



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

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 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. 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

Rainbow Connection

Williams / Ascher**

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ's resurrection threw a monkey wrench into Jesus' followers. How they practiced their faith changed; their understanding of who God is shifted; how and when they worshipped was altered to fit their new reality. Jesus, his resurrection, and teachings shifted their paradigm dramatically!

People: When we invite God into our lives, when we apply the mind blowing idea of Christ's resurrection as an active force in the world, when we understand the mysterious presence of the Holy Spirit blowing where it will in our lives and world, then we begin to understand the every changing nature of our revelation of the Divine.

Leader: Come, let us enter into this sacred journey with the most powerful and multifaceted being to ever exist. Hold on.....

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Children's Message

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 ("trespasses")**

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.

Prayer Response

Rise Up

Andra Day

**I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day
I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid
I'll rise up and I'll do it a thousand times again
And I'll rise up, high like the waves
I'll rise up, in spite of the ache
I'll rise up and I'll do it a thousand times again
I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll rise up.
I'll rise.**

Scripture Reading:

Acts 10 shared narratively

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Finally @ First Anthem

Born This Way

Stefani Germanotta**

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Stand Up

Jennifer Nettles**

***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**

***This Little Light of Mine*
[handout]**

***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 beautiful 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 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
Family and Friends of Chris Baker
Jennifer & Dan Bashaw and Family
Family and Friends of Dick Davidson
Skip Bergin
Julia Tanner Holly
Kim Sonntag
Jon Eric Lindholm
Albert
Ozzy and Family

Russ Wilson & Cathy Galbraith
Juliana Faux
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/>
*also 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 28 ~ Peer Groups (PreK-8th)

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

Youth Picture Board

Do you have a picture of yourself doing what you enjoy? Parents/youth – please forward/drop off to Laurie so you can be added to the bulletin board in the hallway.

Come see who's on the board already. What's coming up on your calendar? Reach out and invite Laurie. She'd love to come support you.

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.

Planned Giving Seminar

As a component of the Planned Giving Program we are pleased to have the opportunity to host Holly LeMieux, local estate planning attorney, on May 23, from 6:30 to 8pm in the Marvin Lounge. Holly's area of expertise includes estate planning, wills, and elder law. She will present, have time for questions, and provide take-away materials.

There is no charge to attend this seminar. Please contact the church office to sign up or if you need more information.

2024 COTS Walk—Sunday, May 5

1pm—Check In

2pm—Walk Begins

This family-friendly event guides walkers along a 3.6-mile route through downtown Burlington, visiting some of the shelters and facilities that COTS operates. At this event, COTS seeks to illustrate the path a person experiencing homelessness might take when utilizing COTS services to educate our community about homelessness in our region. Bring your friends, family, co-workers, dogs, and strollers.....ALL ARE WELCOME!

Register downstairs in the Fellowship Hall or online: www.cotsonline.org/cots-walk and join the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction team!

Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) advocates for long-term solutions to end homelessness and provides emergency shelter, services, and long-term housing for people who are experiencing homelessness or are marginally housed.

Weekly Calendar: April 28 - May 5

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, April 28

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:30am: Junior Youth
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 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, Sanctuary
7pm: Trustees, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, May 2

8:30am: Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall
9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting, Marvin Lounge
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, 3rd Floor Classrooms

Saturday, May 4

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
10:30am: Music Rehearsal
11:30am: Eaton Memorial, Sanctuary,
Fellowship Hall
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge

Monday, April 29

8am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, May 1

10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6pm: BSA Troop 624 PLC, Marvin Lounge
6:30pm: Eagle Scout BoR, Program Room
6:30pm: Men at First Rehearsal,
Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 3

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge

Sunday, May 5

10am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10:15am: Spiritual Friends (PreK-2nd)
11:30am: Montana Team, Marvin Lounge
Music Committee, 2nd Floor Program Room
Racial Justice Sub-Committee, Conference 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: Mindy Bickford & Joann Irwin—Co-Chairs

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Men at First Director: Bill Bickford

Officers

President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Vice President: Terry 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: Terry 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