



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
July 16, 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

Prelude

Toward Evening

Richard W. Ellsasser**

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

Humoresque [excerpt]

Antonín Dvořák**

Call to Worship Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,

People: make known God's deeds among the people.

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises; tell all of God's wonderful works.

People: Glory in the holy name of God; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Leader: Seek the Lord and draw strength from God;

People: seek God's presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done, miracles and the judgements.....

People: For God remembered the holy promise to Abraham.

Leader: So God brought the chosen people with joy, the chosen ones were singing. Let us worship our God.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

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

With a Little Help from My Friends

[excerpt]

John Lennon**

Paul McCartney

***Congregational Hymn of Choice**

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.

Scripture

Old Testament

Psalm 119:105-112

[page 442]

New Testament

Romans 8: 1-11

[page 120]

Anthem

Melancholic Fantasy

M.A. Reichert**

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

De Colores

Traditional**

All the colors,
all the great, glowing colors
that we see in the sky at sunrise,
All the colors,
all the colors are seen
in the thousand reflections in sunlight,
All the colors,
all the colors are seen
glittering in a diamond ring,
And that's why a great love of all colors
makes me feel like singing so joyfully,
And that's why a great love of all colors
makes me feel like singing so joyfully.



***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**

Rock of Ages

#596**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***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, holding you in love.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

*Postlude

**

*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](https://www.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!
- ◆ We're pleased to welcome Josh Sharp to worship this morning and thank him for sharing his gifts and talents with us this morning!
- ◆ Thank you to Bethany Blake, Abigail Jackman, and Marie Johnson 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 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 Evans & 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
Andrea Sharp in celebration of Josh preaching here today.*



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 Sept.



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht

INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Summer Schedule—June through Labor Day

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



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

- ◆ Friday, August 25 to Sunday morning, August 27 at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore - www.vtstateparks.com/branbury.html (5 tent/RV sites, 1 tent only)
- ◆ Contact Laurie if you're interested.

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!

Wednesday Night Searchers

Wednesday Night Searchers will begin meeting again in September and will discuss the book *"The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus - What's So Good About the Good News?"* by Peter J. Gomes. Books are available in the church office if you'd like to get a head start. We're asking for a \$15 donation per book.

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— if you are interested or would like more information.

Weekly Calendar: July 16—July 23

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, July 16

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
All Family Worship
10am: Music Library Organizing, Sanctuary
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Tuesday, July 18

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
10:15am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Thursday, July 20

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: Men @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, July 22

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*

Monday, July 17

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge
Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Wednesday, July 19

8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop-Off,
Fellowship Hall
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Friday, July 21

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: *Burlington Amateur Radio Club,*
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 23

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
All Family Worship
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Events in italics = Local Community Groups