



# 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)



*Second 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](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. 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.***

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

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

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Micheal W. Smith

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

*Canticle of the Sun*  
[handout]

Marty Haugen

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Children's Message.....Laurie Chipman

**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 Transition to Faith Formation\***

**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.**

*\*PreK-8th transition to Peer Groups\**

*Parents, please pick up your children by 11:30*

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 Reading

Historical

Acts 3:1-16

[page 92]

Gospel

Luke 24:35-48

[page 69]

Finally @ First Anthem

*What Faith Can Do*

Krippayne & Davis

Sermon

*The Glorious Tension*

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Imagine*

John Lennon

**\*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**

***We Are Called***  
**[handout]**

**David Haas**

**\*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 if you are able**

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band for the awesome music this morning!

## 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.

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

# 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: Mindy Bickford & Joann Irwin—Co-Chairs

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Men at First Director: Bill Bickford

## Officers

President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Vice President: Terri Stein

Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]

Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]

Assistant Treasurer: Matt Clark [mattclark48discovery@gmail.com]

Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel, Allan Kinney

## Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Derek Lyman & Terri Livak

Communications: Francis Gravel

Deacons: Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Terri Stein

Hospitality: Jen Dooley

Human Resources: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Kaki McGeary

## Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert