



# **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**  
**Reformation Sunday**  
**October 29, 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](http://www.fccej.org). You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with the Finally @ First Praise Band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and is not streamed. On the first Sunday of each month, when we celebrate Holy Communion, we offer one service at 10am where everyone worships together. Our Faith Formation Program for PreK through 8th is in person and starts at 10:15am in worship and then breaks 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 Nocturne in E Flat Major Fredrick Chopin

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 *The Fragrance of Christ* David Haas\*\*

Call to Worship ..... Deacon Allison Van Steensburg

Leader: Today, we celebrate the way the Holy Spirit blew through the world and inspired a movement of protest and reform ensuring that Christ's Church would align more closely with Christ's teachings.

**People: Thank you, God, for leading your people.**

Leader: Today we celebrate reformers of your church; for John Huss, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Ann Hutcheson, John Robinson, William Brewster and John Cotton: we give you thanks.

**People: Thank you, God, for your guiding spirit.**

Leader: Today, let us celebrate reformers of every age, people who were guided by your Holy Spirit to bring light and truth to your movement of love. Help us all to carry on as reformers of your will and way.

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer ..... Deacon Allison Van Steensburg  
***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.

**\*Opening Hymn**                                      *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*                                      #439\*\*

Children's Message                                      *Bibles, Bibles Everywhere*                                      Rev. Mark Mendes

**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 ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Response                                      *Sevenfold Amen*                                      Peter Christian Lukin\*\*

New Testament Readings

Gospel                                      Matthew 6:19-21, 24-33                                      [page 5]

Epistle                                      2 Corinthians 8:1-12                                      [page 140]

Anthem                                      *We are Trav'lers on a Journey*                                      Richard Gillard /  
Emmy Stapleton, violin                                      Craig Courtney\*\*

Sermon                                      *How Money Grows the Church*                                      Rev. Mendes

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

*We respond to God's divine gifts freely given to all of us **by offering our yearly pledge card AND our weekly gift back to God and the work done at FCCEJ.** This symbolizes not only our gratitude to God, but our dedication to Christ's community of faith in Essex Junction.*

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*The Servant Song*

Richard Gillard\*\*

**\*Doxology**

***Now Thank We All Our God***

**#419\***

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,  
Who, from our parent's arms, has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**\*Hymn**

***O Jesus, I Have Promised***

**#493**

\*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

*Toccata in D Minor BWV 565*J.S.  
[excerpt]

Bach\*\*

\*Please stand as you are able

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# REMINDER:

## Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, November 5!

### IMPORTANT WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE:

- ◆ Starting **next Sunday, November 5**, and continuing on the first Sunday of each month, we will hold a single worship service at 10am. This gives us the opportunity to connect with our faith family as we celebrate Holy Communion together.
  - ⇒ This service will be in-Person & Streamed with organ and Sanctuary Choir
  - ⇒ Staffed nursery care will be available
  - ⇒ Spiritual Friends for PreK through 2nd grade offered after Children's Message.

### 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 available at both services—self-serve at 8:30 and staffed at 10:15.
- ◆ **Sincere thanks this morning to:**
  - ⇒ Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band for the wonderful music!
- ◆ **Faith Formation Calendar**
  - ⇒ October 29 ~ Peer Groups during 2nd Service (PreK through 8th)
  - ⇒ November 5 ~ Spiritual Friends (PreK through 2nd) - One Service at 10am
  - ⇒ November 12 & 19 ~ Peer Groups during 2nd Service (PreK through 8th)
  - ⇒ November 26 ~ All Family Worship

### **CE Halloween Party**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after second service **TODAY**, October 29, for the annual Halloween Party! Games, goodies, and lots of fun! Our Junior Youth have been hard at work creating a "haunted room" (don't worry—it's tame enough for our young ones) on the third floor. All are welcome!

