



SPirit @ FIRST

monthly newsletter

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

July / August 2023: In this issue...

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Your Pastor's Ponderings.....



It has been a long exhausting year with significant changes and plenty of opportunities for new initiatives. All of you that serve on committees or as church officers know that we are a busy church with lots and lots of balls in the air at any given time. We have over 100 people serving in various official roles and another 100 or so volunteers that are busy with particular projects or aspects of our ministry that require supportive

volunteers. Trying to stay on top of the details of our busy church takes quite a bit of time, energy and focus. Needless to say, I am ready for my vacation this year. Working long hours is not unique to ministry and so I would guess that many of our working folks are busy, stressed and in need of a vacation also. I only hope all of you in need of some down time will be able to find it as our church allows me to do.

In the past, I have also jokingly said that our church slows down and coasts a bit in the summer. However, the rest of my staff simply says that it seems that way because I am away on vacation, that in reality the church stays busy throughout the year, even in the summertime when I am gone.

What has struck me in past years is how well our church does when I am gone. In many of my churches, when I returned from vacation, I would be doing extra work to put out the fires that erupted when I was off galivanting. Our church's staff and lay leaders are incredibly talented and can easily conduct the business of the church in my absence. When I was young in ministry, I secretly welcomed the fires for the need highlighted my indispensable position in the church. As I have aged, I greatly appreciate the professional and competent way that our staff and volunteers step up to keep our church flourishing and moving forward: meaningful worship continued unabated, pastoral care still takes place, the unseen administration that undergirds all we do continues to happen, committees continue to plan and orchestrate events and plans for the future, the largest CE effort [VB Camp] occurs in the summer as does what I am sure will be the highest attended First Church Concert series, and the Nearly New Sale in August on our front lawn. In addition to all of these normally occurring activities, our officers and staff will advertise two positions and proceed to conduct the first interview as well as make progress with what the church will do with the old daycare space. It is a sign of our health that the church does not shut down when I am gone but rather moves forward with our many and varied ministries.

Continued on next page...

It also strikes me how easily so many of my colleagues have agreed to be back up clergy in case some emergency arises that Rev. Ron or Mary McHugh are unable to attend. I have five to six folks that have agreed to provide coverage in case there is a pastoral need. People of course can wait until I get back to conduct a funeral or respond to a need, but how healthy our association of churches is to have so many that so freely offer their support. Naturally, I offer the same reciprocal support for my Champlain Association colleagues, but that is not the case everywhere across our denomination. As a congregation, we are blessed by the love and support of the 15 other Champlain Association Churches and their ministers as well as the Vermont Conference Staff, one of whom will be preaching one of the weeks I am gone. This is yet another quietly held positive truth about FCCEJ.

As I head out to recharge my ministerial batteries in the mountains of Colorado, it is reassuring to know that our staff, our officers, our committees, and many volunteers will simply continue to do their best in ensuring the continued work of our church in the lives of our members and for the wider community. Thank you all for this support and may God bless you all in your own efforts to get some rest.

Looking forward to find a busy church engaged in ministry when I return in August, ready and raring to go!

God's blessings on you all,

Rev. Mark

Summer 2023 Preaching Schedule

July 2, 2023	Rev. Faux for Communion / Sharing Spiritual Journeys
July 9, 2023	Deacon Jonah Moos w/ Lectio Davina Biblical Practice
July 16, 2023.....	Josh Sharp Preaching and Leading Worship
July 23, 2023.....	Rev. Paul Sangree VTCUCC Conf. Min. Preaching
July 30, 2023.....	Deacon Bob Driver Leading Worship/ Preaching
August 6, 2023.....	Mary McHugh and Bethany Blake Leading Worship
August 13, 2023	Rev. Mark Mendes
August 20, 2023	Rev. Mark Mendes
August 27, 2023	Rev. Mark Mendes
September 3, 2023.....	Rev. Mark Mendes

