



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
August 6, 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.

*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All
In the Spirit of Christ*

Order of Worship

Prelude *Goldberg Variations*].S. Bach**
[First section of the Aria]

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 *These Green Hills* Diane Martin**

Call to Worship Deacon

Leader: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways. This day brings us together as you called the people of Israel to be nurtured and sustained..

All: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread. Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you.

Leader: As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures - faith, hope, and love. God of grace, all of life is created and nurtured by you..

All: May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which you have fed and nurtured us. Give us this day our daily bread. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *When Morning Guilds the Skies* #86**

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon

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")**.....Rev. Ron Faux

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

What Wonderful Love Is This
[Prelude]

John G. Barr**

***Congregational Hymn of Choice**

**

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

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Isaiah 55:1-3a

Page 531

New Testament

Matthew 14:13-23

Page 12

Anthem

American Folk Trilogy

Anne McGinty**

Summer Meditation

Deacon Mary McHugh

The Sacrament of Holy Communion..... Deacon Mary McHugh

The Invitation and Words of Institution

Music Sarabande from *Partita No. 4 in D Major BWV 828* J.S. Bach**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will partake of communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person. The Minister will direct everyone to eat your piece of bread at the same time. When the cup is passed out, everyone is invited to partake when they choose. This symbolizes both the individual and corporate nature of our faith.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Intermezzo in E flat Major Op. 117* Johannes Brahms**

[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** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* #293**

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 *L'adolescente, from Ordre No 7 in G: Les petits âges*
François Couperin**

*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
 - ⇒ 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 Mary McHugh for leading worship and providing the message and to Bethany Blake and Addy Stein for sharing their musical talents!

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
- ◆ **Two Services Beginning September 10**
 - ⇒ 8:30am—In-Person & Streamed with organ and Sanctuary Choir.
 - ⇒ 10:15am—In Person with Finally @ First Praise Band & Faith Formation for children PreK through 8th grade.
 - ⇒ Nursery Care for infants through 3 years offered at both services.

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. If you want to drop off your donations ahead of time, please bring them to the church during office hours (M-F, 9am to 2pm) and we will store them for you.

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!

Experience not necessary to join in the fun of the 2023 Stewardship Skit, “*Fintech at First*,” a comedy of faith!

We will have a first read through of the script the week of August 28, based on a day and time which is best for those involved. You can participate in this first meeting via Zoom, if need be.

The “First Congo Players” will present this comedy of techie jargon and feverish faithfulness among our multi-generational congregation at both services on October 22, a week before Stewardship Sunday. Finally @ First will lead us in a fun rendition of a familiar song at the end! We have three parts available. The two rehearsals will be short, held between September 20 and October 20, and lots of fun!

For more information, please email Emily Guziak (guziakemily335@gmail.com) or Kathryn Brennan (khbrennan@comcast.net) or call Jen Kelly in the office at 878-5745.

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
Riley Elliott in honor of his son.*

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

Weekly Calendar: August 6—August 13

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

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*

Tuesday, August 8

8am-4pm: Vacation Bible Camp
8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
10:30am: Search Committee, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
6:30pm: HRC, 2nd Floor Program Room
7pm: Deacons, Home of Rev. Mark

Thursday, August 10

8am-4pm: Vacation Bible Camp
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: Men @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, August 12

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, August 7

8am-4pm: Vacation Bible Camp
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Wednesday, August 9

8am-4pm: Vacation Bible Camp
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
1pm: Search Committee, Marvin Lounge
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Friday, August 11

8am-4pm: Vacation Bible Camp
8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, August 13

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming
All Family Worship
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