



# 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**

**April 9, 2023 - Second Service**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

*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 for infants through 3 y/o is available at both services.*

**Currently, mask wearing is determined by the individual.**

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

*Order of Worship*

Prelude by Sanctuary Choir

*Ye Servants of God*

Words: Charles Wesley\*\*  
Tune: Paderborn, arr. Marion Vree

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.*

Introit by Heavenly Harmony

*We Will Praise You*

Michael Praetorius\*\*  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Passing Out the Alleluias.....Rev. Mark & our Children

Call to Worship .....Deacon Judy McCullen

Leader: Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is Risen indeed!**

Leader: Jesus spent three years preaching a message of love, compassion, justice, and forgiveness. He came from a town of roughly 500 people, was a member of a small religious tradition and an insignificant nation.

**People: Humble beginnings often yield tremendous results and small starts can have extraordinary trajectories. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.**

Leader: Jesus preached and healed people, but more importantly, he lived what he preached and with great empathy embodied humanity's anguished pain found in everyday life.

**People: How Jesus lived challenges us to love God, our neighbor, ourselves, and our enemies. We are called to make our families, our workplaces, our communities, our nation and our world better.**

Leader: Christ's resurrection, Christ's extraordinary life, Christ's embodiment of pure love offers us hope to do great things, overcome all evil and offer meaning to a lost world. Amen and Alleluia!

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

**#233\*\***

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Judy McCullen

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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray...

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

***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.***

Response by Sanctuary Choir

*Prayer: Alleluia*

Trad. Honduran\*\*  
arr. Rob Glover

**\*Hymn** *In the Bulb there is a Flower* #433\*\*

Scriptural Resurrection Story Matthew 28:1-20 [page 26]

Sanctuary Choir Anthem *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Mark Hayes  
Final Movement of Palm Sunday's Cantata

Easter Meditation *The Scandal of the Resurrection* Rev. Mark Mendes

Celebrating Our Giving to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Largo from Symphony No. 9* Antonín Dvořák\*\*

**\*Doxology** **Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us** #252\*\*

**Savior Like a Shepherd, Lead us, much we need thy tender care  
In your pleasant pasture, feed us, for our use your folds prepare  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, you have bought us, thine we are.**

**\*Hymn** *We Would Be Building* #607\*\*

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: Sanctuary Choir *Christ the Lord is Risen* Ghanian folk song\*\*  
Adapt. Tom Colvin, arr. Kevin Hackett

\*Please stand as you are able

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## 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

Peter Gray, Pam Blake and Don Gray

Family and Friends of Nadine Hoffman

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

### A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ Regular Sunday Morning Worship -
  - ⇒ 8:30 and 10:15. Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej) (8:30 service only)
  - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.
  - ⇒ Faith Formation Peer Groups for PreK through 8th grades during 2nd service
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech!
- ◆ Thank you to Bethany Blake and the Sanctuary Choir for the beautiful music today and special thanks to Brian Chipman for sharing his talents on the trumpet!

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

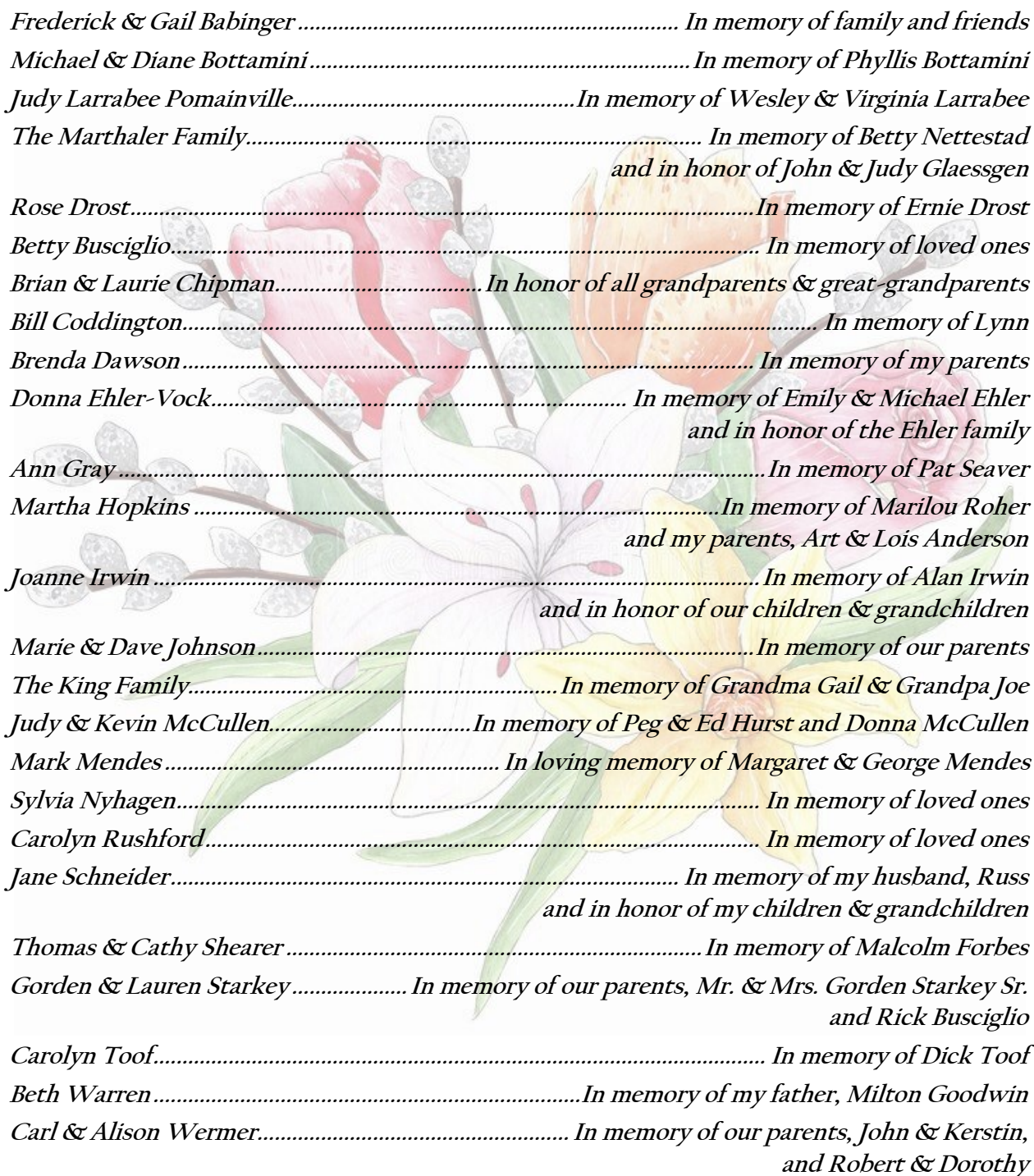
[fccej.org](http://fccej.org)



YOUTUBE

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

# *Easter Flower Dedications*

- 
- Frederick & Gail Babinger* ..... *In memory of family and friends*
- Michael & Diane Bottamini* ..... *In memory of Phyllis Bottamini*
- Judy Larrabee Pomainville* ..... *In memory of Wesley & Virginia Larrabee*
- The Marthaler Family* ..... *In memory of Betty Nettetstad  
and in honor of John & Judy Glaessgen*
- Rose Drost* ..... *In memory of Ernie Drost*
- Betty Busciglio* ..... *In memory of loved ones*
- Brian & Laurie Chipman* ..... *In honor of all grandparents & great-grandparents*
- Bill Coddington* ..... *In memory of Lynn*
- Brenda Dawson* ..... *In memory of my parents*
- Donna Ehler-Vock* ..... *In memory of Emily & Michael Ehler  
and in honor of the Ehler family*
- Ann Gray* ..... *In memory of Pat Seaver*
- Martha Hopkins* ..... *In memory of Marilou Roher  
and my parents, Art & Lois Anderson*
- Joanne Irwin* ..... *In memory of Alan Irwin  
and in honor of our children & grandchildren*
- Marie & Dave Johnson* ..... *In memory of our parents*
- The King Family* ..... *In memory of Grandma Gail & Grandpa Joe*
- Judy & Kevin McCullen* ..... *In memory of Peg & Ed Hurst and Donna McCullen*
- Mark Mendes* ..... *In loving memory of Margaret & George Mendes*
- Sylvia Nyhagen* ..... *In memory of loved ones*
- Carolyn Rushford* ..... *In memory of loved ones*
- Jane Schneider* ..... *In memory of my husband, Russ  
and in honor of my children & grandchildren*
- Thomas & Cathy Shearer* ..... *In memory of Malcolm Forbes*
- Gorden & Lauren Starkey* ..... *In memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Gorden Starkey Sr.  
and Rick Busciglio*
- Carolyn Toof* ..... *In memory of Dick Toof*
- Beth Warren* ..... *In memory of my father, Milton Goodwin*
- Carl & Alison Wermer* ..... *In memory of our parents, John & Kerstin,  
and Robert & Dorothy*

## **Next Sunday, April 16 ~A Capital Campaign Celebration**

### **~Our Home, Our Future, Our Time~**

~Worship Services @ 8:30\* and 10:15am - In-person and streaming\*~

During the last week of March, we completed the final project [Fellowship Hall Floor] of the *Our Home, Our Future and Our Time* Capital Campaign. We kicked off the campaign with initial pledges of \$650,000 out of our stated goal of \$822,000. Our church had never raised such an amount and no one was sure we could do it, so we added a number of projects as a stretch goal which then totaled \$1.09 million and to everyone's delighted surprise we ended up raising \$1,148,809! Almost every room, surface, and floor in our facility has been upgraded and our church facility is in the best shape it's been in over 60 years! We will celebrate this great accomplishment in worship at both services. You will not want to miss this **PARTY!**

## **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 9—April 16

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

### 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*

### Tuesday, April 11

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  
3pm: Blind Install, Fellowship Hall  
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary  
*6:30pm: Boy Scout 3 Rivers District Roundtable,  
Fellowship Hall & 2nd Floor Program Room*  
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge

### Thursday, April 13

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge  
*10:15am: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### Saturday, April 15

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*  
*9am: Reiki Class, Marvin Lounge*  
*9:30am: Weight Loss Support Group,  
2nd Floor Program Room*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### Monday, April 10

8:30am: Food Pantry Set Up, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution,  
Fellowship Hall  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

### Wednesday, April 12

*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: Searchers, Marvin Lounge  
*BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

### Friday, April 14

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
10:15am: Jamaica Team Meeting, Marvin Lounge  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*4pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall*  
*6pm: BSA Troop 624 Camp Out, Church Grounds*

### Sunday, April 16

8:30\* & 10:15am: Worship,  
Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
10:30am: Faith Formation Peer Groups  
(Prek-8th grade), Peer Rooms  
11:30am: Music Committee, Sanctuary  
Racial Justice Task Force, Marvin Lounge  
Junior Youth, Youth Room  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*