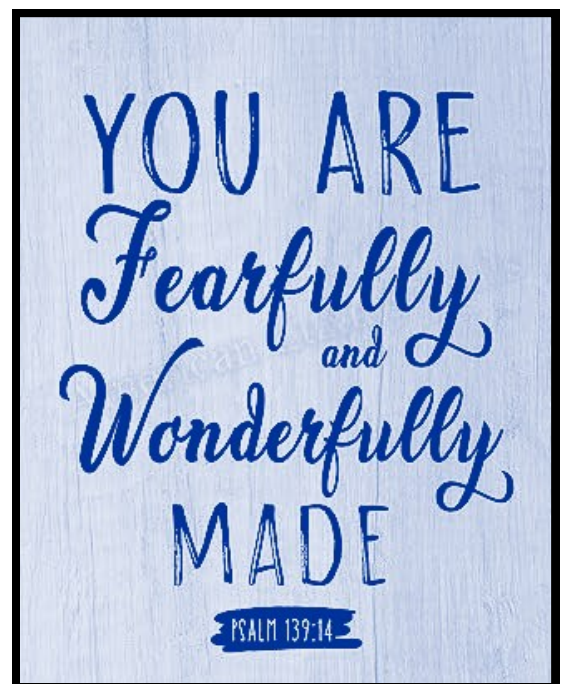
Deacons

Submitted by Amy Trimble

There is something about attending church in the summertime – the breeze gently flowing into the sanctuary through the open windows, being able to hear birds singing during service, and walking or biking to church.

In past years, it was the opportunity for us to experience something different like Josh's musical themed Sundays. This year, I'm looking forward to hearing from a variety of guests. Whether its members talking about their spiritual journeys, or guest preachers from within our congregation and visitors, we'll get a new perspective. I'm also excited to hear from the multiple musically talented people we have who share their gifts this time of year.

Although I'm sure we'll miss Mark as he is away on his adventures, it should be a fun summer to learn and hear from new voices.



Laurie's Lens

I had a great time with a group of our youth last week who are getting excited and preparing to spend a week with our VBC campers in August. Please help us pass the word around about VBC and encourage folks in the community to sign up and come join us for a fun week of 'striving for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up'! It's a great theme and program to build support for each other, come together and have great fellowship. Campers will be in peer groups in the morning traveling around from station to station and in the afternoon as one large with our youth. Please look further into this newsletter for more news about VB Camp week and how you can help, along with our SignUp Genius link for donations. Our fabulous group of adult volunteers are working hard to make this year's VB Camp another great week for everyone as we learn how to be super hero's, called together to serve God. Remember campers can come from 9 to noon or from 9am to 4pm. We need your support to help us in this transitioning year of VB Camp, offering a full day option.



I love showing up in the community and supporting our youth at their concerts, plays, games, etc. A couple of weeks ago I was thrilled to go support Izzy Owens as she played her clarinet in the Essex HS Jazz Band during Discover Jazz Festival on Church Street (picture). It's such a joy when a youth (or their parent) shares with me an upcoming event (concerts, dramas, musicals, sports, etc.) in their lives and it's awesome when it fits in my calendar like I did when I went to see Sam Dewey, David & Jacob Hoy, Charlie McGeary, Makaylah & Zoe Moos, and Tessa Nowell this year. Parents, please help your youth remember or feel free to share their schedule of events when you get them. I'll do my best to work it into my

calendar. If you want to give a shout out of their event on our Facebook Discussion Group, you can. For others of you in the church would like to support our youth, please be in touch. Maybe you'd like to go with me to see their game or fill in for me when I can't be there for their event. Maybe you used to play their sport or played in a band, chorus and would like to go fill our spirit. Please be in touch. We are all part of the village that it takes to help support our youth on their path and help them continue to know that they are loved and supported as they move along on their faith journey.

