



# **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  
A United Church of Christ  
June 25, 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](http://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*

Prelude Allegro from *Sonatine* Beethoven\*\*

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 Andante from *Surprise Symphony* Josef Haydn\*\*

Call to Worship .....Deacon Donna Burnett

**Leader:** Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. We are glad you have come here to understand Jesus and how we follow in his way.

**Pulpit Side:** For a long time, people and scholars understood Jesus to be a prophet, a priest and a king. He speaks justice, pastors people, and administers civic life.

**Lectern Side:** More recently, scholars understood Jesus to be a Teacher, Savior, Liberator and Presence. He teaches us, saves us, frees us, and walks with us.

**Pulpit Side:** Every culture sees Jesus with their own physical traits, supporting their own nations, purporting to preach their own beliefs, and working to their own visions for the future.

**Leader:** Jesus reaches out to everyone in every time and place. Every person from every nation in every corner of the earth is a precious child of God and friend to Jesus. Come, let us worship Jesus, knowing his message and presence is expansive, abundant, and even unruly.

Deacon’s Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Donna Burnett

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 & **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**

***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***

**Caribbean traditional\*\***

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Each week, our organist Bethany Blake invites the congregation to select a hymn of their choice by raising your hand for the worship leader to call upon you.*

New Testament Scripture Lessons

John 3:11-18

[page 71]

Deacon Donna Burnett

Matthew 6:24-34

[page 5]

Mark 12:28-34

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Luke 15:11-32

[page 60]

Anthem

*Pizzicati Scherzettino*

Leo Delibes\*\*

Summer Meditation

*The Four Faces of Faith*

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Prelude Op. 28 No. 15*

Frédéric Chopin\*\*

[excerpt]

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

\*Postlude

Rondo from *Sonatine*

Beethoven\*\*

\*Please stand as you are able

*\*\*Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #728093-A. All Rights Reserved.*

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### **A Few Key Announcements**

- ◆ Summer Sunday Morning Worship -
  - ⇒ 9am — Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)
  - ⇒ 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 and Denise Keating for the beautiful music today!

## 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

Matthew Carney

Family & Friends of June Nadeau

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  
Amy Trimble, in memory of Robert Trimble.\****



### 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—on hiatus till September
- ◆ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone’s
- ◆ **Lunchtime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays in Marvin Lounge
- ◆ **Bridge Group**, 1st & 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge—on hiatus till August



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)

## **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

## **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>

## **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.

## **Faith Formation Volunteer Recruitment for 2023-24 Program Year**

It's that time of year when we start recruiting for Faith Formation volunteers for our next program year. If you love kids, want to know more about the bible and grow in your faith, please reach out to Laurie.

Faith is not taught, faith is caught. Help other catch the faith, and catch some yourself. Church life is so much more fun and full when we help others, learn and grow. Pick your level of comfort. Chat with a current volunteer or Laurie. We follow our Safe Conduct Guidelines. All volunteers go through a training and receive weekly emails from Laurie to help keep you connected and supported. Reach out to her and she can help you figure out the best fit. [lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)

## Weekly Calendar: June 25—July 2

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

### Sunday, June 25

#### **Button Bay Camping Trip**

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming

All Family Worship - Scout Sunday

*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*1:30pm: Craft Group, Marvin Lounge*

### Monday, June 26

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

### Tuesday, June 27

10:15am: Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

5:30pm: Finance Committee, Marvin Lounge

7pm: Trustees, Marvin Lounge

### Wednesday, June 28

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

*6:30pm: Eagle Scout Board of Review,  
Marvin Lounge*

7pm: *BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

### Thursday, June 29

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

7pm: Men @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### Friday, June 30

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### Saturday, July 1

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*

*Give It A Go Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

*9am: Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall*

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### Sunday, July 2

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming

All Family Worship - Scout Sunday

*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*

# MINISTRY DIRECTORY

## Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]  
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com]  
Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]  
Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]  
Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

## Music

Chair of Music: Denise Keating  
Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley  
Men at First Director: Bill Bickford

## Officers

President: Cathy Shearer  
Vice President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville  
Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]  
Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]  
Assistant Treasurer: Matt Clark  
Clerk: Brenda Dawson  
Historian: Ann Gray  
Internal Auditor: Betsy Weischedel

## Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Derek Lyman  
Communications: Francis Gravel  
Deacons: Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs  
Finance & Pastoral Relations: Judy Larrabee Pomainville  
Hospitality: Jen Dooley  
Human Resources: Cathy Shearer  
Missions: Paula Sargent  
Music: Denise Keating  
Nominating: Lauren Starkey  
Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan  
Trustees: Kaki McGeary  
Ushering: Carl Wermer

## Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman  
Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert