



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 30, 2023

During the summer months, we have one service at 9am. 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 is for children PreK through 8th grade starting in September at 10:30am.

Currently, mask wearing is determined by the individual.

<p><i>A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All In the Spirit of Christ</i></p>
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Order of Worship

Prelude Suite Gothique & Priere a Notre Dame Boellman**

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 This Is the Day Les Garrett**

Call to Worship Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Leader: In every one of us, there is a longing for home.

All: It's a longing for a place where we are known, accepted, and loved for who we are.

Leader: It's a longing for a place where we are challenged to become more than we are.

All: It's a longing to belong, and to create a home where more and more of God's children know they belong.

Leader: God calls to us; "You can come home now. There is a home for you in my forgiving love. There is a home for you in my church, the fellowship of my servant people."

All: And our hearts respond, "We are coming. Open the door wide, we are coming home."

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Opening Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other* **#388*

Children's Message.....Deacon Bob Driver

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 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* **

Middle Hymn** *Out of the Depths* **#554*

Scripture Readings

Old Testament	Psalm 32:1-7	Page 394
New Testament	Matthew 7:7-8	Page 5

Anthem *The Lord Never Closes His Eyes* David Angerman**

Summer Message *"A Journey of Faith"* Deacon Bob Driver

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *God Gives Us Those Who Love Us*

Beall/Carter**

***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**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

#417**

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Graham Kendrick**

*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, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech!
- ◆ Special thanks this morning to Bob Driver for sharing his faith journey, and to Ed Guild for providing the beautiful music!

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 in honor and appreciation of the FCCEJ Faith Community.

Heartfelt thanks from Norma Edwards for the birthday cards, calls and celebrations!

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: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036#success>
- ◆ **Tai Chi Class**, Tuesdays at 10:15pm in the Fellowship Hall—on hiatus in August
- ◆ **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

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.



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.

Climate Hope Cards—Last Sunday!

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.

Weekly Calendar: July 30—August 6

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, July 30

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

Tuesday, August 1

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
12pm: HRC, Marvin Lounge
*6:30pm: Eagle Scout Board of Review,
2nd Floor Program Room*
7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, August 3

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

Saturday, August 5

*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 31

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

Wednesday, August 2

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Friday, August 4

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 6

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
All Family Worship, Holy Communion
10am: Music Committee,
2nd Floor Program Room
11am: Wayne Hathaway Memorial Service &
Reception, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Ministers of Visitation:

Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com] / Mary McHugh [mmmchugh@hotmail.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 [mclarkdiscovery@myfairpoint.net]

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

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Kaki McGeary

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert