



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
A United Church of Christ**

November 5, 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 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 *Bruyères (Heather)* Claude Debussy**

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 *Shout to the Lord* Darlene Zschech**

Call to Worship Deacon Allison Van Steensburg

Leader: Jesus invited the children to come and hear his words and accept his care:
Come, be God's child if only for this hour.

People: We come to learn.

Leader: Come, those of you who grieve over loved ones who have died and Jesus
will offer you hope.

People: We come to lovingly cry and long for the day of reunion.

Leader: Come, those of you who are excluded for God will welcome you to the
table.

People: We come to belong.

Leader: Come, those of you burdened with too much and God will offer you a way
to refresh your spirit.

People: We come to give.

Leader: Come and let us worship the Living God.

***Opening Hymn**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

#295**

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.

**Spiritual Friends for PreK through 2nd may transition to the peer rooms.*

Scripture

Matthew 5:1-16

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Welcoming Our New Members

Ruth Casey

Anna Izzo

Wayne Hall [w/ baptism]

Congregational Vows, Welcome and Reception

Deacon to the Congregation: Jesus calls us to spread God's extravagant love to all peoples and nations, offering everyone the gift of grace. Do you who witness this rite of membership, promise your support to these new members so that they might live a life where Christ's joy and meaning is manifested?

People: Ruth, Anna, and Wayne, we welcome you with joy in the communion life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ at First Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Anthem

Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual
arr. Carl Haywood

A Litany for Our Saints

Leader: Today we come to recognize the power of God. We believe that God nurtures our lives and walks with us as we journey back to the divine.

People: Jesus embodies these truths and invites us into the eternal realm of God where peace, forgiveness and love reign.

Leader: We remember our saints that have joined their Maker during 2023. We proclaim their names knowing that they live on in the very presence of our God. We remember: *Marlene Bassette, Joshua Dusharm, Norma Edwards, Wayne Hathaway, Floyd Hewitt, Nadine Hoffman, Ellen Goodhue, June Nadeau, Mally Powell, Gary Smith, Linda Joan Volker, Alma Wilson*

[Our Deacon will light a candle for each person]

We also remember others who have gone before.....

Everyone is welcome to come forward and light a candle for a loved one who has died, offering their name to the congregation if so desired.

People: We miss our saints and await the day when we will be re-united with them by the power of God. May their memories bring comfort, peace and love to our lives today. Amen and Alleluia.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation and Words of Institution

Music

Ballade pour Adeline

Paul de Senneville**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will partake of communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person. The Minister will direct everyone to partake of the gluten free bread together. The Deacons will then pass out the non-alcoholic grape juice and everyone is welcome to partake when they choose. This symbolizes both the individual and corporate nature of our faith.

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer**

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

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Christian Lukin**

A Brief Reflection

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

When God Restored our Common Life

U.S. folk melody**

***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**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

#351**

*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.
God now in peace, in faith and in love.**

Postlude

Prelude in D Minor from *Well-Tempered Clavier* Bk 1

J.S. Bach**

*Please stand as you are able

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IMPORTANT WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE:

- ◆ 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:**
 - ⇒ Bethany Blake and the Sanctuary Choir for the wonderful music!
- ◆ **Faith Formation Calendar**
 - ⇒ 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

Craft Fest 2023

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

1. Make a goodie (or two) for the Sweet Shoppe
2. Make a pot of veggie or meat chili or butternut squash soup.
3. Volunteer as a greeter, in Nearly New, or in Silent Auction
4. Drop off silent auction items, including gift cards.
5. Drop off shopping bags

Please take your Nearly New donations directly to the Gym. Thank you for your support!

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

Community Concerts @ First

Today at 3pm in the Sanctuary, Community Concerts @ First presents "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:



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 a call from a pastor, please contact the church office.

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii
Everyone affected by the recent floods
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
Maureen Evans & Family
Bernie Currier
All those suffering due to violence in
Ukraine and the Middle East
...and all persons affected by COVID19

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.

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by
Paul Hyde in loving memory of Marilyn Hyde.*

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



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Weekly Calendar: November 5—November 12

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

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
HRC, Conference Room
Music Committee, Sanctuary
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 7

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
6:30pm: BSA Troop 624 District Meeting, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, November 9

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge
10am: Living Through the Holidays—
Grief Support, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, November 11

CRAFT FEST—9AM TO 3PM

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Monday, November 6

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
5pm: Thrift Shop Volunteers, Marvin Lounge
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, November 8

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Planned Giving, 2nd Floor Program Room
6:m: BSA Troop 624 Leaders, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 10

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
9am-12pm: Church Yard Clean Up
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 12

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:30am: J.A.M. (3rd-5th), Sanctuary & 2nd Floor Program Room
1pm: Senior High Youth, Youth Room
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3pm: Community Concerts presents Cantiamo, Sanctuary

Events in italics = Local Community Groups