### **First "Drop-In" Choir Day: Sunday, November 5!!!**

This new opportunity is for anyone who enjoys singing but cannot commit to Thursday evening rehearsals. On the first Sunday of November, if you would like to join the Sanctuary Choir and sing a simple anthem, please plan on arriving around 9:30 am. We will hand out the music and rehearse it before the service begins at 10. Reminder that it our clocks "fall back" that day. Anyone who wishes to have more advance notice of the music may request a copy from Bethany. The choir plans on hosting these drop-in events a few times each year.

## **Craft Fest 2023**

The Craft Fest tables are in Fellowship Hall with the following sign-up opportunities:

1. Make a goodie for sweet shoppe
2. Make a pot of veggie or meat chili or butternut squash soup.
3. Volunteer as a greeter
4. Drop off silent auction items, including gift cards.
5. Pick up a lawn sign to display

If you have any questions please contact Linda at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net.

Nearly New donations can be dropped off after October 29.

Thank you for your support!

## **Grieving thru the Holidays: Coping Strategies**

Are you recently bereaved or someone who still finds the holidays challenging years after a loss? Do you want to better understand and support a loved one who is grieving? This informational session will include such topics as Understanding Grief; Traditions - Old & New; Making Plans; Setting Realistic Expectations; and Self-Care.

The session will be led by Mary McHugh and Sharon Dettenrieder who have worked in Grief Support for many years. Thursday, November 9, 10-11:30am at FCCEJ in Marvin Lounge. Questions? Contact Mary at (920) 664-5230 or mmmchugh@hotmail.com.

## **Community Concerts @ First**

On Sunday November 12 at 3pm, Community Concerts @ First will present "A Musical Feast" by Cantiamo choral ensemble. A delightful array of musical "flavors" will be featured including spirituals, folk songs and a dance tune from Quebec. Cantiamo is the auditioned small ensemble drawn from members of Bella Voce Women's Chorus under the leadership of Artistic Director, Dr. Dawn Willis.

Concert proceeds will support Vermont flood relief and FCCEJ. Tickets are available online by scanning the QR code or with the link below.

\$20 suggested donation, free for 18 and under:

<https://sevendaystickets.com/events/cantiamo-choral-ensemble-a-musical-feast-11-12-2023>



## 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.

*Please keep these people/places in your prayers...*

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii  
Everyone affected by the recent flooding  
Victims of gun violence and their families  
Family and friends of Alma Wilson  
Albert  
Michael Flynn  
Tony Lamb  
Family and Friends of Norma Edwards  
Bruce Gianuzzi

Sandy Tallman  
Jennifer Smith  
Denise Keating and family  
at the passing of her mother  
Maureen Evans & Family  
Bernie Currier  
All those suffering due to violence in Ukraine  
and the Middle East  
...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 10:15am 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](http://bit.ly/39039ht)



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

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

# **Weekly Calendar: October 29—November 5**

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

## **Sunday, October 29**

8:30am\* & 10:15am: Worship,  
Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
10:30am: Faith Formation Peer Groups (PreK-  
8th)  
11:30am: Halloween Party, Fellowship Hall  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*

## **Tuesday, October 31**

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 @ First, Sanctuary

## **Thursday, November 2**

*8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
7pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
Trustees, Marvin Lounge  
*7pm: Cub Scout Den Meetings, Fellowship Hall,*  
*2nd Floor Program Room, Gym, Kindergarten*  
*Room, 3rd Floor Classroom*

## **Saturday, November 4**

*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, October 30**

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## **Wednesday, November 1**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
*6m: Boy Scouts Troop 624 PLC, Marvin Lounge*  
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge  
*BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

## **Friday, November 3**

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge  
*4pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall*

## **Sunday, November 5**

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS—FALL BACK**

10am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming  
10:15am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd)  
11:30am: Craft Fest Team, Marvin Lounge  
Junior Youth, Youth Room  
Music Committee, Sanctuary  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*