



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
Pentecost Sunday
May 28, 2023 - Second 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.

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.

Musical Introit

Open Wide the Doors

Angotti / Dorsch

Call to WorshipDeacon 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.

People: Today, 2030 years later, sitting in Essex Junction Vermont, we hear the gospel in English and the Spirit's call to enliven lives, to speak God's truth to power and to love humanity with abandon.

Leader: Come let us sing praises to our God and be grateful for the cloud of witnesses that has brought such power and truth to us even after all these years.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation.....Deacon Bob Driver

***Opening Hymn**

Gather Us In
[handout]

Marty Haugen

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.**

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Ron Faux

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

Lord I Need You

**Lord I need you, oh I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh God, how I need you.
You're my one defense, my righteousness;
Oh God, how I need you.**

New Testament Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

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A Spiritual Journey by Deacon Judy McCullen

Anthem

Old Church Choir

Wedgeworth, Hulse, & Williams

Sermon

The Work of the Spirit

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

God of Wonders

Byrd / Hindalong

***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**

America the Beautiful

Samuel Augustus Ward

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!**

America! America!

**God shed God's grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness**

America! America!

**God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life.**

America! America!

**May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears.**

America! America!

**God shed God's grace on thee,
And crown thy good with sisterhood
From sea to shining sea.**

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

*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 (8:30 service only)
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech!
- ◆ Thank you to Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band, 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
 - ⇒ 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!

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

A decorative floral border with pink and yellow flowers and green leaves, framing the text above and below it.

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

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

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.

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)

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.

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