



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 23, 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 children PreK through 8th grade 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

You Are Mine

David Haas**

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

The Trees of the Field

Stuart Dauvermann**

Call to Worship Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: May our hearts and minds be open today

People: to listen to the Spirit of God in our midst.

***Opening Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4**

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon Maureen McKenzie

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

Threefold Amen

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***Congregational Hymn of Choice**

*Each week, our worship leader invites the congregation to select a hymn of their choice.
Please raise your hand to be called upon.*

New Testament Scripture

Acts 2:42-47

Page 91

Read by Maureen McKenzie

Anthem

A Joyful Call to Praise

Lloyd Larson**

Old Testament Scripture

Exodus 3:1-5

Page 39

Read by Rev. Paul Sangree

Summer Meditation

"Holy Ground"

Rev. Paul Sangree

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Blessed Are They

Karen Crane/
Jennifer Klein**

***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**

Be Now My Vision

#451**

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**

The Trees of the Field
[Reprise]

Stuart Dauvermann**

***Please stand as you are able**

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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.

Everyone affected by the recent flooding
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

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
Jane Schneider in loving memory of Russ.****



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 @ 11:30am 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

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!
- ◆ We're pleased to welcome Rev. Paul Sangree to worship this morning and thank him for sharing his gifts and talents with us this morning!
- ◆ Thank you to Denise Keating, Judy Pomainville, and Doug Olufsen for the beautiful music 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 through August 2

Climate Hope Cards

The United Church of Christ Climate Hope Cards Campaign is an ambitious and exciting project rooted in the UCC's decades long work for climate and environmental justice. The campaign is part of an effort to literally save thousands of lives, address societal inequities, and get our nation on track to meet its climate goals. UCC children and youth from across the country sent in artwork expressing their feelings about environmental justice, the climate crisis, and protecting the Earth. The winning artwork was printed on the Climate Hope Card postcards. You'll find these cards in the pew racks. Please write a note expressing your environmental concerns and/or suggestions. They will be delivered to the EPA and the White House in September. Thank you for joining us in this latest push for greater justice in and for our world!

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.

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.



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!

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.

Heavenly Food Pantry

Our next food distribution date is this Thursday, July 27, from 2pm to 5pm. We are desperately in need of the following food items: Baked beans, peanut butter, chunky soups, pasta noodles (spaghetti, macaroni, etc...), dry cat & dog food, canned pastas, canned fruit, basmati rice.

These are staples in the homes of many of the clients we serve at our pantry. We distribute a substantial amount of these food items each month. The need is great. We are praying that you are moved to help us with this vital request. Food can be dropped off just outside the church office or across from the elevator in the grocery cart. We are also in need of reusable grocery bags to pass on to our clients.

The pantry continues to need help to fulfil the delivery part of its mission. If you have an hour or so available on a food pantry day and the means to deliver 8-10 bags of groceries, then the pantry could use your help. Please contact the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to welcome@fccej.org.

We appreciate all the support as we continue the pantry's mission of seeing that no one goes hungry!

www.fccej.org/Serving-Others/Heavenly-Food-Pantry

Weekly Calendar: July 23—July 30

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, July 23

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

Monday, July 24

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

Tuesday, July 25

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*

Wednesday, July 26

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
6:30pm: *Eagle Scout Board of Review, Marvin Lounge*

Thursday, July 27

8am: Food Pantry Set-Up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
2pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Men @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, July 28

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
4pm: *Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall*

Saturday, July 29

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 30

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

Events in italics = Local Community Groups