



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



First Service

Deacons Prayer of Invocation Deacon Maureen McKenzie

***Opening Hymn** *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* #18

Children's Message

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 *O, How He Loves You and Me* Kurt Kaiser

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic Isaiah 50:4-9 [page 527]

New Testament Epistle James 3:1-12 [page 180]

Gospel Mark 8:27-38 [page 34]

***Hymn** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* #506

Anthem *Hallelujah* Leonard Cohen

Sermon *The Small Lessons of Life & Faith* Rev. Mark

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *People Need the Lord* Nelson/McHugh

Special Offering: Seminary Collection

***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

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

#295

*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

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

Charles Gabriel

*Please stand if you are able

Special thanks to Denise Keating and the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir for sharing their awesome musical talents with us this morning!

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
Victims of gun violence and their families
Family and friends of Bruce Gianuzzi
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 Joanne Irwin, in loving memory of Alan Irwin.*

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**, Tuesday mornings at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **Yoga @ First**, Mondays & Wednesdays at 5pm in the West Wing
- ◆ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone’s
- ◆ **Lunchtime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays @ 11:30am in Marvin Lounge
- ◆ **Bridge Group**, 1st and 3rd Fridays at 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Chili Grab-n-Go Fundraiser

On Friday, September 20, our Missions Committee is sponsoring a fundraiser to support Age Well and their Meals on Wheels program. Stop by the main kitchen between 5pm and 7pm and pick up a container of homemade chili and packet of cornbread for supper! We're asking for a donation of \$10 per order. For more info contact the church office or Linda Bogardus.

Community Concerts @ First presents HairPeace on 9/29

On Sunday September 29 at 3pm, Community Concerts @ First presents a fun concert by HairPeace. A guitar and vocal duo, they perform acoustic music from the 60's through today. Join us for an afternoon of great music to support Spectrum Youth & Family Services.

Spectrum works to empower teenagers, young adults and their families to make and sustain positive changes in their lives. Tickets are available online with the link below or through the FCCEJ office 802-878-5745. \$20 suggested donation, free for 18 and under -

<https://sevendaystickets.com/events/hairpeace-9-29-2024>

Together We Serve, Together We Thrive

Join the FCCEJ Nominating Committee on Sunday, September 22 for an opportunity to learn more about the committees that sustain our church and her mission. Whether you're drawn to outreach, education, worship, or stewardship, there's a place for you to contribute your unique talents and passions. We will have a variety of openings in January, and your involvement is crucial to our success. We encourage all members to discover where you can serve best, and help our church family thrive. The event will be held in Fellowship Hall between services and after the second service (where the Hospitality Committee's treats will be available!). The Nominating Committee looks forward to seeing you there and exploring the possibilities of service together!

Congregational By-Law Feedback

The Ad Hoc By-Law Committee invites congregational input and feedback on three upcoming Sundays. Each session will focus on specific articles within the updated by-laws. After each session, the By-Law Committee will earnestly discuss suggested changes and determine whether to include them in the final updated by-laws or not. Once the three sessions are complete, then they will finish any edits and present their work to Church Council for approval, then set a date for a Congregational Meeting to vote on the updated version. Each session will be after a service on the first Sunday of the month so that it will be easy for everyone to attend since we only have one service on those Sundays. The three sessions with the articles to discuss are as follows....

October 6th: Discussion of changes to Articles 1-6

November 3rd: Discussion of changes to Articles 7-8

December 1st: Discussion of changes to Articles 9-14

Copies of the updated by-laws with the changes clearly spelled out will be available next Sunday, September 22nd.

Children & Youth

Welcome Back Sunday was a wonderful celebration to begin the 2024-25 faith formation year! The theme for peer groups was God makes a home, reading Genesis 2:4b-9,15-23 about gifts of creation. The children discussed the scripture and did some activities to further explore creation. Much appreciation for the peer group leaders sharing their time with the children and making the children's ministry program possible! This week they will learn about God's promises and the holy places in our lives.

A reminder for the 3rd to 5th graders are encouraged to join Acolyte training, to practice lighting the worship candles at 11:30-12 this Sunday 9/15/24, meeting in the sanctuary.

Have a wonderful week!

Elizabeth Miller, Children's Ministry Coordinator

JH Youth Faith Formation Peer Group News:

We recalled the story of creation, trying to put it all in order. Then we read the first story of creation from Genesis 1-2:4 and continued on to the second story of creation in Genesis 2. We'll continue moving through the second story this Sunday continuing this conversation and the promises God made to God's people. A few questions/comments were written down on the 'Ask the Pastor' sheet Sunday and Pastor Mark will be writing down his responses so the answers can be shared this Sunday.

Save the Dates:

9/15 ~ This Sunday

Faith Formation Peer Groups – PreK – 8th during 10:15 service

Acolyte Orientation 11:30-12noon in the Sanctuary with Elizabeth

JH Youth Time (6th-8th) 11:30am-1:30pm ~ Scavenger Hunt/Pizza/Games

9/22

SH Youth Time 11:30am-1:30pm ~ Pizza/Share your ideas for the year/Service Project

9/29

JH Youth Time 11:30am-1:30pm ~ Games/Pizza/Project

Concert @ First 3pm: Hairpeace. Guitar and vocal duo performing acoustic music from the 60's through today

Questions:

- Reach out to Elizabeth for Children's Ministries (Prk-8th) and Faith Formation: childrensministry@fccej.org
- Reach out to Laurie for JH and SH Youth: lchipman@fccej.org

Weekly Calendar: September 15—September 22

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, September 15

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/
Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation—Peer Rooms
11:30am: Junior Youth—Youth Room, Kitchen
Acolyte Training—Sanctuary
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 17

8:30am: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
10:15am: Tai Chi—Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
7pm: CE—Marvin Lounge
Communications—2nd Floor Program Room

Thursday, September 19

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge
5pm: VT State Math Coalition—Marvin Lounge
6:15pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7pm: Cub Scout Pack 630 —Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 21

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation—
Sanctuary, West Wing*
Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge
*9am: Weight Loss Support Group—
Fellowship Hall*
10am: Reiki 1 Class—Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge

Monday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 18

8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop Off—Fellowship
Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room
10am: Missions Committee—Marvin Lounge
Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5pm: Yoga—West Wing
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal—Sanctuary
6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing
BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym
7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge

Friday, September 20

8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's Market
10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
1:30pm: Bridge Group—Marvin Lounge
5pm: Chili Grab-n-Go Fundraiser—Kitchen
*7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club—
Marvin Lounge*

Sunday, September 22

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/
Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation—Peer Rooms
11:30am: Junior Youth—Youth Room, Kitchen
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups