



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

Ask the Pastor Sunday

February 4, 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. 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 Sarabande from *Partita No. 4 in D Major BWV 828* 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 *Shine, Jesus, Shine* Graham Kendrick**
arr. Jack Schrader

Call to Worship Deacon Alison Wermer

Leader: Come, let us gather together to celebrate life, unite in common purpose and seek to create a more just and loving world.

People: We offer ourselves up to this community knowing that our presence strengthens the ministry and calls us to participate in building Jesus' kingdom in our little corner of Vermont.

Leader: Come, let us unite as we worship and praise our God.

Opening Hymn *We Gather Together* [handout]*
As the congregation sings, the children transition to Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd)

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")** Rev. Mark Mendes
Prayer Requests Offered within the Community
A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

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

New Testament Scripture Reading

Corinthians 12:4-14

[page 133]

Anthem

Lord of the Dance

19th-Century Shaker Tune**
adapted by Sydney Carter

*As the choir sits down, the Deacons will collect the questions
and bring them to Rev. Mark to answer*

Sermon

Ask the Pastor

Rev. Mendes

On the Annual Meeting Sunday, everyone is encouraged to ask Rev. Mark a question by writing it down on the sheet provided in the bulletin. Everyone is invited to ask any question concerning any aspects of our ministry at First Congregational Church or even personal questions if appropriate in nature.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation and Words of Institution

Music

Ave Verum Corpus K. 618

W.A. Mozart**

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 where everyone is welcome to partake when they choose. This symbolizes both the individual and corporate nature of our faith.

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Sonata in A Major K. 208

Domenico Scarlatti**

***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

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
[vv. 1 & 2]

#400**

*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

Sonata in C Major K 309, movement 1
[excerpt]

W.A. Mozarter**

*Please stand if you are able

- ◆ We are thankful to be blessed with the talents of these awesome musicians this morning:
 - ⇒ Bethany Blake, the Sanctuary Choir, and everyone that participated in the Drop-In Choir!

Lenten Prayers

During the 6 weeks of Lent, the staff at FCCEJ has pledged to pray for all active members and constituents in our faith community. Each week, starting on February 18 and going until Easter, we will publish a list of names in the Sunday worship bulletin. These are the people that will be prayed for that week. If you have a specific prayer request, please send it to welcome@fccej.org or call the church office. If not, we will pray as the Spirit moves us. All prayer requests will remain confidential unless we hear otherwise.

Please feel free to pray for the folks on the list as part of your Lenten journey. By Easter morning, everyone at FCCEJ will have been lifted up in prayer.

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 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 Currier

Ruby and Family
Michael Flynn
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
Riley Elliott, in loving memory of my son,
Ryan Maxwell Elliott*

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

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, Receiving New Members

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

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!

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.

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

The Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop is now open on the first Sunday of each month. Today, their hours are 12pm to 1:30pm, to accommodate the Annual Meeting and luncheon.

Valentines for Veterans

This Valentine's Day we have the opportunity to share the light and love of Christ to our veterans. If you are willing and able, please consider buying or making a card and/or writing a note. We will have a collection basket in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings or you may bring them to the Church Office during the week. All Valentines need to be at FCCEJ by the morning of February 13 so that we can deliver them. Thank you!

Weekly Calendar: February 4 - February 11

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, February 4

10am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10:15am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd)
11:30am: FCCEJ Annual Meeting,
Sanctuary & Zoom
12pm—1:30pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
12:30pm: FCCEJ Faith Community Meal,
Fellowship Hall
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, February 6

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
4pm: Essex Pediatrics Workshop, West Wing
5pm: Yoga @ FCCEJ, Sanctuary
*6:30pm: BSA Troop 624 District Meeting,
Fellowship Hall*

Thursday, February 8

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Conference Room
10am: Grief Support Group, Marvin Lounge
11am: Youth Ministry Team, Conference Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
12pm: Calcutta Team, Program Room
1pm: Service Trip Team, Marvin Lounge
6pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, February 10

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

Monday, February 5

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

Wednesday, February 7

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee, Marvin Lounge
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6pm: Boy Scouts PLC, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 9

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 11

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
9am: Reiki 1 Class, Marvin Lounge
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:30am: Junior Youth, Kitchen, Youth Room
Racial Justice Subcommittee, Program Room
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