



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 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday**

May 5, 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*

Prelude

Sonata in G Major, Allegro

Marcello**
Eddy Malave, viola

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

Gathered Here

Phil Porter **

Call to Worship

Leader: Our God and Creator is the ground of our being.

People: God's Spirit infuses our hearts and lungs, God's earth provides us with sustenance. God's water ushers in life and quenches our thirst. God's triune nature commands community. God's Son embodies love and instills it into the world.

Leader: Day in and day out, God's presence is all around us. Come, let us offer our praise to our God.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Judy McCullen

***Opening Hymn**

Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

#573**

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.
(*Pre-K-2nd grade transition to Spiritual Friends)**

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**.....Rev. Ron Faux

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

Hear Our Prayer, Oh God

George Whelpton**

Scripture Reading:

John 15:1-17

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Sanctuary Choir Anthem

Everywhere I Go

Arr. Sally DeFord**

Communion Meditation

Jesus: The Great I Am

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation and Words of Institution

Communion Music:

Viola Concerto G Major, Andante

Telemann**

Eddy Malave, viola

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. All are welcome at Christ's table.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Excerpt from Raindrop Prelude (Op. 28 No. 15)*

F. Chopin**

***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**

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

#485

***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 Op. 5 No. 1 in D Major, Allegro

Corelli**

Eddy Malave, viola

*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ All the brave souls who sang with the Sanctuary Choir for their “Drop In Choir” today! This is an open invitation from our Music Director, Bethany Blake. Just show up a half hour early on Sunday morning and she will pick an anthem that everyone can join in on. The next two dates for Drop-In Choir are October 6 and November 3. Come meet a great group of people and sing until your heart’s content!
- ◆ Bethany Blake, the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, and Eddy Malave 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
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
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

*The flowers on the altar are given by Riley Elliott
in memory of Lorinda's mother, Donna Flint.*

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 May 19 ~ Spare Time Fun for Youth & Parents ~ 12-2pm

Inviting all JHY & SHY and their parents to come celebrate the end of the year. Also inviting 5th graders and their parents to join in the fun. RSVP needed by May 12th to Laurie.

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.

Celebrating Graduates

Do you have a graduate in the family? Graduation Sunday is June 2!

Email Jen at the church office (welcome@fccej.org) the following info:

- ◆ Name of graduate
- ◆ Graduation/recent picture & baby/young picture
- ◆ School (high school, undergrad, graduate) & degree if applicable
- ◆ Their plans for the future

The deadline for submissions is May 29. Contact the church office for more information.

Summer Schedule—June through Labor Day

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ One service at 9am. Streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej
 - ⇒ All Family Worship—Faith Formation on hiatus till September
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month
 - ⇒ Rev. Mark on vacation July 1 through August 5

Weekly Calendar: May 5 - May 12

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

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

Tuesday, May 7

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
6:30pm: BSA Troop 624 District Meeting,
Fellowship Hall
7pm: Church Council, Marvin Lounge

Thursday, May 9

10am: Grief Support, 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 11

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
1:30pm: Claire Black Recital, Sanctuary,
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3:30pm: Ricchie Birthday Party, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 6

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 8

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

Friday, May 10

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 12

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary/
Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:30am: Junior Youth
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