



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 Third Sunday of Pentecost
A Juneteenth Celebration
June 16, 2024

From June through Labor Day weekend, we follow our Summer Worship Schedule. The Sunday service each week starts at 9am and we have special music from individuals or groups that have volunteered, which gives our two musical groups [Sanctuary Choir & Finally @ First] the summer to rest and simply enjoy worship. Our streaming will continue with a simple wide shot of the service and not the multiple cameras and special screen shots of the hymns and various parts of the bulletin which gives our tech folks a break. Our nursery is open each week with a paid attendant for ages 6 months through 3 years. Children three and older are asked to join their parents in worship which gives our Faith Formation volunteers a little time off as well.

Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude *Vocalise* Rachmaninoff
Played by Abigail Jackman

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 *Ashoken Farewell* Unger
Played by Zachary Jackman

Call to WorshipDeacon Mary McHugh

Leader: There is joy in knowing that God blesses everyone in this room. God thinks each person here is precious and good. All of us are God's children.

People: Our hair, eyes, skin color, personalities, opinions in politics, health, mental abilities, physical appearances, gender, sexual orientation and anything else you can think of does not limit God's love for us. God loves us just the way we are!

Leader: Come, let us worship a big God whose realm reaches everyone, whose love is for everyone, whose forgiveness is for everyone. Isn't it great to have a big God for everyone and not a little tiny god for one small group of the righteous? Come, let's worship our God.

***Opening Hymn**

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

#572

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation.....Deacon Mary McHugh

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

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Caribbean, Hal Hopson ☞

***Congregational Hymn of Choice**

Each week, the worship leader will ask for a suggestion from those in attendance for a hymn the congregation should sing. The organist will then lead us in the singing. If you pick one the organist cannot sightread, then be ready with another selection.

A Litany of Blessing for our Montana Service Trip to the Blackfeet Nation

Leader: Jesus clearly commands us to take care of those less fortunate than ourselves: to heal the sick, stand up for the powerless, feed the hungry, care for the orphan and widow, visit those in prison and reach out to those who are excluded.

People: **Our church strives to live into Christ's gospel of love. We feed and clothe people, we partner with organizations committed to helping people. We speak up for women, people of color, and our LGBTQ folk. We give money to war torn areas of the world and places where weather events have taken lives and destroyed property.**

Leader: We seek to follow Christ. Today, we venture into a new area of ministry: uplifting the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana and seeking to make their lives and living conditions better. The following people will represent our church in this service trip [*please come forward as your name is called*]

Matt, Lisa and Ashley Clark

Bill Coddington

Sharon Dettenreider

Dave, Cristine, Mae and Sam Dewey

Cathy LaPierre

Gretchen and Izzy Owens

Mark Mendes

Terry, Heather, Addie and Tristan Stein

People: We are excited about this new aspect of our ministry in Christ's name. We are thrilled that all of you have decided to represent our church in this ministry. We will support all of you with our love and prayers and cannot wait to hear about your adventures. Thank you for offering your time and treasure to follow in Christ's way to help the Blackfeet Tribe. May God be with you.

Leader: I now invite the congregation to come forward to surround and empower these folks with the laying on of hands.

[*Service Team Members form a circle and folks from church gather around them with their hands on their shoulders*]

People: Let us pray. May God bless you and keep you. May you be instruments of God's peace. May you lift up others in love. May you be nurtured in your service to others. And may First Church's ministry be strengthened through this ministry. Amen.

Everyone: Amen and Alleluia!

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Numbers 12:1-16

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New Testament

Acts 8:26-40

[page 96]

Sanctuary Choir Special Anthem

Lifting as We Climb



(Composed 2023 for the BLM Commissioning Black Composers Project)

A Summer Meditation

Masking Our Prejudice in God's Will

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Pavenne

Pierre Attaignant (1531)

**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**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

***Benediction**

Pastoral Benediction and Special Blessing..... Rev. 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**

Gailliarde C Major

Pierre Attaignant (1531)

***Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ Bethany Blake, the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, Abigail Jackman, and Zachary Jackman for giving us the gift of their wonderful music this morning!
- ◆ This morning's music is presented in accordance with our *Royalties for Spirituals Project*: a practice of valuing the musical contributions of enslaved Africans to American worship and song. We honor the unrecognized musicians who created this music by singing them with reverence, gratitude, and open hearts. Royalties set aside for the use of these songs today will go to a local organization that supports African American musicians.

