



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
A United Church of Christ
June 11, 2023**

During the summer months, we have one service at 9am. During the rest of the year, we offer two distinct worship services. Our 8:30am service with organ and traditional choir is in person and streamed. Access is available through our webpage: www.fccej.org. You can watch that service live or any time thereafter. Our 10:15am service with our praise band is in the Sanctuary and is not streamed.

Our Faith Formation Program for all children is in person starting in September 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

Our Minister will welcome everyone and highlight significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to sign the Friendship Book.

Musical Introit

Instruments of Your Peace

Deby & Kirk Dearman**

Call to Worship Deacon Amy Trimble

Leader: Come, let us seek our God in the midst of a community of faith.

Pulpit Side: We experience God when we hike, swim and play or when we enjoy the beauty of nature.

Lectern Side: We see God in the love we have for our family and friends or in the wonder of the human race.

Pulpit Side: We claim the Spirit of God as we use our mental and physical gifts to make a living or explore the expansive universe.

Lectern Side: We sense the presence of the Divine when we read, reflect and seek the inner peace that comes from wisdom.

Everyone: We bring our many and varied experiences of God to this community to share our journeys, encourage each other to seek the mysterious presence of God, love and support each other, and challenge each other to live better lives.

Leader: Come, let us seek our God in the midst of a community of faith.

*Opening Hymn

We Are Called

David Haas**

[handout]

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon Amy Trimble

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.**

The Reception of New Members

Patty Giroux

Nancy Parker [absentia]

Devon Thomas [absentia]

Congregational Vows, Welcome and Reception

Deacon to the Congregation: Jesus calls us to spread God's extravagant love to all peoples and nations, offering everyone the gift of grace. Do you who witness this rite of membership, promise your support to Patty, Nancy and Devon so that they might live a life where Christ's joy and meaning is manifested?

People: Patty, Nancy and Devon, we welcome you with joy in the communion life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ at First Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Pastoral Prayer & Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

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

Matt Maher**

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.

Anthem *Stand Up* Nettles/Bush**

Scripture

Old Testament 2 Samuel 7:1-17 [page 219]

New Testament Matthew 8:18-22 [page 6]

Summer Meditation *The Scouting Way* Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Celebrating our Faith Formation Offering to Church World Service

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *With My Own Two Hands* Ben Harper**

***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** *Go Make a Difference* Angrisano / Tomaszek **

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction Rev. Mark Mendes

***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.

As the night comes to this land,
On my promise I will stand,
I will help the pack to go,
As our pack helps me to grow.
Yes, I'll always give goodwill,
I'll follow my Akela still.
And before I stop to rest,
I will do my very best.

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfire fades away.
Silently each scout should ask:
"Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared?"

*Please stand as you are able

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A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ Summer Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ 9am — Streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej
 - ⇒ 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 for the beautiful music during worship today!
- ◆ We are pleased to welcome BSA Troop 624 and Cub Scout Pack 630 to worship this morning and thank them for their participation and service.

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

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
Dana Bills
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 Melissa Ward
in honor of all nieces and nephews.*

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 Online Registration! August 7-11

Join us from 9am to 12noon or 9am to 4pm. Scholarship funds available. We are breaking ground with our afternoon session and are looking for campers. Cost should not stop you. Youth are being interviewed. Volunteers are working hard. Please sign up ASAP to help us with preparations.



Community Concerts @ First

On Sunday July 9 at 3pm, Community Concerts @ First will present singer/songwriter Jon Gailmor. Gailmor is passionately committed to the power of music, emotions and laughter, and boy do we need all of them, now! This family-friendly show is appropriate for folks of all ages.

Concert proceeds will support EDD Adaptive Sports and FCCEJ. Tickets are available online with the link below or by phone (802-878-5745) \$20 suggested donation, free for 18 and under. <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/jon-gailmor-7-9-2023>

Celebrating Graduates—Sunday, June 18

Do you have a graduate in the family? Email the following info to church office:

- ◆ 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.

FCCEJ Outdoor Ministry Camping Trips (Friday afternoon to Sunday morning)

- ◆ 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 2 lean-tos)
- ◆ Contact Laurie TODAY if you're interested.

Racial Justice Group

We are excited to be honoring Juneteenth, a day commemorating the end of slavery in the US, with special events.

June 11—Help Make Signs: In preparation for the vigil, on Sunday June 11, we'll be making signs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We'll have all of the materials needed and welcome everyone to get creative and help make signs. This is an activity for all ages and we'd love to have children help! They'll be learning about Juneteenth during the children's time so will have some age-appropriate understanding about why we're making signs.

June 18—Worship: During worship on June 18, there will be a special focus on this holiday through poetry, music, Mark's sermon, and possibly an invited speaker.

June 18—Vigil: Following the service, we'll hold a vigil in front of the church acknowledging and celebrating Juneteenth and the liberation of enslaved Africans across the US. We hope to have a large group of church members standing together to show our acknowledgement of this holiday and our support for racial justice. Please join us!

Weekly Calendar: June 11—June 18

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, June 11

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
All Family Worship - Scout Sunday
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
5pm: Marie Johnson Recital, Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 13

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 District Roundtable, Fellowship Hall
& 2nd Floor Program Room*
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, June 15

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: HRC, Conference Room
7pm: Men @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Open & Affirming Sub-Committee,
2nd Floor Program Room

Saturday, June 17

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, June 12

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution,
Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, June 14

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee, Marvin Lounge
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
6pm: BSA Troop 624 Leaders Meeting,
Marvin Lounge
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, June 16

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, June 18

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
All Family Worship - Scout Sunday
10am: Racial Justice Vigil, Church Grounds
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups