



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 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
July 21, 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.

<p><i>A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All</i> <i>In the Spirit of Christ</i></p>

Prelude	<i>Ride the Chariot</i>	arr. William H Smith
	<i>My Lord, What a Mornin'</i>	Traditional

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	<i>Over My Head</i>	arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland
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Call to Worship Deacon Andrea Sharp

Leader: Welcome to God's house in Essex Junction, a place that reminds us of Christ's Kingdom of Heaven, a place that strengthens us for life and love.

People: **With God, we are able to transform even the smallest effort into incredible outcomes.**

Lectern Side: **With God, we are able to prioritize our lives and free the divine treasure within us all.**

Pulpit Side: **With God, we are able to discern the good from the bad and move forward with hope.**

Lectern Side: **With God, we are able to claim treasures beyond measure from all times and places .**

Leader: Come, let us worship our God.

***Opening Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Andrea Sharp

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

Anthem

All God's Creatures Got A Place in the Choir

Bill Staines

Scripture Readings

New Testament Epistle

Ephesians 2:11-22

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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

Reconciled

MID Josh Sharp

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

I Wanna Thank You, Lord

Patsy Ford Simms

***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 Christ, the Great Foundation

#387

***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 You Leave This Holy Ground

Dorothy Robinson

***Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks the morning to:

- ◆ Bill Bickford and Men At First for sharing their fabulous 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** be 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 by George Beach
In celebration of George & Mary's 61st 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**, 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 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/>

Need 1 Tall Refrigerator Box for VB Camp set!

Please let Laurie know if you can help with this.

Looking for Afternoon Staff ~ SH Youth or College ~ One or All afternoons

Reach out to Laurie for interview & paperwork ASAP

Youth Happenings

July 29th from 4-5:30pm VB Camp Youth Helper Gathering

JH Youth Helpers are gathering to start set construction for VBC. Afternoon Staff and Adult Volunteers are welcome to join in the fun. If you would like to help, please reach out to Laurie.

August 4- Join us following worship to transform the Sanctuary for VBC week and more other items in the building into place.

Weekly Calendar: July 21—July 28

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, July 21

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

Tuesday, July 23

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

Thursday, July 25

8:30am: Food Pantry Set Up, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen
9am: Service Trip Leadership, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
3pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall,
Kitchen, Sanctuary
6:15pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, July 27

*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

Monday, July 22

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

Wednesday, July 24

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
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 26

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

Sunday, July 28

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10am: Racial Justice Sub Committee,
Marvin Lounge
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups