



# 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

## *The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

January 22, 2023

*Our First Service with organ and traditional choir is streamed and begins at 8:30am with access on our webpage: [www.fccej.org](http://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

*Canticle of the Sun*

Marty Haugen\*\*

Call to Worship ..... Deacon Alison Wermer (1st Service)  
Deacon Maureen McKenzie (2nd Service)

Leader: O people of God, come and make your case before the Lord. Come and tell our God why you no longer praise the name of the Living God.

**People: We are busy and it is hard to see your hand in the day to day activities of life. We wonder where you are God.**

Leader: Our God has saved you and lifted you up. The Lord has taught you how to live and how to love. Our Creator has offered us beauty and sustenance beyond compare. Why can't God's people see the Divine right in front of their eyes?

**People: Shall we offer sacrifices or offerings to God? Shall we come and bow down and offer our public praise to our Maker? What does God want from us?**

Leader: God has told you what good is desired by the faithful: to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

\*Opening Hymn

*Blest Are They  
[handout]*

*David Haas\*\**

Prayer of Invocation & **Unison Lord's Prayer**..... Deacon  
**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..... C.E. Director Laurie Chipman

**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.

*\*Transition to Peer Groups at Second Service.  
Parents, please pick up your children by 11:30.*

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer  
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

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

Scripture Reading		
Old Testament	Micah 6:1-8	[page 672]
New Testament	I Corinthians 1:10:31	[page 127]

Anthem	<i>Remedy</i>	Zac Brown Band **
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Sermon	<i>The Church: Then and Now</i>	Rev. Mark Mendes
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Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church.....Rev. Ron Faux

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

Invitation

Offertory

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Richard Gillard\*\*

**\*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**

***Sing Out, Earth and Skies!*  
[handout]**

**Marty Haugen\*\***

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](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.
- ◆ 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](mailto: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

Marie Johnson

Maureen Evans

LaPierre Family

Elizabeth Stone

Bernie Currier

Joyce Jacobs

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

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

- Coffee Hour is in Marvin Lounge on Sunday mornings.
- Brown Bag Fellowship also meets 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:

<b>Sunday, January 29</b> .....	2023 Budget Informational Meeting after each service, 2nd Floor Program Room
<b>Wed., February 1</b> .....	FCCEJ Staff Model Congregational Discussion, 7pm, Marvin Lounge
<b>Sunday, February 5</b> .....	One service at 10am FCCEJ Annual Meeting, 11:15am in the Sanctuary Community Concert, 3pm in the Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, February 12</b> .....	Pulpit Exchange w/ Rev. Karen Mendes
<b>Wednesday, February 22</b> .....	Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, February 26</b> .....	FCCEJ Leadership Training at 1pm, Fellowship Hall (hopefully)

## 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 29—February 5**

## **FELLOWSHIP HALL UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

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

### **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 & Kitchen  
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
*Phyllis Willey & Friends,*  
*2nd Floor Program Room*

### **Tuesday, January 31**

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge  
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary  
6:30pm: *Eagle Scout BoR,*  
*2nd Floor Program Room*

### **Thursday, February 2**

8:30am: *Essex Art League, Gym*  
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
5:30pm: *Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*  
6:30pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Saturday, February 4**

8am: *The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*  
9:30am: *Craft Group, Marvin Lounge*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

### **Monday, January 30**

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Kitchen & Gym  
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
5pm: Thrift Shop Advisory Board, Marvin Lounge  
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

### **Wednesday, February 1**

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
6pm: *BSA Troop 624 PLC, Marvin Lounge*  
6:30pm: *Eagle Scout BoR,*  
*2nd Floor Program Room*  
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge  
*BSA Troop 624, Gym*

### **Friday, February 3**

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

### **Sunday, February 5**

10am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming  
10:15am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd grade)  
11:15am: FCCEJ Annual Meeting, Sanctuary  
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
3pm: Paul Asbell Concert, Sanctuary

*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