



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 Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

August 18, 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*

Order of Worship

Prelude	<i>No One is Alone (Into the Woods)</i>	Sondheim
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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 Mary McHugh

Musical Introit	<i>For Good (Wicked)</i>	Schwartz
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Call to Worship.....Deacon Mary McHugh

Leader: We are here to explore our faith and the myriad ways that we journey in this world toward our God.

Lectern Side: Some of us have had dramatic experiences of the Divine.

Pulpit Side: Some have quietly experienced God in thought and deed.

Lectern Side: Some count Jesus as a Friend and walk daily with Him.

Pulpit Side: Some find God in the beauty of nature.

Lectern Side: Some taste God's presence in morality and acts of justice.

Pulpit Side: Some find God in the power of love and service.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice in the innumerable ways God comes to us. Come let us dive into the deep pools of mystery, awe and wonder. Come...

***Opening Hymn** *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service* #495

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”)**Rev. Ron Faux

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 *Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past* Isaac Watts
[instrumental excerpt]

Anthem *You Matter to Me (Waitress the Musical)* Sara Bareilles

Scripture’s Narrative Reading: I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-28 [pages 237-239]

***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.*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Mazurka in A Flat Major

Frederick Chopin

[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**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

#290

***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**

Allegro from Suite #2 in F Major George Frederick Handel

***Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks the morning to:

- ◆ Bethany Blake and the Stein Family for sharing their awesome musical talents with us

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 Lani Gorman
Barbara Mudgett-Russell
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 in remembrance of the birthday of Marion Ferris from her children

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
 - ⇒ Worship Schedule:
 - ◆ 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
 - ◆ Faith Formation for PreK through 8th grade during second service
 - ◆ Welcome Back BBQ after second service

Grief Support Group

2nd Thursday of each month from 10 to 11:30am in Marvin Lounge.

This group is open to anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. The sessions are facilitated by Sharon Dettenrieder, MSN, RN and Mary McHugh, MAPS. Both Sharon and Mary have years of experience in leading Grief Support groups as well as personal experience with loss. Next session is September 12.

Contact the church office for more information: 802-878-5745 or welcome@fccej.org.

Heavenly Food Pantry

The FCCEJ Heavenly Food Pantry continues to see dramatic increases in the number of clients we serve and are always grateful for donations.

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.

One service that sets us apart from other food pantries in the area is the delivery to local households. 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.

Weekly Calendar: August 18—August 25

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, August 18

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

Tuesday, August 20

8:30am: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee—
Marvin Lounge
5pm: Yoga—Gym
*6:30pm: BSA Three Rivers District Roundtable—
Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room*
7pm: CE—Marvin Lounge
Communications—Program Room
Trustees—Fellowship Hall

Thursday, August 22

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

Saturday, August 24

*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, August 19

9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge
Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
*3:30pm: The Vine Nepali Music Rehearsal—
Sanctuary*
7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, August 21

8am: Food Pantry Food Delivery—Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen
10am: Missions Committee, Marvin Lounge
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
7pm: HRC—Marvin Lounge

Friday, August 23

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

Sunday, August 25

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

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Ministers of Visitation:

Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com] / Mary McHugh [mmmchugh@hotmail.com]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Elizabeth Miller [childrensministry@fccej.org]

Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]

Social Media Marketing Specialist: Andrea Hickey [socialmedia@fccej.org]

Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

Music

Chair of Music: Mindy Bickford & Joann Irwin—Co-Chairs

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Men At First Director: Bill Bickford

Officers

President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Vice President: Terry Stein

Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]

Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]

Assistant Treasurer: Matt Clark [mattclark48discovery@gmail.com]

Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel, Allan Kinney

Committee Chairs

Christian Education:

Derek Lyman, Terri Livak—Co-Chairs

Communications: Francis Gravel

Deacons:

Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Terry Stein

Hospitality: Jen Dooley

Human Resources:

Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Nominating: Lauren Starkey

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Kaki McGeary

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert