



# **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



## Pentecost Sunday

May 28, 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.*

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

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

### Order of Worship

Prelude

*Come, Holy Spirit*

Mark Foreman\*\*

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

*Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream*  
Beth Volker, Soloist

Ed McCurdy\*\*

Call to Worship .....Deacon Bob Driver

**Leader:** Today is Pentecost Sunday, the third most important church celebration after Easter and Christmas. On Pentecost we remember the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church.

**People:** On that fateful day, the disciples had flames of the Spirit resting on their heads as they shared Jesus' message to strangers in languages they did not understand.

**Leader:** All sorts of people heard Christ's Good News in their native language and took it home, spreading the message far and wide to all nations and peoples.

Rev. Mark Mendes

## Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Veni Sancte Spiritus*  
(Holy Spirit, Come to Us)

Jacques Berthier\*\*

**\*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**

*Forward Through the Ages*

**#377\*\***

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

*Chaconne in F Major*  
[excerpt]

Jacques Du Phly\*\*

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

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

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
  - ⇒ One service at 9am. Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://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.

## 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

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  
Wayne and Nancy Hall in memory of their parents.***



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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

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

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

August 7-11

Bible Stories – Crafts – Science – Music – Snacks - Recreation

All day camp has arrived!

Drop off between 8:45-9am and pick up at 4pm (attend morning session only if you wish)

Ages = You & Me Toddler (with an adult) up to current 5th graders

Morning Volunteers = 6th grade youth and older & adults

Current 8th – 12th graders & college can apply to work the afternoon

Lunch – Movie – Group Project - Games

Afternoon cost is \$250 per camper. Scholarship available!



**SCAN ME**

### **Audio/Visual Support**

We are looking to expand our audio/visual team for Sunday morning worship. This involves running the streaming video for the 8:30 service and controlling the cameras. We will provide all the training needed. Please contact the church office—[welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) if you are interested or would like more information.

### **City of Essex Junction Pride Event**

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

The City of Essex Junction is organizing the FIRST EVER Essex Pride Event at Maple Street Park on Saturday, June 3rd. As an Open and Affirming Congregation, we have been asked to participate in this grand event by hosting yard games for young children and their families. We need ideas, joyful volunteers, and workers to present our church as the welcoming place we know it to be. If you are interested in helping out, let Rev. Mark know. If you have a great idea but cannot make it, then forward your idea to Rev. Mark.

### **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://paypal.me/fccej). (A PayPal account is not required to donate.)

# **Weekly Calendar: May 28—June 4**

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

## **Sunday, May 28**

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

## **Tuesday, May 30**

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

## **Thursday, June 1**

8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*5:30pm: Piano Lesson, Sanctuary*  
*6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, Marvin Lounge*  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## **Saturday, June 3**

*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 29**

**Church Office Closed All Day**  
8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship*  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## **Wednesday, May 31**

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

## **Friday, June 2**

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

## **Sunday, June 4**

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming  
All Family Worship, Communion Sunday  
10am: Ice Cream Social, Fellowship Hall  
11:30am: Music Committee, Sanctuary  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*