

### 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 September 17, 2023 First Service

We offer two different worship services: our First Service with organ and traditional choir is streamed and begins at 8:30am with access on our webpage @ www.fccej.org. You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with Finally @ First Praise Band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and is not streamed. Our Faith Formation Program for PreK through 8th is in person and starts at 10:15am in worship and then break out into peer groups. Nursery care for infants through 3 y/o is available at both services. **Currently, mask wearing is determined by the individual.** 

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Order of Worship

Prelude

Wiegenliedchen Op. 124, No. 6

Robert Schumann\*\*

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** 

Musical IntroitLa Visionaire from the 25th OrdreFrançois Couperin\*\*Call to WorshipDeacon Mary McHugh

<u>Leader</u>: God brought order to primordial chaos and invited humanity to come enjoy the ride of the earth spinning through space.

### <u>People</u>: We respond to the beauty of creation with awe and wonder.

<u>Leader</u>: Jesus came to us preaching love and justice and invited us to follow in his ways.

# People: We respond to the greatest teacher of all time with earnest effort to be better people.

Leader: God's Spirit dwells in our hearts and draws us into community with abundant gifts and a worthy purpose.

**People:** We welcome the Spirit into our hearts and celebrate being a part of God's family on earth.

Leader: God reaches out to us in many ways. God is always the initiator. Our job is to train our senses to discern God's presence and respond.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation...... Deacon Mary McHugh

			, ,
*Openi	ng Hymn	Let Us With a Joyful Mind	#16**
Childre	n's Message	Friends After All	Rev. Mark & Laurie Chipman
Pastora	l Prayer & <b>Unisc</b>	on Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")	
А	Time of Silence	for Personal Prayer	
S	haring Our Praye	ers with God and Each Other	
	<u>Loving God</u> , w	ho art in heaven, hallowed be thy	name. Thy kingdom come,
	thy will be do	ne, on earth as it is in heaven. Give	e us this day our daily bread
	and forgive us	our trespasses as we forgive tho	se who trespass against us.
	<u>And do not let</u>	us fall into temptation, but delive	er us from evil, for thine is
	the kingdom a	nd the power and the glory foreve	er, amen.
	Prayer Respons	se Threefold Amen	**
*Hymn		When Israel Was in Egypt Lai	nd #572**
Scriptu	re		
0	ld Testament	Exodus 14 told narratively	[page42]
Ν	ew Testament	Matthew 18:21-35	[page 15]
Anthem	l	Smile On Us, Lord	Douglas E. Wagner**
		(based on a traditional Scottish fol	lk tune)
Sermon	l	Looking Back	Rev. Mendes
Offering	g Our Gifts to Goo	d	
Ir	vitation, Offerin	g, and Prayer of Dedication	
0	ffertory	Ave Verum Corpus K. 618	W.A. Mozart**
		[excerpt]	
*]	Doxology		#778**
		Praise God from whom all blessing	
		Praise God, all creatures here be	-
		Praise God for all that love has a	•
		Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. A	Amen.

#### \*Hvmn

### \*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

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."

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**Rev. Mark Mendes** 

### A Few Key Announcements

- Two Sunday Morning Services
  - $\Rightarrow$  8:30am—In-Person & Streamed with organ and Sanctuary Choir.
  - $\Rightarrow$  10:15am—In Person with Finally @ First Praise Band & Faith Formation for children PreK through 8th grade.
  - $\Rightarrow$  Nursery Care for infants through 3 years offered at both services.
  - $\Rightarrow~$  Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month
- Sincere thanks this morning to:
  - $\Rightarrow$  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 <u>rickdooley5@gmail.com</u> or call/text at 802-578-0229.

### <u>Audio/Visual Support</u>

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.

# <u>Craft Fest - Saturday, November 11</u>

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	Dana Bills			
Everyone affected by the recent flooding	John Venner			
Victims of gun violence and their families	Bernie Currier			
Norma Edwards	Grace Goodwin			
Sandy Tallman	Dan Harmon			
Matthew Carney	All those suffering due to violence in Ukraine			
Family & Friends of June Nadeau	and all persons affected by COVID19			
Maureen Evans & Family				
*****	*****			
* We're thrilled to announce the birth of <i>Evelyn Alana Tracy Wermer</i> on September 6.				
*Parents are Jon Wermer & Hannah Tracy.**Grandparents are Carl & Alison Wermer.****				
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CONNE	CTIONS:			

# **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!**

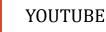
- Sermon Talk Back, Tuesdays at 8:30am in Marvin Lounge & Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036#success
- Tai Chi Class, Tuesdays at 10:15pm in the Fellowship Hall ٠
- Yoga @ First, Tuesdays at 5pm in the Sanctuary ۲
- **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone's ٠
- Lunchtime Book Group, 3rd Mondays @ 11:30am in Marvin Lounge ۲
- Bridge Group, 1st & 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge



INSTAGRAM



**INTERNET** 



You

Tube

bit.ly/3rlfgZf

fccej.org



# **MINISTRY DIRECTORY**

### <u>Staff</u>

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]

### <u>Music</u>

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 <u>Recognized Groups</u> 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

### <u>Monday, September 18</u>

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

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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