Starting this fall, all youth (6th-12th) who would like to be a part of youth programs here at First and be on the youth emails of details information will need to register for our programs by filling out the paperwork and in turn being on the weekly emails of updates. One of the goals is to build stronger connections with those who want to fully participate in the programs. General news about youth programs will continue to be in the church newsletters, Friday weekly emails and the Children, Youth & Family weekly Monday email.

Many thanks for all your support! Time keeps on flying by as I complete my 14th year in ministry with you all. 😊

Blessings,

Laurie Chipman, Christian Education Director

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.** We accept electronic donations! Visit paypal.me/fcej.
(A PayPal account is not required to donate money.)

Faith Formation

****Watch for Faith@Home emails in your inbox****

Volunteer Recruitment for 2023-24 Program Year

It's that time of year for recruiting Faith Formation volunteers and youth ministry team volunteers for our next program year. Have you been attending FCCEJ for more than 6 months? Do you enjoy spending time with children and/or youth? Want to know more about the bible and grow in your own faith? Come learn right along with the children and youth. Reach out to Laurie at lchipman@fccej.org. Faith is not taught, faith is caught. Help others catch the faith, and catch some for yourself. Church life is so much more fun and full when we help others to learn and grow. Pick your comfort age level. Chat with a current volunteer or Laurie. We follow our Safe Conduct Guidelines and help you keep connected and supported while you volunteer. Faith Formation volunteers go through a training and receive weekly emails. Youth ministry team volunteers help plan youth events and volunteer during youth programs with Laurie.

Local Youth Service Day

Rescheduled for Fall—exact date TBD.

Join the Nursery Staff

Would you like to work in our Nursery and have fun with the little ones on a Sunday morning? Apply to join the Nursery staff! Applications are on the Youth Board in the office hallway or email Laurie at lchipman@fccej.org for a copy. Turn in your application, set up an interview with Laurie and then you'll have an orientation to the Nursery room. Youth workers are paid \$20 per worship service (arrive 15 minutes ahead and stay 15 minutes after) and are on the contact list if childcare is needed for new member class and other events at FCCEJ. *Those who will be freshmen in the fall can start working over the summer.*

VB Camp Community Service & Income Opportunity - Current 8th Graders through College Students

August 7-11th

~ Volunteer the mornings of camp week from 8:30 to 12noon for community service hours.

~ Work the afternoon until 4:30pm (\$425 for the week). Applications are now posted on the bulletin board in the hall or reach out to Laurie. **Sign up ASAP.** The number of workers needed will be determined by the number of campers that register. Two youth/college are needed for every 4 campers. Reach out to Laurie with questions.

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

August 7-11, 2023



'So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.' Romans 14:19

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) up 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 till 4pm

Parents - here is your full day option - cost is \$50 per afternoon or \$250 for the full week. Scholarships are available so don't let the cost stop you from registering! Campers have lunch, watch a movie, do a VB Camp hands on mission/art project and play games.

VB Camp Week Morning Leadership Team:

Decoration Leader - Allison VanSteensburg

Snacks - Betty Busciglio

Music - Mindy Bickford

Recreation - Bill Bickford

Science Leader - Eric Lindholm

Tech Crew - Doug Olefsen

Crafts - Judy Roy

Reflection - Amanda Palmer

Still Recruiting for ... a Camp Photographer, Adult Volunteers and Youth (6th-12th grade)

Other Opportunities to Help - assemble backdrops - gather on a med week afternoon/evening to make decorations - set up Canopies (weekend before camp)- bake goodies for youth & afternoon session

Check out our Sign Up Genius for food donations: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545a8ab2faaf58-vacation#/>

Missions Committee

THANK YOU FROM COTS

"Thank you so much for joining us for the 2023 COTS Walk. We are thrilled First Congregational Church of Essex Junction could join us at this year's event and raise \$740 for the COTS Walk!

We are also happy to share that the COTS Walk has surpassed our goal to raise **\$210,000!** More than a thousand people walked, donated, and/or fundraised to make this year's event a success.

