



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
Worldwide Communion Sunday & Mission Sunday
October 1, 2023

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.

The Nursery is available at both services—self serve at 8:30 and staffed at 10:15.

Currently, mask wearing is determined by the individual.

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

Order of Worship

Prelude *Adoro Devote (Humbly We Adore Thee)* arr. John G. Barr**

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 Introit *Canticle of Praise to God (Psalm 95, 96)* William Boyce**

Call to WorshipDeacon Bob Driver

Leader: The Old Testament teaches us that our faith is lived out in building a just society. From freeing the oppressed, to applying the law to everyone equally, to taking care of widows, orphans and sojourners, to welcoming God's presence into our civic life: God's Spirit in the Old Testament cries out for both fairness and kindness.

People: God loves justice!

Leader: Jesus follows in God's footsteps by reaching out to folks who have been excluded, by feeding people, by challenging the rich and powerful to live more peaceful and generous lives.

People: God loves justice!

Leader: Whether you live by ancient laws or modern rules of morality, conscience and faith, God wants you to treat others with respect, dignity and compassion. Come, let try.

Deacon's Prayer of InvocationDeacon Bob Driver

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.**

**PreK -2nd transition to Spiritual Friends*

A Scriptural Warrant for Social Justice: Micah 6:6-8 Read by Desire Bisimwa

Social Service Agencies that Live into this Mandate

Joint Urban Ministry Project [JUMP]: Ann Tewksbury Frye

CHIPS: CHIPS Parent Allison Van Steensburg

Essex Community Justice Center [ECJC]: Jill Evans

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.**

A Scriptural Warrant for Social Justice: Matthew 25:31-40 Read by Terri Livak

Social Service Agencies that Live into this Mandate

SPECTRUM Youth Services: Danielle Mortimer

Vermont Interfaith Action [VIA]: Debbie Ingram

Blackfeet Service Trip of FCCE]: Sharon Dettenrieder

Heavenly Food Pantry: Lisa Clark

A Scriptural Warrant for Social Justice: Mark 12:28-34.....Read Deacon Bob Driver (8:30)

Read by Rev. Dan Raut (10:15)

Social Service Agencies that Live into this Mandate

United States Committee on Refugees and Immigration in Vermont

(USCRI-VT): Hannah Rose

Vermont Pride

Other Social Service Agency Speakers

VIA and ECJC Work and Reflections: Peter Schmalz

Love Feast for All God's Children

Communion Anthem Praeludium (excerpts) Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck**

Jesus spent much of his time around a table eating with folks who were hungry not only for food, but for meaningful relationships with God and their neighbor. Meals have a way of bringing folks together so, in honor of World Communion Sunday and Mission Sunday, we welcome everyone to the table who is committed to loving their neighbor and helping to bring God's justice into the world. Everyone is welcome at this table by coming forward and taking a piece of the many types of bread and dipping it into the various cups of grape juice and then partaking. There is a side table with gluten free bread and a separate cup just for the gluten free bread. All the juice is non-alcoholic.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Make Me a Servant

Kelly Willard**

***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**

This Little Light of Mine

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Hide it under a bushel, NO! I'm gonna let it shine
All around the neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna Let it Shine**

*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

Solemnis haec festivitas

Arthur Hutchings**
arr. David Blake

*Please stand as you are able

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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
- ⇒ Nursery for infants through 3 years at both services—self-serve at 8:30 and staffed at 10:15.
- ⇒ 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!
- ⇒ Our guest speakers from our community partners and Missions Committee!

◆ **October Faith Formation**

- ⇒ **October 1** ~ Communion / Spiritual Friends during 2nd Service (PreK through 2nd)
- ⇒ **October 8, 15, 22, & 29** ~ Peer Groups during 2nd Service (PreK through 8th)

Gratitude.

So Many Ways to Give.

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign - Gratitude. So Many Ways to Give. - will kick off on Sunday, Oct. 22 at both services as the Stewardship Committee and Finally@First entertain you with a comedy, Fintech at First.

While we all know there are many different ways to submit your pledge, (All of the options will be listed in your pledge packet, which will be available on Sunday, Oct. 8), are you familiar with object-oriented programming relational database management? Or sandboxing?

Come find out, as we all laugh at the many technical terms for what really boils down to financial management and giving to your church from your heart.

Gratitude. *So Many Ways to Give.*

Racial Justice Group

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas

"Black Angels of the Green Mountains:

The Challenge of Black Abolitionists in Antebellum Vermont"

Are you concerned about racial equity in our state and country? Would you like to learn about the history and how to move forward? Please join us on Sunday, October 15 at 3pm in the Sanctuary for a lively lecture and discussion about this very important topic. This event is free and open to the public so bring a friend!

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.

New Member's Class Offered

Do you appreciate a faith that encourages you to use your mind? Are you looking for a church that teaches values of love, kindness, inclusion and forgiveness to your children? Do you appreciate great music from multiple choral or musical groups? Do you feel the warmth and support of our staff and members? Do you want to be a part of an organization that helps to better the structures and tone of the wider Essex community? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then we would love you to come and explore what membership in our church means. On October 22nd, after the second service, around 11:30am, we are offering a New Members Class where you can learn about our church and her many ministries. You will learn about our history as well as what our denomination, the United Church of Christ, stands for and how they operate. Lunch will be provided and if you need child care, please call the church office at 802 878-5745 and let us know.

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

Tony Lamb
Norma Edwards
Sandy Tallman
Matthew Carney
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

***The flowers on the altar this morning are given by
Bruce Blackman In celebration of the 60th wedding
anniversary of Judy & Bruce on October 5.***

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 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **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: October 1—October 8

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday ~ Mission Sunday

8:30am* & 10:15am: Worship,

Sanctuary & Streaming*

9am-12pm: Mission Fair, Fellowship Hall

10:30am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd)

11:30am: Music Committee, Sanctuary

Junior Youth, Youth Room

12pm: Music Library Organizing, Sanctuary

1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Monday, October 2

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Tuesday, October 3

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge

10am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

12pm: Stewardship Marketing, Marvin Lounge

6:30pm: *BSA Troop 624 District Meeting, Fellowship Hall*

7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, October 4

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6pm: *BSA Troop 624 PLC, Marvin Lounge*

7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 5

8:30am: *Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall*

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

12pm: Montana Service Trip Leaders,
Marvin Lounge

7pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

*Cub Scout Pack 630 Den Meetings, Gym,
Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room,
Kindergarten Room, 3rd Floor Classroom*

Friday, October 6

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge

Saturday, October 7

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*

Sunday, October 8

8:30am* & 10:15am: Worship,
Sanctuary & Streaming*

10:30am: Faith Formation Peer Groups (PreK-8th)

11:30am: Racial Justice Group, Marvin Lounge

1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Events in italics = Local Community Groups