



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 Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

Second 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*

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

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Paul Baloche**

Call to Worship Deacon Alison Wermer

Leader: Epiphany is a time when we look at the dramatic and powerful scenes of Jesus' life and ministry and see how God moved through him. In three years, Jesus' preaching, teaching, miracles, sacrifice and eventual rising founded a movement that boasts billions of followers today.

People: There are ebbs and flows, highpoints and low points, successes and failures in any movement, but Christ's Way continues to adapt and change with the cultures and seasons of the world.

Leader: Some of us follow Christ because we believe in his divinity. Some of us follow Jesus because his teachings still ring true as a guide for our living. Some of us follow the Prince of Peace because he still advocates for the poor and oppressed. Some of us follow the Wonderful Counsellor because he resides in our hearts and restores our souls. Come, let us follow Jesus and sing of his glory.

*Opening Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus
[handout]

Horatius Bonar**

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. 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 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	<i>Holy Ground</i>	Christopher Beatty **
This is holy ground, we're standing on holy ground.		
For our God is present, and where God is, is holy.		
This is holy ground, we're standing on holy ground.		
For our God is present, and where God is, is holy.		

New Testament Gospel Reading Matthew 4:12-5:14 [page 3]

Anthem *Live Like That* Frey, McDonald and Glover **

Sermon *The Beginnings* 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

John Bell**

***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**

***City of God*
[handout]**

Dan Shutte**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

*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 Rick Dooley & Finally @ First 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

Altar flowers are a great way to celebrate milestones and honor loved ones.

Follow this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a48aaad2ca2ff2-2023#/>

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—currently on hiatus
- ♦ **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 is underway and the Fellowship Hall remains completely inaccessible. The main church kitchen is 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.
- Tai Chi Class will take a hiatus for the duration of construction.

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:

- 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, 3pm in the Sanctuary

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 22—January 29

FELLOWSHIP HALL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, January 22

8:30am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
9:30 & 11:15am: FCCEJ Staffing Model Discussion,
2nd Floor Program Room
10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
4pm: Young Apostles, Program Room & Gym

Tuesday, January 24

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary
5:30pm: Finance Committee, Marvin Lounge
6pm: Tiger Den, 2nd Floor Program Room
7pm: Stewardship Committee, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, January 26

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Gym
9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
2pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Gym
5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary
6pm: Lion Den, 2nd Floor Program Room
6:30pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm: Eagle Scout Review, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Daycare Space Planning, Conference Room
Racial Justice Task Force, Youth Room

Saturday, January 28

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

Monday, January 23

11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group,
2nd Floor Program Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, January 25

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

Friday, January 27

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
4pm: Blue Spruce Grange,
2nd Floor Program Room

Sunday, January 29

8:30am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
9:30 & 11:15am: 2023 Budget Info Meeting,
2nd Floor Program Room
10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
11:30am: Junior Youth, Youth Room
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
3pm: Phyllis Willey & Friends, Marvin Lounge

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@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