



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
Palm Sunday—April 2, 2023

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

Prelude Adagio from *Suite #2 in F Major* G.F. Handel**

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Greeting and Announcements

We encourage everyone, both guests and members, to sign the Friendship Book and check any categories of need that might be appropriate. This will allow the church and her staff to best serve you. Thank you.

Call to Worship Deacon Judy McCullen (8:30)
Deacon Rusty Sargent (10:15)

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: Thank you, God, for life and love.

Leader: We come to hear God's word of hope.

People: Thank you, God, for giving me a reason to face each day.

Leader: We come here today to listen to beautiful music of faith.

People: Thank you, God, for a dynamite choir that inspires us all.

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise the Living God of the Universe!

Opening Hymn** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* **#216*

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon Judy McCullen (8:30)
Deacon Rusty Sargent (10:15)

Children's Message

Palm Sunday Scripture Lesson Matthew 21:1-11 [page 17]

Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

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.



A Musical Cantata by the Sanctuary Choir
Bethany Blake Directing

The Power of the Cross: Christ's Passion, Our Redemption**
by Mark Hayes

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hosanna

Trumpet: Brian Chipman

Come to the Table

Trust in the Lord

Lamb of God

Pieta

Soloist: Denise Keating

The Power of the Cross

The final movement of the cantata, *Crown Him with Many Crowns*,
will be performed on Easter Sunday at the first service.

Soprano:

Diane Bottamini
Brenda Dawson
Marie Johnson
Terri Livak
Amanda Palmer
Judy Pomainville

Alto:

Denise Keating
Gretchen Owens
Andrea Sharp
Carolyn Toof
Beth Volker
Narrator:
Bart Frisbie

Tenor:

David Johnson
Doug Olufsen
Pete Schmalz

Bass:

Michael Bottamini
Francis Gravel



The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation and Words of Institution

Music *Fantasy in A Minor* BWV 904 Johann Sebastian Bach**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will partake of communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person. The Minister will direct everyone to dip your pieces of bread into the cup and partake. When each cup is received, everyone is welcome to partake when they choose. This symbolizes both the individual and corporate nature of our faith. All are welcome at Christ's table.

***Closing Hymn** *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* #476**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction Rev. Mark Mendes

*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 *Allegro from Suite #2 in F Major* G.F. Handel**

*Please stand as you are able

**Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.

The offering today will be taken by people placing their gift to the church in a basket in the back on your way out. Thank you for supporting Bethany and the extensive volunteering of our magnificent Sanctuary Choir!

A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ 8:30 and 10:15. Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej) (8:30 service only)
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Spiritual Friends for PreK through 2nd at 10:30 in Peer Rooms
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech!

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

Peter Gray, Pam Blake and Don Gray
Family and Friends of Nadine Hoffman
Family and Friends of Mally Powell

Jacki Knapp
Russ & Alma Wilson
Kathy Galbraith
John Venner

Elizabeth Stone

Bernie Currier
Joyce Jacobs
Grace Goodwin
Dan Harmon

All those suffering due to violence in Ukraine
...and all persons affected by COVID19

***This is the last Sunday to place your Easter flower orders!
Fill out the purple insert & leave it in the offering plate.
Our Sanctuary will be transformed on Easter Sunday!***

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

Easter Breakfast Helpers Needed

Saturday set up & 3 shifts on Easter morning:

www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545a8ab2faaf58-easter#/

Breakfast menu is pancakes (gluten free option), bacon, sausage, eggs, fruit, maple syrup, other toppings, juice, coffee/tea

Serving from 7am to 10am

CWS Welcome Backpacks

Help our children & youth fill 15 backpacks on April 16th during 2nd service:

www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0545A8AB2FAAF58-cwswelcome

Easter Call To Care Baskets

We will be assembling the Easter baskets this Tuesday, April 4 in Marvin Lounge after Sermon Talkback (around 10:15am).

Distribution/Delivery of baskets will be April 5-9. If you are able and willing to deliver baskets, please contact Jenn in the church office. Thank you!

Vacation Bible Camp 2023 - Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God!

August 7-11, 2023 - Outside on the church lawn or inside on a rainy day.

<https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/vacation-bible-camp/vb-camp-registration/>

Morning Session: Drop off between 8:45-9am

You & Me Toddler (attend with an adult) up thru current 5th graders

Youth Assistants – current 6th—12th graders

Closing segment of the morning session starts at 11:30. Parents are encouraged to arrive by 11:45, or before, to hear the topics of the morning and pick up their children who are not registered for the afternoon session.

Afternoon Session: Immediately after morning session till 4pm

Parents – here is your full day option – cost is \$50/afternoon or \$250 for the full week. Scholarships are available.

Campers have lunch, watch a movie, do a VBC mission/art project and play games.

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

Sunday April 30, 2023 at 3pm in the Sanctuary ~ \$20 suggested donation

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 via this link: <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/118903>

Planned Giving Seminar - Thursday, May 4 at 6:30pm

Holly LeMieux, a local estate planning attorney, will be the presenter. Covered topics will include estate planning, wills, and elder law. Whether FCCEJ benefits from your planned giving or not, the Planned Giving Committee encourages everyone to have a written plan (such as a will, trust or estate plan). This event is free and open to church members and friends of FCCEJ.

Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.

Weekly Calendar: April 2—April 9

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, April 2—Palm Sunday

Sanctuary Choir Cantata, Holy Communion

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship,

Sanctuary & Streaming*

10:30am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd),

Peer Rooms

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 4

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

6pm: Floor Construction Finalize, Fellowship Hall

6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, 2nd Floor Program Room

BSA Troop 624 District Meeting, Gym

7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, April 6—Maundy Thursday

8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary

6pm: Maundy Thursday Service, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 8

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 3

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

6pm: Floor Construction Finalize, Fellowship Hall

7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, April 5

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6pm: BSA Troop 624 PLC, Marvin Lounge

7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge

BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 7—Good Friday

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

3pm: Prayer Vigil Begins

7pm: Good Friday Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, April 9—Easter Sunday

6:30am: Sunrise Service, Holy Family Gazebo

7am-10am: Easter Breakfast,

FCCEJ Fellowship Hall

8:30* & 10:15am: All-Family Worship,

Sanctuary & Streaming*

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Ministers of Visitation:

Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com] / Mary McHugh [mmmchugh@hotmail.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]

Assistant Treasurer: Matt Clark [mclarkdiscovery@myfairpoint.net]

Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel & Steve Wood

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Derek Lyman

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

Nominating: Dick Harris

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Kaki McGeary

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert