



# **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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

### First Service

*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 PreK through 8th grade 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

Prelude *Impromptu In A-Flat Major, Op. 90, No. 4* Franz Schubert  
[excerpt]

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.*

Musical Introit *Alleluia* Traditional Honduran\*\*  
arr. Rob Glover

Call to Worship .....Deacon Bob Driver

Leader: Thank you, God, for the beauty of the earth. We are blessed in Vermont with green hills, delightful waters and colors that burst upon us in the springtime.

**People: Thank you, God, for the lilacs, and peonies, the azaleas and dandelions, the magnolias and forsythia, the tulips and daffodils, and for the hyacinths and pansies. Your colors awaken us every day!**

Leader: Thank you, God, for the beauty of our people. We are blessed with goodness and kindness all around.

**People:** Thank you, God, for families that love us, friends that enjoy the ups and downs of life with us, church folk who struggle and celebrate God's faith planted within us. And for neighbors and strangers who seek the betterment of society.

Leader: Come, let us pray for God's many connections with us and then let us sing with gusto for God's presence with us throughout our lives. May we always be filled with joy and wonder.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer

***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.

\*Opening Hymn                      *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*                      #351\*\*

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Response                      *Ubi Caritas (Live in Charity)*                      Jacques Berthier\*\*

New Testament Gospel Reading                      John 21:1-17                      [page 88]

Anthem                      *For the Beauty of the Earth*                      John Rutter\*\*

Sermon                      *The Dynamics of Faith*                      Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory                      *Love the Lord Your God*                      Jean & Jim Strathdee\*\*

\*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**

***Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

**#292\*\***

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

*Children's Song No. 4*

Chick Corea\*\*  
arr. Jeff Tincher

\*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://www.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 today
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech!
- ◆ Thank you to Bethany Blake & the Sanctuary Choir for the beautiful music today!

## **Summer Schedule—June through Labor Day**

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
  - ⇒ One service at 9am. Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)
  - ⇒ All Family Worship—Faith Formation on hiatus till September
  - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month
  - ⇒ Rev. Mark on vacation June 26 through August 2

## **Summer Music Sign-Ups**

- ◆ We are looking to supplement our summer worship services with guest artists. If you are interested in sharing a gift of music one or more Sundays, please contact the church office or sign up on the clipboard. Thank you!

## **FCCEJ Outdoor Ministry Camping Trips**

### **(Friday afternoon to Sunday morning)**

Whether you like to camp in a tent, lean-to or a camper we hope you will join us!

- ◆ Friday, June 23 to Sunday morning, Jun 25 at Button Bay State Park on Lake Champlain <https://www.vtstateparks.com/buttonbay.html> (6 tent/RV sites and 3 lean-tos)
- ◆ Friday, August 25 to Sunday morning, August 27 at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore <https://www.vtstateparks.com/branbury.html> (5 tent/RV sites, 1 tent only)

## **Celebrating Graduates**

Do you have a graduate in the family? Graduation Sunday is June 18!

Email Jen at the church office ([welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)) the following info:

- ◆ Name of graduate
- ◆ Graduation/recent picture & baby/young picture
- ◆ School (high school, undergrad, graduate) & degree if applicable
- ◆ Their plans for the future

The deadline for submissions is noon, June 14. Contact the church office for more information.

## **Donate to FCCEJ**

Your donations support music, youth, missions, adult enrichment, Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, and more! We are also a United Church of Christ “5 for 5” participant in these fundraisers: Per Capita, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund. Here are a few ways that you may help our ministry:

- ⇒ Send a Check or use BillPay. This is a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail. Please contact your banking institution for details. Please note the reason for your donation in the check’s memo line (e.g., “missions”).
- ⇒ Send money via PayPal. Visit [paypal.me/fccej](https://www.paypal.me/fccej). (A PayPal account is not required to donate.)

## 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

Father of Adam Hoy

Jacki Knapp

Bruce Parker

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://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**, 1st and 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)

## **Faith Formation Peer Groups**

All ages are encouraged to ask questions, as we learn together about Jesus and the love our God has for everyone. Today, May 14—Peer Groups for PreK through 8th grade

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

May 21st – Pizza Party, Thrift Shop tour & 5th graders are invited to join in the fun!

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

May 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.



**SCAN ME**

## **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].

## **FCCEJ Intergenerational Service Trips**

The Jamaica Leadership team is excited to announce that we are expanding and re-envisioning our FCCEJ intergenerational service trips! For 2024, we have chosen to do a trip within the United States, working with an organization called Global Volunteers.

We will travel to the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana June 22-29, 2024 for a week of cultural immersion and service. For full details visit <https://globalvolunteers.org/usa-montana/>.

# Weekly Calendar: May 14—May 21

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

## Sunday, May 14

8:30\* & 10:15am: Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
10:30am: Peer Groups (PreK—8th grade)  
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## Tuesday, May 16

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  
7pm: Missions, Marvin Lounge  
Communications, Conference Room  
CE, 2nd Floor Program Room  
Church Safety Training, Fellowship Hall

## Thursday, May 18

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
5:30pm: *Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
Open & Affirming Sub-Committee,  
2nd Floor Program Room

## Saturday, May 20

8am: *The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*  
*Give It A Go Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
9:30am: *Weight Loss Support Group,*  
*Fellowship Hall*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
11am: *Reiki Class, Marvin Lounge*  
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## Monday, May 15

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall  
10am: *Art Group, 2nd Floor Program Room*  
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge  
*Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
5pm: *Essex Junction Cemetery Association*  
*Annual Meeting, Fellowship Hall*  
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## Wednesday, May 17

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  
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge  
*BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

## Friday, May 19

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge  
7pm: *Burlington Amateur Radio Club,*  
*Fellowship Hall*

## Sunday, May 21

8:30\* & 10:15am: Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
10:30am: Peer Groups (PreK—8th grade)  
11:30am: Junior Youth, 2nd Floor Program Room  
and Kitchen  
Music Library Organization, Sanctuary  
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*