



# **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  
Christ the King Sunday**

**November 26, 2023 - Second 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.***

<p><i>A Welcoming Community,     Accepting and Serving All In the Spirit of Christ</i></p>
--

***Order of Worship***

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

Introit

*Canticle of the Sun*

Marty Haugen

Call to Worship Psalm 100..... Led by Deacon Donna Burnett

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God.

**People: God made us and we belong to God. We are the God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. We will enter God's gates with thanksgiving; we will enter God's courts with praise. We will give God thanks and bless God's Holy name.**

Leader: For the Lord is good and God's steadfast love endures forever. God is faithful in every generation.

**\*Opening Hymn**

**Sing Out Earth and Skies**

**Marty Haugen**

**[insert]**

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

**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 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**

**Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

**Ken Medema**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

**Scripture**

Old Testament Prophetic

Ezekiel 34:11-24

[page 623]

New Testament

Matthew 25:31-46

[page 22]

**Anthem**

*Hosanna! Praise is Rising*

Paul Baloche

**Sermon**

*What Makes Christ the King*

Rev. Mendes

## And an Opportunity to Respond.....

**Today is Christ the King Sunday and Rev. Mendes invites anyone who wants to begin or renew their relationship with Jesus to come forward for a pray. Everyone is welcome no matter where you are in your journey with Jesus.**

*As people come forward the congregation is invited to remain seated and sing the following hymns as the need requires.*

<b>Hymn</b>	<b>Just As I Am</b>	<b>#207</b>
	<b>Amazing Grace</b>	<b>#547</b>
	<b>There Is a Balm</b>	<b>#553</b>

### Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Rejoice*

Chris Tomlin

**\*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**

**Let Heaven Rejoice**

**Bob Dufford**

**[insert]**

**\*Benediction**

Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Mark Mendes

**Sung Community Benediction**

**Let There Be Peace on Earth**

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!  
With God our Creator, family all are we,  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

**\*Please stand as you are able**

**◆ Sincere thanks this morning to our musicians who provided the great music!**

⇒ Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band


## 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  
Ruby and Family  
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 Ruth Casey in loving memory of her husband, Skip  
and also by Nancy Engle in loving memory of Robert Ferris\****



### 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](https://bit.ly/39039ht)



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

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

## **A Few Key Announcements**

- ◆ On the first Sunday of each month, we offer a single worship service at 10am. This provides us the opportunity to connect with our faith family as we celebrate Holy Communion together.
  - ⇒ This service is in-Person & Streamed with organ and Sanctuary Choir
  - ⇒ Staffed nursery care is available
  - ⇒ Spiritual Friends for PreK through 2nd grade offered after Children's Message
- ◆ Two Morning Services on Other Sundays
  - ⇒ 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.

## **The Giving Tree**

There are a few tags left hanging on the tree in the Narthex and several available via Sign Up Genius. Scan the QR code to go directly to the online sign up.

Important Reminders:

- ◆ Please secure tags to each wrapped gift. If you select a gift from Sign-Up Genius, you will need to create your own tag.
- ◆ Please include the identifying number of the gift – ex: 11A - and the age and gender of the child. This will allow the family to know which gift goes to each child.
- ◆ If you choose to give a gift card, please place it in a small wrapped box or bag with the tag attached. Gift cards can easily be misplaced among all of the larger gifts. This makes it easier for us to keep track of them.
- ◆ All gifts must be dropped off to FCCEJ by Sunday, December 10.

We hope you enjoy this wonderful opportunity to provide a few bright moments during the holidays for children in the City and Town of Essex and Westford. Thank you!

Elaine Raymond, Anita Guild and Sharon Dettenrieder



## **Grief Support Opportunities**

As a result of our Holiday Grief Support session, participants made 2 suggestions for follow-up. A session for men will be offered on Thursday, December 7 at 10 AM in Marvin Lounge.

Men's Experience of Loss will focus on just that – men's experience! Loss can come in many forms: job loss, loss of home, and loss thru the death of a loved one.

Beginning January 11th, we will offer a monthly grief support group meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month in Marvin Lounge. This is open to anyone in our community experiencing loss. Sharon Dettenreider and Mary McHugh will be facilitating. Please contact Mary with any questions: 920-664-5230 or mmmchugh@hotmail.com.

# **Weekly Calendar: November 26—December 3**

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

## **Sunday, November 26**

8:30\* & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming\*  
- All Family Worship  
11:30am: Hanging the Greens, Sanctuary  
Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary, Gym, Program Room  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

## **Tuesday, November 28**

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  
5:30pm: Finance Committee, Marvin Lounge  
7pm: Stewardship, Marvin Lounge  
Trustees, 2nd Floor Program Room

## **Thursday, November 30**

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*  
*6:15: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary*  
*6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, Marvin Lounge*  
7pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## **Saturday, December 2**

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

## **Monday, November 27**

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing,  
Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*5pm: Essex Pediatrics Parent Workshop,*  
*Fellowship Hall & Former Daycare*  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

## **Wednesday, November 29**

*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, December 1**

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

## **Sunday, December 3**

9:30am: Pageant Music Rehearsal,  
Marvin Lounge  
10am: Worship, Sanctuary & Streaming  
10:15am: Spiritual Friends (PreK—2nd)  
11:30am: Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary & Gym  
Music Committee, 2nd Floor Program Room  
Montana Team, Marvin Lounge  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*

# MINISTRY DIRECTORY

## Staff

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]

## Music

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 [mclarkdiscovery48@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

## Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert