellowship Hall Floor Construction

Construction begins on Monday, January 16. The Fellowship Hall will be completely inaccessible for at least a month. If you have anything in the Fellowship Hall that you need, it must be out before Monday. The main church kitchen will still be accessible through the hallway and back door.

Several groups will be impacted by the construction. This includes but may not be limited to:

Hospitality
Heavenly Food Pantry
Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts
Tai Chi Class

Essex Art League
Blue Spruce Grange
Brown Bag Fellowship
Burlington Amateur Radio Club

Coffee Hour will be in Marvin Lounge on Sunday mornings

Brown Bag Fellowship will also meet in Marvin Lounge.

Most other groups will meet in the Gym. If you or your committee regularly meet in Fellowship Hall or if you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

While this does pose an inconvenience for our committees and groups, the end result of a beautiful and structurally sound new floor in the Fellowship Hall. We'll send/publish updates as the construction comes to a close. We appreciate your support and patience!

Community Concerts @ First presents Paul Asbell Plays & Sings Steel-String Americana

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

Sunday, January 22 FCCEJ Staff Model Congregational Discussion after each service,
2nd Floor Program Room

Sunday, January 29 2023 Budget Informational Meeting after each service,
2nd Floor Program Room

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

Sunday, February 5 FCCEJ Annual Meeting, One service at 10am
Community Concert, 5pm in the Sanctuary

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.

Pillow Drive

Missions is sponsoring a pillow drive during January. New pillows are a high demand item as new Vermonters settle into their homes. Please bring only new pillows in their original wrappings to the church office by January 17th, and Missions Committee members will deliver them to USCRI-Vermont for you. What a nice way to welcome our new neighbors with a clean place to lay their heads!

Bridge Group

On the third Friday of each month, a group [1-3 tables] gets together to have some fun playing bridge. The purpose is fun and there are no master points awarded, just a jar of Pastor Mark's yummy jam for the winner. We usually have some cookies and snacks as well as quite a bit of interesting conversations. There are all levels of players and everyone is welcome including folks who do not attend our worship services or church.

Our next gathering is Friday, January 20 from 1:30 to 4pm in Marvin Lounge.

Giving Envelopes

Our giving envelopes were delayed in production due to supply chain and staffing shortages. Our vendor will get them sent to us as soon as they're able. We'll keep you updated as we hear more from them and thank you for your patience.

Weekly Calendar: January 15—January 22

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, January 15

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

Tuesday, January 17

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10:15am: Tai Chi Class, Gym
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary
Trustees, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Missions, Marvin Lounge
CE, 2nd Floor Program Room
Communications, Zoom

Thursday, January 19

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
5:30pm: *Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*
6:30pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm: Open & Affirming Sub-Committee,
2nd Floor Program Room

Saturday, January 21

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

8am: *The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
Piano Lesson, Sanctuary

Monday, January 16

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

Church Office Closed All Day

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Wednesday, January 18

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

8:30am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop-Off,
Kitchen & Gym
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6pm: *BSA Troop 624 Leaders, Gym*
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers,
Marvin Lounge

Friday, January 20

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge
7pm: *Burlington Amateur Radio Club,*
Marvin Lounge

Sunday, January 22

FELLOWSHIP HALL UUNDER CONSTRUCTION

8:30am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
4pm: Young Apostles, 2nd Floor Program Room
& Gym

Events in italics = Local Community Groups