



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



***Hymn**

Come, We Who Love the Lord

#382**

*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Mark Mendes

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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Horatius Bonar,
Thomas Tallis**

*Please stand as you are able

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

"I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



A Few Key Announcements

◆ **Two Sunday Morning Services**

- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month

◆ **Sincere thanks this morning to:**

- ⇒ Bethany Blake and the Sanctuary Choir for the beautiful music!

September Faith Formation

17 ~ Peer Groups during 2nd Service (PreK through 8th)

24 ~ Peer Groups during 2nd Service (PreK through 8th)

Acolyte Orientation in Sanctuary (3rd grade & up) 11:30-12noon

Finally @ First Praise Band

Do you enjoy singing? Play an instrument? Percussionist? Keyboardist? Finally @ First is looking for folks to join us! Our musical pieces range from traditional hymns to contemporary Christian to 70's throwbacks to 80's rock ballads to current indy rock – We're up for anything! Rehearsals are generally Wednesday nights 5:30-7:00, and we sing at second service on most Sundays during the program year. For more information, contact Rick Dooley, at rickdooley5@gmail.com or call/text at 802-578-0229.

Audio/Visual Support

We are looking to expand our audio/visual team for Sunday morning worship. This involves running the streaming video for the 8:30 service and controlling the cameras. We will provide all the necessary training. Please contact the church office—welcome@fccej.org—if you are interested or would like more information.

Craft Fest - Saturday, November 11

We have a couple craft tables still available! If interested please contact Ann Gray at grayann8@aol.com.

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.

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii
Everyone affected by the recent flooding
Victims of gun violence and their families
Norma Edwards
Sandy Tallman
Matthew Carney
Family & Friends of June Nadeau
Maureen Evans & Family

Dana Bills
John Venner
Bernie Currier
Grace Goodwin
Dan Harmon

All those suffering due to violence in Ukraine
...and all persons affected by COVID19

* We're thrilled to announce the birth of *Evelyn Alana Tracy Wermer* on September 6. *
* Parents are Jon Wermer & Hannah Tracy. *
* Grandparents are Carl & Alison Wermer. *

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
- ◆ **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

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]

Social Media Marketing Coordinator: Andrea Hickey [socialmedia@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@gmail.com]

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

Weekly Calendar: September 17—September 23

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, September 17

8:30am* & 10:15am: Worship,
Sanctuary & Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
11:30am: Junior Youth, Youth Room
Montana Service Trip, Marvin Lounge
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Tuesday, September 19

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
6:30pm: *Eagle Scout BoR, Marvin Lounge*
7pm: CE, 2nd Floor Program Room
Communications, Conference Room

Thursday, September 21

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Open & Affirming Subcommittee,
2nd Floor Program Room
Cub Scouts Pack 630, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 23

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, Marvin Lounge*

Monday, September 18

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall
10am: *Essex Art Group, Fellowship Hall*
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge
Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6pm: Hospitality, Marvin Lounge
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Wednesday, September 20

8am: Food Pantry Food Drop-off, Fellowship Hall
10am: Missions Committee, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6pm: *BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

Friday, September 22

October Newsletter Articles Due
8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
2:30pm: Communications/Social Media,
Marvin Lounge
4pm: *Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, September 24

8:30am* & 10:15am: Worship,
Sanctuary & Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation, Peer Rooms
11:30am: Young Apostles,
2nd Floor Program Room
Craft Fest Committee, Marvin Lounge
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
3pm: Community Concerts @ First presents
Bethany Blake, Sanctuary

Events in italics = Local Community Groups