



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



Deacon’s Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Allison Van Steensburg

The Sacrament of Baptism Iris Delilah Watt

Let’s give a warm First Church welcome to Iris Delilah Watt as she is welcomed into Christ’s family today. Iris’ proud parents are Aliyah Marie Watt and Jasen Elliot Fitzgerald and her God-parents are Chelsea Watt and Jake Zakrzewski [in absentia].

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

We’ll Make It Through

Ray LaMontagne**

***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.

New Testament Scripture

Matthew 15:10-28

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Anthem

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Paul Simon**

Summer Meditation

Jesus' Edgy and Ironic Human Side

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Amazing Grace

arr. Lani Smith**

***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**

We Limit Not the Truth of God

[insert]**

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**

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

The Louvin Brothers**

***Please stand as you are able**

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◆ Sincere thanks this morning to:

- ⇒ Jonah Moos, Gary Hartmann, and Francis Gravel, operating the live stream tech
- ⇒ Bethany Blake and Peter Schmalz for the beautiful music

A Few Key Announcements

◆ **Summer Sunday Morning Worship - June through Labor Day**

- ⇒ 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.

◆ **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.

VIA's Statewide Convention

Vermont Interfaith Action's Eighth Annual Statewide Convention will be held Wed, Sept 6 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 43 Hebard Hill in Randolph, Vermont. Everyone is welcome to join us for:

- Reports about our issue work
- Opportunities to talk with justice-minded people from all over the state and across the spectrum of faith traditions
- Training on three foundational aspects of community organizing
- Sharing a meal together
- Celebrating interfaith worship together
- Approving our Revised By-Laws during a brief business meeting

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/VIAStatewideConvention>. Suggested donation is \$25, but no one will be turned away from lack of funds. For more information, contact debbie@viavt.org or (802) 651-8889.

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.

Students and Families Navigating
"Back-to-School"

Jacki Knapp

Russ & Alma Wilson

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii

Kathy Galbraith

Everyone affected by the recent flooding

John Venner

Victims of gun violence and their families

Elizabeth Stone

Matthew Carney

Bernie Currier

Family & Friends of June Nadeau

Grace Goodwin

Peter Gray, Pam Blake and Don Gray

Dan Harmon

Father of Adam Hoy

All those suffering due to violence in Ukraine

Maureen Evans & Family

...and all persons affected by COVID19

Dana Bills

CONNECTIONS:

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our "Weekly Update" eConnection: <http://bit.ly/3rlsISv>

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
- ◆ **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



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht

INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Weekly Calendar: August 27—September 3

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, August 27

FCCEJ Family Camp, Branbury State Park

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming

All Family Worship

11am: Coburn Baby Shower, Fellowship Hall

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, August 29

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: Yoga @FCCEJ, Sanctuary

7pm: Trustees, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, August 31

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, September 2

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 28

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Stewardship Skit Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, August 30

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Friday, September 1

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market

9:15am: Service Trip Leadership Team,
Marvin Lounge

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge

Sunday, September 3

9am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming

All Family Worship, Holy Communion

10:30am: Music Committee, Sanctuary

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