Last year, we served 1,358 people (*including 303 children*) through emergency shelter, outreach, prevention services, and transitional and permanent housing. This is made possible by the incredible investment of our caring community - including faith teams like yours. About half of our annual operating budget comes *directly* from YOU, our amazing community of supporters.

COTS was founded with one simple goal; *Break the fall* for those in need. For 40 years, that ideal has motivated the evolution of COTS' programming from shelter to solutions, as we continue to help our neighbors.

COTS remains committed to breaking the fall. Our guiding philosophy is to offer emergency relief *and* implement long-term systematic changes that end homelessness. We could not do it without your support and events like the COTS Walk.

We *thank you* again for your support that makes shelter, support services, and innovative prevention solutions possible. On behalf of the families and individuals we serve, we send you our sincerest appreciation. We hope you will join us next year for the COTS Walk on **May 5, 2024.**

Warmest Regards,

Romy Theisen

Communications and Outreach Specialist"

Learn more about COTS at www.cotsonline.org

CRAFT FEST NEARLY NEW SUMMER EVENT

Saturday August 19th * 9am to 1pm

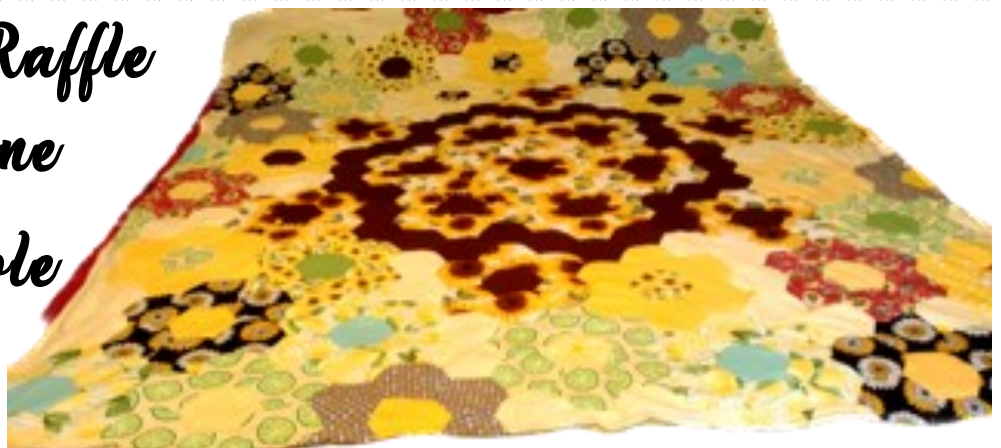
Church Lawn ~ Rain or Shine

Donations accepted from 7am until 9am. Furniture will be accepted for this sale, however, if the furniture item is not taken by Sunday, then we ask that you please come and pick it up.

The Missions Committee will hold their annual bake sale during the event. Proceeds will be donated to the resettlement program.

Any questions can be directed to Linda at 802-872-8972 or lbogardus@myfairpoint.net. Thank you!

*Sunflower Quilt Raffle
For the Ukraine
Tickets available
JULY 9th*



2023 COMMUNITY CONCERTS @FIRST PRESENTS

JON GAILMOR ~ SUNDAY, JULY 9 AT 3PM



Jon Gailmor sings to and with humans prenatal through prehistoric. He was born in New York City and failed to grow up in Philadelphia, Connecticut, Israel, Europe, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and, since 1977, Vermont. He has and continues to sing for mammals of all species and ages in every setting under the sun, from the grapevines of southern France to a tennis stadium in Lima, Peru, a men's room in Philadelphia with his college barbershop quartet, countless bars and folk clubs around the country, pre-schools through high schools, universities and everywhere in between.

Jon presents songwriting residencies and workshops for kids, companies, and for any group or person who'd like to compose a song. He performed as Vermont's representative at the 25th Anniversary of the Kennedy Center in Washington and in 1996 carried the Olympic Torch through Brattleboro, on its way to Atlanta. Jon has toured with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, has released seven albums and lives with his family and lots of other creatures in

the woods of Elmore Jon Gailmor is passionately committed to the power of music, emotions and laughter, and boy do we need all of them, now!

