



# 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)



*First Service*

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**A United Church of Christ**  
**January 28, 2024**

*We offer two different worship services: our First Service with organ and traditional choir is in-person and streamed and begins at 8:30am with access via our webpage: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org). You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with our praise band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and it is streamed on the 3rd Sunday of the month. On the first Sunday of each month we celebrate communion and have a single service at 10am and is in-person and streamed. Our Faith Formation Program for all children is in person and starts at 10:15am.*

*Our Nursery is open at all services.*

***Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.***

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

Prelude

Prelude in E Minor BWV 855  
from the *Well-Tempered Clavier Bk I*

J.S. Bach\*\*

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

*And So It Goes*

Billy Joel\*\*

Call to Worship .....Deacon Mary McHugh

Leader: Epiphany is a time when we look at the dramatic and powerful scenes of Jesus' life and ministry and see how God moved through him. In three years, Jesus' preaching, teaching, miracles, sacrifice and eventual rising founded a movement that boasts billions of followers.

**People: There are ebbs and flows, highpoints and low points, successes and failures in any movement, but Christ's Way continues to adapt and change with the cultures and seasons of the world.**

Leader: Some of us follow Christ because we believe in his divinity. Some of us follow Jesus because his teachings still ring true as a guide for our living. Some of us follow the Prince of Peace because he still advocates for the poor and oppressed. Some of us follow the Wonderful Counsellor because he resides in our hearts and restores our souls. Come, let us follow Jesus and sing of his glory.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation.....Deacon Mary McHugh

**\*Opening Hymn**                      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*                      #12\*\*

A Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")** ..... Rev. Mark Mendes

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 Lutkin

**\*Hymn**                                      *God of the Ages*                                      #592\*\*

New Testament Scripture Lessons

Epistle                      I Corinthians 8:1-13                      [page 131]

Gospel                      Mark 1:21-28                      [page 27]

Anthem                                      *Marchin' to the Beat of God*                                      John D. Horman\*\*

Sermon                                      *Building Up*                                      Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem                                      *Angels' Voices*                                      Friedrich Burgmüller\*\*

**\*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**                                      *In the Midst of New Dimensions*                                      #391\*\*

\*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

*Tricabijlie*

Gisbert Steenwick\*\*  
(17th century Dutch organist)

\*Please stand if you are able

- ◆ We are thankful to be blessed with the talents of these awesome musicians this morning:  
⇒ Bethany Blake and the Sanctuary Choir

## 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.

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii  
Everyone affected by the recent floods  
Victims of gun violence and their families

Joyce Jacobs  
Frank Smith  
Connor Bryce and Family  
Bernie Carrier  
Ruby and Family

Michael Flynn  
Tony Lamb  
Bruce Gianuzzi  
Maureen Evans & Family  
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*

*Cathy Shearer*

*In memory of Patricia Shearer*

### 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)

### **Dates to Remember:**

**February 13** ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30-7pm in the Fellowship Hall

**February 14** ~ Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm in the Sanctuary

**March 17** ~ Pretzel Sunday

### **The Youth Calendar:**

**February 4th ~ (JHY & SHY)** 11am to 12:30pmish – Games/Movie/Toys/Projects

**February 11 ~ SH Youth (9th-12th)** 11:30-1:30pm

**February 18 ~ JH Youth (6th – 8th)** 11:30-1:30pm

### **Community Concerts @ First**

The 2024 lineup for CC@F is here! Mark your calendars and come enjoy these fabulous artists!

- ◆ **March 10 : Va Et Vient** - Vermont trio playing traditional Québécois, French & Cajun tunes
- ◆ **April 14: Vermont Virtuosi** - Flute and piano
- ◆ **September 29: Hairpeace** - Guitar and vocal duo performing acoustic music from the 60's through today
- ◆ **November 3: Alicia Chapman**, Oboe

A portion of the proceeds for all concerts will go to non-profit organizations in our community and all take place on Sundays at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Visit the Seven Days website for tickets: [sevendaystickets.com/organizations/community-concerts-at-first-congregational-church](http://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/community-concerts-at-first-congregational-church)

### **Montana Service Trip**

The Montana Service Team is hosting the 7th annual Cabin Fever Calcutta on March 9th. It is an evening of fun and fellowship, and the perfect time to shake the winter doldrums. Be sure to purchase your ticket at our table in Fellowship Hall!

### **Bottle/Can Drive**

Bring your recyclable bottles/cans to FCCEJ on Annual Meeting Sunday. There will be designated trucks in the parking lot and you can place your cans in or near them. The Team is working with Essex Discount Beverage, so if this time does not work, returnables can be brought directly to them. You can ask that your proceeds be donated to this Service Trip. Please reach out if you need a pick up at your house. Stop by our table in Fellowship Hall if you have any questions. We appreciate any can/bottle donations to help fund this trip!

### **Grief Support Group**

**2nd Thursday of each month from 10am to 11:30am in Marvin Lounge.**

This group is open to anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. The sessions are facilitated by Sharon Dettenrieder, MSN, RN and Mary McHugh, MAPS. Both Sharon and Mary have years of experience in leading Grief Support groups as well as personal experience with loss. Next session is 2/8. Contact the church office for more info: 802-878-5745 or [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org).

### **New Members Class**

Join us after second service in Marvin Lounge **today** for our New Members Class. Learn about our church and her many ministries. We will discuss our history, as well as what our denomination, the United Church of Christ, stands for and how they operate. Lunch is provided.

## **Weekly Calendar: January 21 - January 28**

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

### **Sunday, January 28**

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming  
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)  
11:30am: New Member Class, Marvin Lounge  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### **Tuesday, January 30**

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge  
10:15am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, February 1**

*8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
*6pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary*  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
*Cub Scout Den Meetings, Fellowship Hall, Gym, Program Room, Classrooms*

### **Saturday, February 3**

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*  
*Give It A Go Support Group, Marvin Lounge*  
*9am: Reiki II Class, Marvin Lounge*  
*Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
12:30pm: Piano Tuning, Marvin Lounge  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### **Monday, January 29**

8:30am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
1pm: VBC Planning Meeting, Marvin Lounge  
*4pm: BSA Troop 624, Program Room*  
5pm: Thrift Shop Advisory Board, Marvin Lounge  
*7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

### **Wednesday, January 31**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
*6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, Program Room*  
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge  
*BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

### **Friday, February 2**

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*  
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge  
*6pm: BSA Troop 624 Sleepover, Fellowship Hall, Marvin Lounge, Gym, West Wing*

### **Sunday, February 4**

10am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming  
10:15am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd)  
11:30am: FCCEJ Annual Meeting, Sanctuary & Zoom  
*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]

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Elizabeth Miller [childrensministry@fccej.org]

Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]

Social Media Marketing Specialist: 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 [mattclark48discovery@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