



# **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 of Easter

April 30, 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. Our Faith Formation Program for all children is in person starts at 10:30am.*

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

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

### Order of Worship

#### 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

*Born This Way*

Stefani Germanotta  
Jeppe Laursen\*\*

Call to Worship ..... Deacon Judy McCullen (1st Service)  
Deacon Rusty Sargent (2nd Service)

**Leader:** In the beginning, the Spirit of God swept over the waters and brought order to the chaos. Whenever the ancient battle arises and order triumphs over anarchy, God's presence is alive and well.

**People:** God's Spirit calls us to bring order to chaos.

**Leader:** As the human family developed, God inspired prophets and teachers to offer healthy behaviors that led to a well organized and just society.

**People:** God's Spirit calls us to follow laws that engender peace.

**Leader:** Jesus went even deeper, challenging people to live not to the letter of the law, but into a way of love that permeates all aspects of our being.

**People:** Jesus' Spirit calls us to live a life of love.

Leader: Come, let us worship a God that calls us in myriad ways to live lives of meaning and joy. Come, let us step into the mystery of our God.

**\*Opening Hymn**

***Open the Eyes of My Heart***  
**[handout]**

**Paul Baloche\*\***

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Judy McCullen (1st Service)  
Deacon Rusty Sargent (2nd Service)

Children's Message

**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.**

*\*PreK through 8th grade transition to Faith Formation Peer Groups at 2nd Service.  
Parents, please pick up your children by 11:30.*

Pastoral Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Response

***Rise Up***

**Andra Day\*\***

**I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day,  
I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid,  
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.  
I'll rise up, high like the waves.  
I'll rise up, in spite of the ache.  
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.  
And I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll rise up. I'll rise.**

New Testament Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

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Anthem

*Show Me the Way*

Denis DeYoung\*\*

Sermon

*"The Fleeting Nature of the Resurrection"*

Rev. Mark Mendes

## Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Who Am I*

Mark Hall\*\*

**\*Doxology**

**#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.**

**\*Hymn**

*I Come to the Garden Alone*

**#237\*\***

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.**

\*Please stand as you are able

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### **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 Rick Dooley & Finally @ First Praise Band 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@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.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  
Bruce Parker  
Jacki Knapp  
Russ & Alma Wilson  
Kathy Galbraith

John Venner  
Elizabeth Stone  
Bernie Currier  
Grace Goodwin  
Dan Harmon

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



***Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor your loved ones.***

***Use Sign-Up Genius or call the church office for available dates:***

***<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://fcej.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

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



YOUTUBE

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

## **Faith Formation Peer Groups for 2022-23**

All ages are encouraged to ask questions, as we learn together about Jesus and the love our God has for everyone. Today, April 30—Peer Groups for PreK through 8th grade

**Young Apostles**—May 7th from 4-5pm

3rd – 5th graders with a parent/guardian/grandparent

Guest Janne Giles, retired school teacher, and her large Vermont floor map.

**Junior Youth ~ Sundays from 11:30-1:30pm**

May 7th & 21st ~ inviting this year's 5th graders to JY time ~ activity plans are in process

**High School Youth—Wednesdays 1:45pm – 3:15pm @ FCCEJ**

May 3rd & 17 - Reach out to Laurie and let her know you are coming. Snacks provided. Come unwind and destress. *No gatherings on school break weeks.*

**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*) 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– 4pm**

Parents, here is your full day option! Cost is \$50/afternoon or \$250 for the week. Scholarships are available. Campers have lunch, watch movies, do VBC mission/art projects and play games.

**New Member Class—May 21st at 11:30am in Marvin Lounge**

If you are interested in becoming a member of FCCEJ, then you are invited to attend our New Members Class. Together we are stronger. Together we can continue to change our corner of Christ's kingdom. Together we can commit to a journey with other like minded folks as we search for God's presence and guidance in our lives.

Lunch will be provided and if you need child care, contact the church office [802 878-5745].

**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.

**Spring Garden Work Day - Saturday, May 6th—8:30-noon**

Spring is in the air! Please join the Trustees for a work day to spruce up our garden beds and spread some mulch... many hands make light work! Come for the whole time or just stop by for an hour or two... any help is greatly appreciated. Many thanks!

# Weekly Calendar: April 30—May 7

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

## Sunday, April 30

8:30\* & 10:15am: Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
10:30am: Peer Groups for PreK through 8th,  
Peer Rooms  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
3pm: Paul Asbell Concert, Sanctuary

## Tuesday, May 2

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  
*6:30pm: BSA Troop 624 District Meeting,  
Fellowship Hall*  
7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

## Thursday, May 4

*8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*  
*6pm: Cub Scouts Pack Meeting, Gym*  
6:30pm: Financial Planning Seminar,  
Fellowship Hall  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Saturday, May 6

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*  
*Give It A Go Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*Cub Scout Class, Marvin Lounge*  
8:30am: Spring Work Day, Church Grounds  
*9:30am: Weight Loss Support Group,  
2nd Floor Program Room*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*3pm: McCloe Birthday Party, Fellowship Hall*

## Monday, May 1

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
5pm: Thrift Shop Advisory Board, Marvin Lounge  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## Wednesday, May 3

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
2pm: Senior High Youth, Youth Room  
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, May 5

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*4pm: Cub Scout Class, Marvin Lounge*

## Sunday, May 7

8:30\* & 10:15am: Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
10:30am: Spiritual Friends (PreK—2nd grade)  
11:30am: Junior Youth, Youth Room  
Music Committee, Sanctuary  
Racial Justice Task Force,  
Marvin Lounge  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
4pm: Young Apostles, 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

*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

*Music:* Denise Keating

*Nominating:* Dick Harris

*Stewardship:* Kathryn Brennan

*Trustees:* Kaki McGeary

*Ushering:* Carl Wermer

## Recognized Groups

*Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop:* Sandy Tallman

*Heavenly Food Pantry:* Valerie Gabert