



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



First Service

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
The Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 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. Listen Assist Headsets are available in the Narthex and next to the elevator and can be used with or without hearing aids.

Our Nursery is open at all services.

Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude	<i>En Rêve: Nocturne S.207</i>	Franz Liszt**
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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	<i>Piano piece in F-sharp major S. 193</i> [excerpt]	Franz Liszt**
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Call to Worship Deacon Allison VanSteensburg
Leader: On Sunday morning Jesus came back from the dead and then reappeared to the disciples on Sunday the next week. Sundays became a weekly anniversary of Christ's resurrection.

People: The day we worship reminds us of Christ's resurrection.

Leader: Christ's new life was also seen reflected, to those in the northern climes, in the return to life for all the plants in springtime.

People: When flowers and trees begin to bloom, when animals wake from their slumber, when the sun's light increases its time with us, when the earth awakens from its slumber, we are reminded of Christ's resurrection.

Leader: One day is not big enough to remember Christ's resurrection. We have a whole church season to celebrate this joyful miracle. Come, let us look for God's phoenix spirit all around us.

***Opening Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

#245**

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Children's Message.....Laurie Chipman

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**Mary McHugh

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.**

New Testament Historical Reading Acts 3:1-16 [page 92]

Hymn** *I Love to Tell the Story* **#522*

New Testament Gospel Reading Luke 24:35-48 [page 69]

Sanctuary Choir Anthem *Try Me, O God* John Nares**
(1715-1783)

Sermon *The Glorious Tension* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Adagio (Movement 3) from *Suite #2 in F Major* HWV 427 G.F. Handel

***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**

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

[facing page]**

***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**

Gigue de Mr. Richard from the 17th-c. Bauyn Manuscript**

***Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks to:

◆ Bethany Blake and the Sanctuary Choir for the beautiful music this morning!

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

G C G

1 When the trum - pet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,
 2 On that bright and cloud-less morn - ing when the dead in Christ shall rise,
 3 Let us la - bor for the Mas - ter from the dawn till set - ting sun,

D G

and the morn - ing breaks, e - ter - nal, bright and fair; when the
 and the glo - ry of his res - ur - rec - tion share; when his
 let us talk of all his won - drous love and care; then when

C G

saved of earth shall gath - er o - ver on the oth - er shore, and the
 cho - sen ones shall gath - er to their home be - yond the skies, and the
 all of life is o - ver, and our work on earth is done, and the

D7 G *Refrain*

roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there. When the roll is called up

D7 G

yon - der, when the roll is called up yon - der, when the

C G D7 G

roll is called up yon - der, when the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there.

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.

The Haitian People
Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii
Everyone affected by the recent floods
Victims of gun violence and their families
Julia Tanner Holly
Jon Eric Lindholm
Albert
Ozzy and Family
Andrea & Steve Sharp
Russ Wilson & Cathy Galbraith
Juliana Faux
Family and Friends of Joyce Jacobs

Marie Johnson
Bruce Blackman
Frank Smith
Connor Bryce and Family
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

CONNECTIONS:

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our "Weekly Update" eConnection: <http://bit.ly/3rlsIsv>

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

Children & Youth

Faith Formation Sunday Morning Calendar

April 14 ~ Peer Groups (PreK-8th)

April 21~ All Family Worship

April 28 ~ Peer Groups (PreK-8th)

Youth Calendar:

April 14 ~ SHY 11:30-1:30pm ~ cookie making for a local organization/group

Vacation Bible Camp ~ Mark your calendars now!

August 5th – 9th, 2024

Mornings 9am-12noon OR All-Day 9am to 4pm (\$100 per camper ~ scholarships available)

Campers ~ Toddlers with a Parent & PreK up through current 5th graders

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 5/9. Contact the church office for more info: 802-878-5745 or welcome@fccej.org.

“Called to Care” is a visitation ministry that we are restarting post Covid. It involves a pair of church members visiting a member who is homebound or in a care facility in our area. These visits take place at least once a month. Mary McHugh will be organizing “Called to Care.” Sunday, April 21, Mary will be available in the Fellowship Hall to answer questions after each service. There will be a training session on Monday, April 22 in Marvin Lounge from 10–11:30am. Registration is appreciated either by contacting the office or emailing Mary at mmmchugh@hotmail.com.

FCCEJ Leadership Workshop

Our Leadership Workshop had to be postponed due to weather. The new date is Saturday, April 27 from 9am to 11am in the Fellowship Hall. All current committee/group leaders are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone else interested in the details of our structure, policies, and procedures.

Community Concerts @ First

Join us for our next Community Concert, TODAY, April 14 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. CC@F is thrilled to present Vermont Virtuosi, featuring flutist Laurel Maurer and pianist Michael Sitton. Proceeds for the concert will benefit the 2024 Montana Service Trip to the Blackfeet Nation. Suggested donation is \$20—under 18 is free.

Scan the QR code or use this link for tickets:

<https://sevendaystickets.com/events/vermont-virtuosi-4-14-2024>



Weekly Calendar: April 14 - April 21

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, April 14

8* & 10:15am Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:30am: Senior High Youth, Youth Room
1pm: CC@F Set Up, Sanctuary
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3pm: CC@F presents Vermont Virtuosi,
Sanctuary
5pm: Trekkers Group Arrives, 3rd Floor, Kitchen

Tuesday, April 16

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
4:30pm: Essex Pediatrics, West Wing
5pm: Yoga, Sanctuary
7pm: CE, Marvin Lounge
Communications, 2nd Floor Program Room

Thursday, April 18

9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting
11am: Youth Ministry Team, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Open & Affirming Sub-Committee,
2nd Floor Program Room
Cub Scouts Pack 630, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 20

All Day Event,—
Vermont UCC Annual Conference, Entire Facility
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Monday, April 15

8am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room
10am: Essex Art League, 2nd Floor Program Room
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge
Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1pm: Food Pantry Set Up, Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship
Hall, Sanctuary, Kitchen
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, April 17

8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop-Off,
Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room
10am: Missions Committee, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 19

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3pm: Vermont UCC Annual Conference Begins

Sunday, April 21

8:30 & 10:15am: All-Family Worship,
Sanctuary/Streaming
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups