



# 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)



**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**The Sixth Sunday of Pentecost**  
**June 30, 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.**

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In the Spirit of Christ*

Prelude

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

Call to Worship .....Deacon Mary McHugh

Leader: Come, bow down and worship the powerful presence of God, your Creator. Come, take off your shoes for you are on holy ground. Come, with trepidatious awe, and pledge your allegiance to God

**People: We come to give homage to the Creator of the universe, the cornerstone of all existence, the giver of the law and the maker of all divine covenants with humanity.**

Leader: Come, let us draw close to our loving parent and friend. Let us soak in the peaceful presence of God. Come, let us lay the weight of life upon Christ's shoulders that our loads might be lighter.

**People:** We come to this sacred place tired with life's hardships, weary of the world and uncertain about our futures. We come burdened with shortcomings, grief, anxiety and apathy. We come for relief, peace, forgiveness, and above all, unconditional love.



Montana Service Trip Initial Reflections.....The Montana Trip Participants

*Last night, the Montana Service Trip Team Members arrived in Burlington at 9:30pm. Those willing and able to make it to worship this morning will share some stories and reflections of their time on the Blackfeet Reservation. [Q & A if time allows]*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Smile*

Charles Chaplin

Sung by Whitney Noel and Hillary Keating

**\*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.**

**\*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.*

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.**

Musical Prayer Response

**\*Hymn**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

**#553**

\*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

**\*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

\*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks the morning to:

- ◆ Our fantastic musicians for sharing their talents with us
- ◆ Our Montana Team members for sharing some of their experiences

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call (802) 878-5745.

Victims of gun violence and their families

Family and friends of Louise Kolvoord

Chris Hathaway

Bruce Parker

Skip Bergin

Julia Tanner Holly

Kim Sonntag

Jon Eric Lindholm

Family & friends of Ruby Lanza

Patty Giroux

Roger Mathey

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

*The flowers on the Altar this morning  
are given by Laurie Chipman ~  
Celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary!*

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://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, Canned Corn, 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](mailto: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](mailto:bblake@fccej.org).

### **Faith Formation**

During the summer months, Children's Ministry will explore The Beatitudes through materials provided in the Narthex. On a weekly basis, 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 - Register Online today!

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

Current Adult Volunteers: Bill Bickford Jr., Bob Driver, Judy Allen, Lauren Starkey, Jane Piper, Doug Olufsen, Eric Lindholm, Mary Ann Phelps, Cathy Lapierre, Ginny Coe, Judy Roy, Amanda Palmer, Mary Anne Warren.

### **Youth Summer Service Days ~ July 17, 18, 24, & 25**

JH & SH Youth participating with our Youth Ministry Team in Hands-On Service Locally

Sign up for all 4 days, just 1 OR partial day that fits into your work schedule

Return YM Registration Form and Vermont Foodbank Permission Forms by July 8th to Laurie

## **Weekly Calendar: June 30—July 7**

**\*Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections\***

### **Sunday, June 30**

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### **Monday, July 1**

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

### **Tuesday, July 2**

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, Gym

### **Wednesday, July 3**

*10am: 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

### **Thursday, July 4**

**Independence Day—Office Closed All Day**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### **Friday, July 5**

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market  
*10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

### **Saturday, July 6**

*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, July 7**

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*