Concert proceeds will support EDD Adaptive Sports and First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

EDD Adaptive Sports—"Building Community Through Sports"

EDD Adaptive Sports is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicating to creating sports programs for individuals with disabilities. Our goal is for people with disabilities to experience joy, independence and adventure through participation in sports. We partner with colleges and sporting organizations to provide various adaptive sports opportunities in Central NY and Central/Northern VT.

Mission

To provide sports opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

Vision

Our vision is for individuals with disabilities to build self-confidence and purpose, and to believe that they can do anything to which they set their minds. Our belief is that by teaching a young woman who uses a wheelchair how to ski, for example, we are also helping her learn to believe in herself and in her potential.

2023 COMMUNITY CONCERTS @FIRST MUSIC SERIES

The Community Concerts at First music series celebrates amazing artists from Vermont and New England. This is an opportunity for the Essex community to gather and enjoy great music together while supporting local and global mission outreach.

Tickets: 802-878-5745 <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/118903>

- ♦ **July 9th - Jon Gailmore Family Concert**
- ♦ **September 24, 2023 - Bethany Blake**
- ♦ **November 12, 2023 - Cantiamo Choral Ensemble presents a "Musical Feast"**

All concerts are at 3pm in the FCCEJ Sanctuary.



SCAN ME

Stewardship in Action

Submitted by Emily Guziak

Ed Steele - Longtime Dismas Supporter

"She's kind of shy," my interviewee said apologetically, meeting me in the hallway outside his apartment door. "If you just ignore her, she'll probably come around." Sure enough, within 45 minutes of church member Ed Steele chatting with me in his Essex Junction home about his key volunteer role supporting Dismas of Vermont, Betty left her spot by Ed's feet and wormed her nose into my free hand. My endorphins surged as Betty the beagle accepted me. It is that exact feeling of acceptance that Ed is so good at fostering, as he recruits and organizes volunteers to bring meals into the Winooski Dismas House on behalf of FCCEJ.

Dismas of Vermont provides transitional housing and support services for formerly incarcerated people, with a mission of reconciling former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners.

"I think it's really rough when people get out of prison," Ed said. "I feel like we're helping Dismas residents adjust to life outside of an institution, and support them as they become a valuable part of our society again."

Among the five Dismas houses operated in Vermont, two are in Burlington and Winooski. Some 300 volunteers in Chittenden County provide dinner to the residents, five days a week, throughout the year. Over 60 volunteers from FCCEJ provide meals on the fourth Wednesday of every month. FCCEJ is one of the ten churches and other organizations in Chittenden County providing meals.

Volunteers are encouraged to share the meal they bring into the Dismas House with the residents, dining family style at a large table with about 12 residents, and staff. Ed often eats at the Winooski Dismas House on the fourth Wednesday each month. "You can really get to know some of the residents," he said. "The connections can be powerful. I would think it's really rough when you first get out of prison, so having people from the outside come in makes the residents more comfortable with all types of people."

Dismas residents are working, or seeking work, and receive support from Dismas House staff and outside agencies with a goal of living independently. Volunteers play a key role in simply helping the residents feel confident and accepted; essential to becoming part of society again. Such a goal, pointed out former US Senator Patrick Leahy, at the Burlington Dismas House Annual Community Celebration in May, benefits all of society.

"I talked about what you do many times in Washington, especially in the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees when I was chairing them," Leahy said. "It was one of the areas where I could talk to both Republican and Democratic senators. We found bipartisan interest in affording people involved in the justice system a second chance. Many of these senators, like me, were former prosecutors, and they knew we had to do this."

"I was once asked 'why should an average citizen, who hasn't gone to prison, care about re-entry?' I said, because the vast majority of the people in the criminal justice system will one day be released. We all have a stake in ensuring they will succeed. It reduces recidivism. It saves money. And, especially, it's the right thing to do."

"Never forget," said Leahy. Never let up. There's always going to be a need. We Vermonters can fill that need better than anybody else."

Filling those needs, and connection, has always been important to Ed, who moved here at age 84 with his partner, who has since passed away. Ed is now 91 years old. He spent much of his adult life in Boston and New York City. Raised in both a Christian Science and an Episcopal church in Havertown, PA, he left organized religion at age 18 and didn't return to a church until 1992, when he learned that the Unitarian Universalist church in Flushing, New York welcomed members of the LGBTQIP2SAA (then LGBTQ) community.

"Then I became very involved," he said. "The UU church threw down the welcome mat and I took on all kinds of volunteer roles." Ed and his late partner decided to move to Vermont in 2016, and in 2018 he took on his volunteer role with Dismas. He continues to organize the monthly meal contributions from FCCEJ. "If people at our church feel that 'new blood' should be doing this work, I would stand aside if that would benefit the program," Ed said.

He'll not let grass grow under either his, or Betty's feet, as he is in touch with Age Well Vermont about volunteer driving for this non-profit that provides support to aging Vermonters.

"I'll just keep contributing to society as long as I can," he said.

JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

<i>Blake, Nora</i>	<i>07/01</i>	<i>Carpenter, Kelsey</i>	<i>07/25</i>	<i>Frivoll, Lois</i>	<i>08/09</i>
<i>Ferrara, Jonathan</i>	<i>07/02</i>	<i>Giroux, Patricia</i>	<i>07/25</i>	<i>Gianuzzi, Bruce</i>	<i>08/09</i>
<i>Hoffman, Carl</i>	<i>07/02</i>	<i>Mayville, Darby</i>	<i>07/25</i>	<i>Livak, Terri</i>	<i>08/13</i>
<i>Starkey, Lauren</i>	<i>07/03</i>	<i>Messier, Clay</i>	<i>07/25</i>	<i>Gibson-King, Melisa</i>	<i>08/15</i>
<i>Johnson, Rachel</i>	<i>07/04</i>	<i>Frivoll, Jan Roald</i>	<i>07/26</i>	<i>Coddington, Bill</i>	<i>08/16</i>
<i>Mendes, Shay</i>	<i>07/04</i>	<i>Bottamini, Diane</i>	<i>07/27</i>	<i>Marthaler, Laura</i>	<i>08/16</i>
<i>Holden, Mark</i>	<i>07/05</i>	<i>Nyhagen, Sylvia</i>	<i>07/27</i>	<i>Moreau, Judy</i>	<i>08/16</i>
<i>Gabert, Sawyer</i>	<i>07/07</i>	<i>Sinkewicz, Christine</i>	<i>07/27</i>	<i>Noel, Matthew</i>	<i>08/16</i>
<i>Hoffman, Vincent</i>	<i>07/07</i>	<i>Chates, Harriet</i>	<i>07/28</i>	<i>King, Justin</i>	<i>08/17</i>
<i>Laflam, Tamsin</i>	<i>07/08</i>	<i>Acebo, Trista</i>	<i>07/30</i>	<i>McCullen, Shannon</i>	<i>08/17</i>
<i>Houghton, Martha</i>	<i>07/09</i>	<i>Hathaway, Sheila</i>	<i>07/30</i>	<i>Benway, Marie</i>	<i>08/18</i>
<i>Isham, Ira</i>	<i>07/09</i>	<i>Isham, Barbara</i>	<i>07/30</i>	<i>Wark, Amanda</i>	<i>08/18</i>
<i>Weischedel, Betsy</i>	<i>07/09</i>	<i>Jackson, Brad</i>	<i>07/31</i>	<i>Evans, Rob</i>	<i>08/19</i>
<i>Jones, Grace</i>	<i>07/10</i>	<i>Sinkwicz, Robert</i>	<i>07/31</i>	<i>Mayville, Leah</i>	<i>08/19</i>
<i>Edwards, Norma</i>	<i>07/12</i>	<i>Mendes, Mark</i>	<i>08/01</i>	<i>Johnson, Marie</i>	<i>08/21</i>
<i>Nowell, Tessa</i>	<i>07/15</i>	<i>Chipman, Laurie</i>	<i>08/02</i>	<i>Babinger, Fred</i>	<i>08/22</i>
<i>Knapp, Jackie</i>	<i>07/16</i>	<i>Conti, Sue</i>	<i>08/03</i>	<i>Antone, Carolyn</i>	<i>08/23</i>
<i>Bourn, Isabelle</i>	<i>07/18</i>	<i>King, Henry</i>	<i>08/03</i>	<i>Ritter, Dale</i>	<i>08/24</i>
<i>Moos, Zoe</i>	<i>07/18</i>	<i>Allen, Dick</i>	<i>08/04</i>	<i>Gorniak, Stephen</i>	<i>08/25</i>
<i>Cunningham-Firkey, Emily</i>	<i>07/19</i>	<i>Clark, Matt</i>	<i>08/04</i>	<i>Cheek, Gene</i>	<i>08/27</i>
<i>Marthaler, Lily</i>	<i>07/20</i>	<i>Raymond, Francis</i>	<i>08/04</i>	<i>McCullen, Judy</i>	<i>08/27</i>
<i>Bartlett, Megan</i>	<i>07/21</i>	<i>Smith, Barb</i>	<i>08/04</i>	<i>Thomas, Devon</i>	<i>08/27</i>
<i>Blackman, Judy</i>	<i>07/21</i>	<i>Toof, Carolyn</i>	<i>08/04</i>	<i>Frivoll, Charlotte May</i>	<i>08/29</i>
<i>Elliott, Riley</i>	<i>07/21</i>	<i>Osborne, Howard</i>	<i>08/05</i>	<i>Brooks, Carolyn</i>	<i>08/30</i>
<i>Frank, Courtney</i>	<i>07/22</i>	<i>Daigle, Carol</i>	<i>08/07</i>	<i>Meilleur, Kevin</i>	<i>08/30</i>
<i>Petherbridge, Dan</i>	<i>07/22</i>	<i>Giles, Janne</i>	<i>08/07</i>	<i>Mittl, Jan</i>	<i>08/30</i>
<i>Stapleton, Walker</i>	<i>07/22</i>	<i>Bero, Peter</i>	<i>08/08</i>	<i>Kelly, Calvin</i>	<i>08/31</i>
<i>Vincent, Marilyn</i>	<i>07/23</i>	<i>Smith, Val</i>	<i>08/08</i>		

Employment Opportunity

Digital Marketing and Communications Specialist

Do you have a passion and drive to share our story? First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, an Open and Affirming congregation, is seeking a qualified individual to oversee and manage our social media channels and website.

The Digital Marketing and Communications Specialist solicits, designs, and generates content across the various media and platforms to maximize potential impact and promote FCCEJ as a welcoming and progressive Christian faith community. The role is responsible for coordinating content with church committees and staff, and helping set up content for online streaming services. The position is part-time (10 hours/week) with flexible hours. To apply, send a cover letter and resume, or for more information, email welcome@FCCEJ.org.

Weight Noshers

Join our community for support & guidance towards reaching your wellness and weight loss goals. You will find good information, inspiration and motivation. Saturday mornings at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation is \$3.

Connection Opportunities

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First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Phone: 802-878-5745
Email: welcome@fccej.org

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sunday Morning All-Family Worship
June through Labor Day**

9:00 - In-person and streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej

Music: Bethany Blake leads our musical offerings
Finally @ First Praise Band is on summer hiatus

**Communion is served on the 1st Sunday of each month
All are welcome at Christ's table**

Visit us online:



FCCEJ.ORG



FCCEJ



FCCEJ_802



FIRSTCONGREGATIONALEJ

***Faith is not
belief without
proof, but
trust without
reservation.***

D. Elton Trueblood