



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 12, 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 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 *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme/Awake, the Voice is Calling Us* J.S. Bach
(Chorale Prelude for organ BWV 645) - transcr. Ferruccio Busoni (BV B27)
Featuring Julius Herzog on Piano

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 How Great Thou Art Carl Boberg, Stuart K. Hine

Call to WorshipDeacon Donna Burnett

Leader: Jesus calls us into a relationship with God and slowly transforms our lives into reflections of divine love.

People: We seek to love God, neighbors, ourselves and our enemies.

Leader: The prophets call us to love justice and demand righteousness.

People: We seek to stand up for justice and to live peaceful lives.

Leader: Israel's kings sought to plant God's ways into civic institutions.

People: We seek to be good citizens.

Leader: Israel's priests cared for the people and taught about God.

People: We seek to have faith and be kind to everyone.

Leader: Jesus calls us into a relationship with God and slowly transforms our lives into reflections of divine love.

Deacon’s Prayer of Invocation.....Deacon Donna Burnett

Children’s Message

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**

Scripture

Old Testament Prophetic	Joshua 24:1, 14-18	[page 167]
New Testament Gospel	Matthew 22:34-40	[page 19]
Epistle	2 Corinthians 4:7-12	[page 138]
Epistle	Ephesians 4:25-5:32	[page 150]
Epistle	Philippians 4:4-9	[page 154]
Epistle	Colossians 3:12-17	[page 156]
Epistle	Thessalonians 5:13b-22	[page 159]

Anthem

Let All Things Now Living

Trad. Welsh melody**
arr. Katherine K. Davis

Sermon

We Will Serve the Lord

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

He Came Down

Traditional Cameroon**

arr. John Bell

#778**

***Doxology**

**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**

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

#448

***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 performed by Julius Herzog; you are free to sit, relax, and enjoy!

Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit/God's Time is the Very Best Time
Cantata BWV 106—(Transcr. for Piano Four Hands by György Kurtàg,
arr. for Piano Solo by Julius)

J.S. Bach

*Please stand as you are able

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



*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by
Wayne & Nancy Hall in celebration of their wedding anniversary.*



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

A Few Key Announcements

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 beautiful music!
- ◆ **Faith Formation Calendar**
 - ⇒ November 12 & 19 ~ Peer Groups during 2nd Service (PreK through 8th)
 - ⇒ November 26 ~ All Family Worship

The Giving Tree

Next Sunday, November 19, gift tags will be available on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex and online via Sign-Up Genius. The tags will include the opportunity to take all three tags for one child if desired. Once the tags have been taken, gifts will be welcomed at the church and stored until they are distributed to families.

We know that this is a favorite mission of FCCEJ. Families express their gratitude every year for our generosity. We hope you enjoy this opportunity to bring joy to kids in the City of Essex, the Town of Essex and Westford.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elaine Raymond at 879-7350 or ebraymond@gmail.com.

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

Lunchtime Book Group

The Book Group will meet at 11:30 on Monday, November 13, in the 2nd Floor Program Room. Please note that this is the second Monday this month because the third Monday falls during Thanksgiving week. We will be discussing Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders.

Described as an “experimental historical novel”, it explores the effect that his grief over his young son Willie’s death may have had on the decisions Lincoln made leading up to the Civil War. Bring your brown bag lunch and join us for fellowship and an interesting discussion.

Church Grounds Clean-Up

Our clean up of the church grounds is rescheduled to this Thursday, November 16 - 9am to 12pm. Come for an hour or the whole time. Many hands make light work!

Grieving Through the Holidays

We are offering a follow-up session on Thursday, November 16 in Marvin Lounge at 9am. All are welcome—hopefully the weather cooperates!

For more information, please contact Mary at (920) 664-5230 or mmmchugh@hotmail.com.

Montana Service Trip

Have you seen the poster for the Montana Team Service Trip? Check out our “plane” in Fellowship Hall and learn how you can help us travel to Montana. Perhaps you could help us get our luggage on board by virtually purchasing a carry-on or a different baggage option. We also will need help with boarding and there are several virtual categories from which to choose. The team will be in Fellowship Hall during the month of November with our “plane” poster and luggage tags. Be sure to write Montana on your check and fill out a luggage tag.

As you check out our poster, you will be meeting our team members. There are seventeen of us who will be embarking on this intergenerational trip in June of 2024. We are working with Global Volunteers who have met with the Blackfeet people to determine what service projects are desired. We will learn more about those options in the spring.

We appreciate your assistance with spreading the word about this domestic service trip by distributing the postcards with the QR code (available at the table in the Fellowship Hall). This makes it super easy to donate to this service trip. We are most grateful for your support!

November Special Offering

The Missions Committee is asking you to donate to the Heavenly Food Pantry with this special offering in November. The Heavenly Food Pantry at FCCEJ has been providing food support to our neighbors since 1998. Please consider giving to this important aspect of our church’s outreach. Please clearly mark your donation as a contribution to the Food Pantry.

Weekly Calendar: November 12—November 19

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

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

Tuesday, November 14

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: Boy Scouts Three Rivers District Roundtable, Fellowship Hall & Program Room
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, November 16

8am: Food Pantry Set Up, Fellowship Hall
9am: Grief Support Follow-Up, Marvin Lounge
9am-12pm: Church Grounds Clean-Up
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
2pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Open & Affirming Subcommittee, Program Room
Cub Scouts Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 18

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
Give It A Go Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
9am: Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall
9:30am: Vermont Watercolor Society, Gym
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 13

8am: Food Pantry Set Up, Fellowship Hall
10am: Essex Art Discussion Group, Daycare Room
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, 2nd Floor Program Room
Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, November 15

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

Friday, November 17

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club, Marvin Lounge

Sunday, November 19

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:30am: Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary & 2nd Floor Program Room
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups