



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

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 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. 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

Gymnopédie No. 1

Erik Satie**

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

*As a Fire is Meant for Burning
Music from *The Sacred Harp**

Text, Ruth Duck**
Harm., Ron Nelson

Call to Worship Deacon Gary Hartmann

Leader: God comes to us in many different forms. The myriad ways highlight God's miraculous manifestations to every race, culture and creed since the beginning of time.

People: Thank you God for enlightening us with your presence and teaching us how to live a life full of meaning and joy.

Leader: Whether we are talking with friends around the dining room table or to strangers on the street, the name of the Lord is to be Praised.

People: Roaming Spirit of the Living God, thank you for stopping in with us today. May your Spirit empower us to discern God's ways in this world.

Leader: Praise be to God.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* **#290*

Children's Message..... Laurie Chipman, CE Director
Award-Winning Playwright, Monroe Shearer

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Musical Response *Kyrie* **
Based on music by Antonín Dvořák; arr. Ruth Elaine Schram, adapt. Gary Alan Smith

Anthem *Sing to the Lord* Deborah Governor**
Featuring Heavenly Harmony

New Testament Scripture Acts 17:16-34 [page 105]

Sermon *The Art of Evangelism* Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *The Lord Bless and Keep You* 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**

For All the Saints

#299**

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, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

Postlude

Sonata in D Minor K. 64

Domenico Scarlatti**

*Please stand as you are able

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 1st 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, the Sanctuary Choir, and Heavenly Harmony 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 1st 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) 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 or call (802) 878-5745.

Victims of gun violence and their families
Peter Gray, Pam Blake and Don Gray
Father of Adam Hoy
Maureen Evens & Family
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

**The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Ginny Coe, in celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary
And by Andrea Sharp in memory of her mother's birthday.**

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



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

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 21—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!

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—Today, 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 is provided.

Wednesday Night Searchers

Starting this Wednesday, May 24, we are beginning a new book, *"The Flag, The Cross, and the Station Wagon"* by Bill McKibben. 12 copies of the book will be available in the Church Office on Monday. Cost is \$15 per book.

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 21—May 28

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, May 21

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

Tuesday, May 23

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
5:30pm: Finance, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Trustees, 2nd Floor Program Room
Stewardship, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, May 25

8am: Food Pantry Set-Up, Fellowship Hall
9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
2pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, May 27

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
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 22

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, May 24

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm: HRC, Conference Room
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 26

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 28

8:30* & 10:15am: Sanctuary & Streaming*
All Family Worship
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1:30pm: Craft Group, Marvin Lounge

Events in italics = Local Community Groups