Summer Schedule—June through Labor Day

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ One service at 9am—in-person & streamed
 - ⇒ 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

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

Chris Hathaway
Bruce Parker
Skip Bergin
Julia Tanner Holly
Kim Sonntag
Jon Eric Lindholm
Ruby & Family

Albert
Ozzy and Family
Russ Wilson & Cathy Galbraith
Connor Bryce and Family
Michael Flynn
Bruce & Lori Gianuzzi
Maureen Evans & Family
All those suffering due to violence in
Ukraine and the Middle East
...and all persons affected by COVID19

Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar are a wonderful way to remember loved ones or celebrate a special day. We include a note in the bulletin about who donated the flowers and who/what they are honoring. Scan the QR code or use this link to sign up for 2024:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0545A8AB2FAAF58-46881013-fccej>



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/>

*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**, On Hiatus till September



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Heavenly Food Pantry

Our Heavenly Food Pantry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of clients we serve. On our most recent distribution date, we provided food and other essentials for 53 families – up from about the regular 30. This is approximately a 76% increase.

We are in particular need of the following food items: Cereal, Peanut Butter, and Baked Beans, although all non-perishable items are gratefully accepted. Please also consider donating non-dairy milk (almond, soy, etc...) as well as gluten-free items and women's hygiene products.

Donations can be dropped off just outside the church office or across from the elevator in the grocery cart.

The pantry continues to need help to fulfil the delivery part of its mission. If you have an hour or so available on a food pantry day and the means to deliver 8-10 bags of food, then we could use your help. Please call the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to welcome@fccej.org.

We appreciate your support as we continue the mission of seeing that no one goes hungry!

Monthly Distribution Schedule: 2nd Monday from 5:30-7:30pm & 4th Thursday from 3-6pm.

Summer Music in Worship

During the summer, we encourage our musically inclined faith community members to consider sharing their talents in worship. You may nominate yourself, a child, grandchild, or other family member! It could be you and a friend who doesn't attend FCCEJ. It may be a solo, duet, trio, etc. Contact the church office or Bethany to sign up - bblake@fccej.org.

Faith Formation

During the summer months starting June 23, the children's ministry will explore The Beatitudes through information provided in the Narthex. Weekly children and their families will learn the blessings and hope The Beatitudes offer followers of Jesus. Enjoy!

Vacation Bible Camp ~ August 5- 9, 2024

Hero Central—"Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" Psalm 34:14b

Mornings 9am-12noon OR All-Day 9am to 4pm (scholarship available)

Toddlers with a Parent & on up through current 5th graders—Plenty of room for Campers!

JHY helpers & SHY helpers and/or staff (application online - need 3 more)

Register Online today!

<https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/vacation-bible-camp/>

Our current volunteer team for the week: Music/Bible Drama: Bob Driver; Science: Lauren Starkey; Snack: Judy Allen, Mary Anne Warren, Ginny Coe, Mary Ann Phelps; Craft: Judy Roy, Cathy Lapierre; Games: Bill Bickford, Eric Lindholm ; Nurse: Jane Piper; Afternoon Adult Support: Cathy Lapierre; Tech: Doug Olufsen

Weekly Calendar: June 16—June 23

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, June 16

Juneteenth Celebration & Father's Day

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 17

8am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room

11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge

Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, June 18

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge

10:15am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

11am: VBC Team, Marvin Lounge

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

5pm: Yoga, Sanctuary

*6:30pm: Eagle Scout Board of Review,
Marvin Lounge*

7pm: Communications, Program Room
HRC, Conference Room

Wednesday, June 19

Juneteenth—Office Closed All Day

10am: Missions Committee, Marvin Lounge

Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal, West Wing

*Eagle Scout Board of Review,
2nd Floor Program Room*

7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge

BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, June 20

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge

6:15pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7pm: Cub Scouts Pack 630, Fellowship Hall

Friday, June 21

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market

10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

*7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club,
Marvin Lounge*

Saturday, June 22

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary

Give It A Go Support Group, Marvin Lounge

9am: Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 23

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups