



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 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
July 14, 2024

From June through Labor Day weekend, we follow our Summer Worship Schedule. Sunday service begins 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 continues with a simple wide shot of the sanctuary 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 remain in worship while Faith Formation is on summer hiatus.
Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude *Song for Eia* Michael Jones

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 *Shout to the Lord* Darlene Zschech
Performed by Amanda Palmer

Call to Worship Deacon Jim Glatz

Leader: Come, let us gather to worship and praise our God in a spirit of humility and gratitude.

People: We are here to meet the Living God: to open our hearts, to seek forgiveness, to clarify issues of justice and to discern God's will for our lives both as individuals and as a family of faith.

Leader: Come, let us gather to worship and praise our God in a spirit of humility and gratitude.

***Opening Hymn** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* #1

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon Jim Glatz

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 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")**

MID Josh Sharp

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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier

Anthem

On Eagles Wings

Michael Jonas

Performed by Amanda Palmer

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic

Amos 7:7-15

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New Testament Gospel

Mark 6:14-29

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***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.

Summer Meditation

The Art of Truth Telling

MID Josh Sharp

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

In Christ Alone

Getty/Townsend

Performed by Amanda Palmer

***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 Shall Overcome

#570

***Benediction**

MID Josh Sharp

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**

As the Deer

Martin Nystrom

***Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks the morning to:

- ◆ Denise Keating and Amanda Palmer for sharing their beautiful musical talents with us
- ◆ Josh Sharp for leading worship and sharing the message

Craft Fest Annual Lawn Sale - Saturday, August 17

The sale will be from 9am to 1pm rain or shine. All shopping will begin at 9am and not before. We'll be accepting kitchen items, books, children's toys, holiday items, puzzles, baskets, bath items, paintings, frames, jewelry, and furniture. Linens and clothes may be donated to the Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop.

Items may be dropped off the morning of the sale, starting at 7am, at the church. Please note if you bring any furniture and it doesn't sell, you must make arrangements to pick it up. We unfortunately do not have the resources to bring to other thrift stores. If you are unable to drop items off on August 17th, please reach out to Sue Conti at sueconti@comcast.net.

The event will include a bake sale sponsored by the Missions Committee. All proceeds from the bake sale will go to JUMP. Founded in 1988, the Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP) addresses the growing epidemic of poverty. To date, support for JUMP has grown to include broad interfaith assistance from 27 faith communities in the local area, key funding from hundreds of individuals, and vital sponsorship and dollars from both businesses and foundations. Unwavering, JUMP operates a key downtown Drop-In Center in donated space at the First Congregational Church of Burlington, where staff and volunteers provide compassionate care, practical assistance and informed referrals to thousands of Vermont children and adults. Eligible families and individuals receive voucher assistance for transportation, food, laundry, utilities, household goods, and healthcare every three months.

Representatives from Heavenly Food Pantry will be holding a food drive to replenish our food cupboards.

The Food Pantry is desperately in 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.

For further information about the event, please contact the church office or Linda Bogardus at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net.

Important Update!

If you have a Gift Certificate to 2024 Champlain Valley Fair (prize from Calcutta or Auction), it **MUST** by redeemed between July 8 and August 9th (PRIOR to the Fair).

To redeem your certificate and receive your complimentary tickets, either go to Champlain Valley Expo office at the fairgrounds or mail the certificate and include your return address before August 9th! If you any have questions about how to redeem your certificate, please call CVE office at 802-878-5545.

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.

Everyone affected by the recent flooding and
Hurricane Beryl
Victims of gun violence and their families
Family and friends of Louise Kolvoord
Family and friends of Dick Allen
Family and friends of Lani Gorman
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 in celebration
and with thanks for our FCCEJ Faith Family*

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**, On Hiatus till September
- ◆ **Yoga @ First**, Tuesdays at 5pm in the **Gym**
- ◆ **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

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
 - ⇒ Worship Schedule:
 - ◆ July 14th — Josh Sharp Leading Worship
 - ◆ July 21st—Josh Sharp Leading Worship
 - ◆ July 28th—Rev. Joan O’Gorman [Williston & Respite House] Leading Worship
 - ◆ August 4th—Mary McHugh Leading Worship
 - ◆ August 10th—Rev. Mark back and New Members Joining
 - ◆ August 25th—Rev. Paul Sangree Leading Worship [VT Conference Minister]
 - ◆ September 1st—LAST DAY OF SUMMER WORSHIP STARTING AT 9am
 - ◆ September 8th—Welcome Back Sunday with 2 Services at 8:30 and 10:15am

Faith Formation

During the summer months, Children's Ministry is exploring 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

JH & SH Youth and our Youth Ministry Team in Hands-On Service Locally: Heavenly Food Pantry, Goodies for Respite House, Meal for Spectrum, Heavenly Thrift Shop, Gleaning for VT Food Bank, Goodies for Mansfield Place while we play board games and hear early days in Essex, and more. Lunch provided.

Weekly Calendar: July 14—July 21

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, July 14

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

Monday, July 15

9am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
7:30pm: *Group Victory, Marvin Lounge*

Tuesday, July 16

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
5pm: Yoga, Gym

Wednesday, July 17

8am: Foodbank Delivery, Fellowship Hall,
Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room
9:30am: Youth in Kitchen
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 18

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
6:15pm: *Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary*

Friday, July 19

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

Saturday, July 20

8am: *The Vine Nepali Congregation,
Sanctuary, West Wing*
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 21

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

Events in italics = Local Community Groups