



# **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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) **Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



# The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

## A United Church of Christ

### August 13, 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 | Adagio (Movement 1)<br>from Suite #2 in F Major HWV 427 | G.F. Handel** |
|---------|---|---------------|

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 | Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels) | César Franck**<br>arr. Wanda Sobieska |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Call to Worship ..... Deacon

**Leader:** Welcome to summertime worship at First Congregational Church in Essex Junction. Today, we will hear an old familiar tale with lessons that can help us live our lives more fully today.

**People:** **Despite the bible being so old, there are certain truths, dynamics in life, and experiences that are applicable in any age or culture. We eagerly come here to hear old truths for our lives today.**

**Leader:** So let us open ourselves to the ancient words of the bible; let us joyously sing songs of the faith; let us pray together as one family of faith and let us care for each other as we strive to create a wholesome and healthy community of faith.

Deacon’s Prayer of Invocation ..... Deacon

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

Adagio (Movement 3)  
from *Suite #2 in F Major* HWV 427

G.F. Handel\*\*

**\*Congregational Hymn of Choice**

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*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.*

Old Testament Scripture

Genesis 37—Joseph's Journey

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Anthem

*The Prayer with Lead Us, Lord*

Sager/Foster\*\*  
arr. Tom Fettke

Summer Meditation

*Dreams, Dysfunction & Discernment*

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*My Life Is in You, Lord*

Daniel Gardner\*\*

**\*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

*God Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven*

#556\*\*

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

*Chaconne with 49 Variations in C Major* HWV 484  
(theme and variations 1-5)

G.F. Handel\*\*

\*Please stand as you are able

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### **A Few Key Announcements**

- ◆ Summer Sunday Morning Worship - June through Labor Day
  - ⇒ One Service at 9am — Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)
  - ⇒ All Family Worship—Faith Formation on hiatus till September
  - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech!
- ◆ Special thanks this morning to Bethany Blake for the beautiful music!
- ◆ **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 / Mission Committee Bake Sale**

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. Any questions can be directed to Linda at 802-872-8972 or [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net](mailto:lbogardus@myfairpoint.net). Thank you!

The Missions Committee will hold their annual bake sale during the event. Proceeds will be donated to the resettlement program. Please bring your goodies either Friday during office hours or Saturday morning between 7 and 9. Contact Ann Marie Sullivan with questions at [ambs6155@comcast.net](mailto:ambs6155@comcast.net).

## **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.

## **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](http://www.vtstateparks.com/branbury.html) (5 tent/RV sites, 1 tent only)
- ◆ Contact Laurie if you're interested.

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 two rehearsals will be short, held between September 20 - October 20, and lots of fun!

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 rousing rendition of a familiar song as the grand finale!

There are three roles left to play: the parts of a "seasoned," mature man or woman, and a married couple. (Though more parts can be written in, if there is interest!) Contact Emily Guziak ([guziakemily335@gmail.com](mailto:guziakemily335@gmail.com)), Kathryn Brennan ([khbrennan@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call (802) 878-5745.

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii  
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

### 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
- ◆ **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](https://bit.ly/39039ht)

INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgZf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgZf)



INTERNET

[fccej.org](https://fccej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://bit.ly/3oPpBv9)

# Weekly Calendar: August 13—August 20

\*Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections\*

## Sunday, August 13

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

## Tuesday, August 15

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge  
10am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
5pm: Thrift Shop Advisory Committee,  
Marvin Lounge  
7pm: CE, 2nd Floor Program Room  
Communications, Conference Room

## Thursday, August 17

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

## Saturday, August 19

7am-9am: Nearly New Sale Item Drop-Off,  
Church Grounds  
*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*  
*Give It A Go Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
*9am: Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall*  
9am-12pm: Nearly New Sale, Church Grounds  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## Monday, August 14

8am: Food Pantry Set-Up, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution,  
Fellowship Hall  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## Wednesday, August 16

8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop-Off,  
Fellowship Hall  
10am: Missions Committee, Marvin Lounge  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

## Friday, August 18

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

## Sunday, August 20

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming  
All Family Worship  
*11:30am: Reiki 1 Class, Marvin Lounge*  
*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