



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 Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost
New Members' Sunday
August 11, 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 In the Spirit of Christ</i></p>

Order of Worship

Prelude	<i>Paduana Lachrymae</i> , after John Dowland	Melchoir Schild
	[excerpt]	

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.....Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Musical Introit	<i>Fuga in A minor BWV 904</i>	J.S. Bach
	[excerpt]	

Call to Worship.....Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Leader: Our God is not an idea isolated in our minds, but a living presence that enters our lives and world to impart love and justice into a world in desperate need of both.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come, warm our hearts, challenge our understandings, serve up your wisdom and help us all partner with you in building a society grounded in your ways of compassion and accountability.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Living God.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Maureen McKenzie

Opening Hymn *Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

#6

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.**

Musical Response

Climb Every Mountain
[instrumental excerpt]

Richard Rogers

Anthem

Fantasie in A minor BWV 904

J.S. Bach

Scripture's Narrative Reading:

I Kings 18:20-19:16

***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.

Sermon

Ancient Lessons for Today

Rev. Mark Mendes

Welcoming Our New Members

Mary Elizabeth (Bee) McCollum

Sharon Flaherty

Janet Green

Marion Lawler

Sarah Matt

Jane Piper

Congregational Vows, Welcome and Reception

Deacon to the Congregation: Jesus calls us to spread God's extravagant love to all peoples and nations, offering everyone the gift of grace. Do you who witness this rite of membership, promise your support to these new members so that they might live a life where Christ's joy and meaning is manifested?

People: Bee, Sharon, Janet, Marion, Sara, and Jane, we welcome you with joy in the communion life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ at First Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

I Dreamed a Dream

Claude-Michel Schonberg

[instrumental excerpt]

***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**

Once to Every One and Nation

[Insert]

*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

In honor of the Olympics: *La Triomphante*

Rameau

*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks the morning to:

♦ Bethany Blake for providing the beautiful music!

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
Family and friends of Sonya Massey
Victims of gun violence and their families
Family and friends of Bruce Gianuzzi
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
Patty Giroux
Ozzy and Family
Russ Wilson & Cathy Galbraith
Connor Bryce and Family
Michael Flynn
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 Riley Elliot
In honor of my son, Ryan Maxwell Elliott***

CONNECTIONS:

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our “Weekly Update” eConnection goes out every Friday—contact the office

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 for Intermediates**, 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/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Summer Schedule—June through Welcome Back Sunday

- ◆ 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:
 - ◆ 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
 - ◆ Holy Communion
 - ◆ September 8th—Welcome Back Sunday with 2 Services at 8:30 and 10:15am
 - ◆ Holy Communion
 - ◆ Faith Formation for PreK through 8th grade during second service
 - ◆ Welcome Back BBQ after second service

Faith Formation

During the summer months, Children's Ministry is exploring The Beatitudes. Materials provided in the Narthex. Enjoy!

Missions Committee Bake Sale

Calling all bakers as well as treat makers! The FCCEJ Missions Committee is holding a bake sale this Saturday, August 17, during the Lawn Sale and need your help! You may drop off your donations to the office on Friday, August 16 between 9am and 1pm, or bring them Saturday morning to the Missions table.

Sign up on the clipboard or via Sign Up Genius:

All proceeds from the bake sale will benefit Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP).



Election Day Food Drive—Tuesday, August 13

The Heavenly Food Pantry has the opportunity to hold a food drive directly outside the polls at the Champlain Valley Expo. The pantry is in particular need of peanut butter, cereal and baked beans. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item along with you to the polls. At this time, we will only be holding the food drive at the polling station in the City of Essex Junction. Specific details are as follows:

When: Tuesday, August 13th and Tuesday, November 5th — 7am to 7pm

Where: Champlain Valley Exposition in the Blue-Ribbon Pavilion

Weekly Calendar: August 11—August 18

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 13

8:30am: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*
5pm: Yoga—Gym
6:30pm: *BSA Three Rivers District Roundtable—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room*
7pm: Deacons—Home of Rev. Mark

Thursday, August 15

11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*
4pm: By Laws Review—Marvin Lounge
6:15pm: *Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary*
6:30pm: *Eagle Scout Board of Review—Marvin Lounge*

Saturday, August 17

7am: *Lawn Sale Set Up*
8am: *The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing*
Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge
9am-1pm: Lawn Sale, Bake Sale, Food Drive—Grounds, Parking Lot
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*

Monday, August 12

9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*
1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen
4pm: *The Vine Nepali Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary*
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
7:30pm: *Group Victory—Marvin Lounge*

Wednesday, August 14

10am: *Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall*
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*
1pm: *Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary*
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing
BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym

Friday, August 16

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*

Sunday, August 18

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

Events in italics = Local Community Groups