



# 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)



**August 25, 2024**

***Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.***

## Order of Worship

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation ..... Deacon Mary McHugh

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Let Us with a Joyful Mind*

**#16, verses 1-6**

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")**

Rev. Mendes

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

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
[excerpt]

William Draper

Anthem

*Over the Rainbow*

Harold Arlen/Yip Harburg

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 3:1-5

[page 39]

**\*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

*Endings and Beginnings*

Rev. Dr. Paul Sangree  
VTCUCC Conference Minister

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Danny Boy*

Frederic Weatherly

**\*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 Would Be Building***

**[607]**

**\*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**

***Chaconne from Suite No.2 in d minor***

**Louis Marchand**

**\*Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks the morning to:

- ◆ Bethany Blake and Hillary and Denise Keating for sharing their musical talents
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Paul Sangree for providing the message

## 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.

Everyone affected by the recent flooding  
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 given by  
Sylvia Nyhagen, in loving memory of her husband, Ed*

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](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.

## **Weekly Calendar: August 25—September 1**

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

### **Sunday, August 25**

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

### **Monday, August 26**

9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall,  
2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
*3:30pm: The Vine Nepali Music Rehearsal—*  
*Sanctuary*  
*5pm: Yoga—West Wing*  
*7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge*

### **Tuesday, August 27**

8:30am: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
5pm: Finance Committee—Marvin Lounge  
7pm: Stewardship—Marvin Lounge

### **Wednesday, August 28**

*10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*5pm: Yoga—West Wing*  
6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing  
*BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym*

### **Thursday, August 29**

*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge*  
*6:15pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary*

### **Friday, August 30**

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

### **Saturday, August 31**

*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, September 1**

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