



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



Second Service

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

The first Sunday of each month we celebrate the Lord's Supper with one unified service at 10am. The remaining Sundays of each month we offer two distinct worship services. Our first service, at 8:30am, is traditional with our Sanctuary Choir and organ music. Our second service begins at 10:15 and is more contemporary with music from our Finally @ First Praise Band. Our first service is streamed every week, and our second service is streamed on the third Sunday of each month.

Our Faith Formation Program for PreK-8th grade occurs during our second service and we provide nursery care (6 months-3 years) from a paid caregiver for both services.

Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All
In the Spirit of Christ*

Order of Worship

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome in this place.*

Greeting and AnnouncementsDeacon Gary Hartman

Musical Introit *Step by Step* David Strasser

Call to Worship.....Deacon Gary Hartman

Leader: Our God first established a relationship with one couple, then with a family which grew into a tribe, then with a nation and finally with the world.

People: We are thrilled God invited us into the family.

Leader: Our God called us to live righteous lives first through equal justice, then through the commandments, then through prophetic challenges, and finally simply to love everyone.

People: We are thrilled God invited us into a kingdom of love.

Leader: God was first experienced in nature and then in fire and thunder on top of a mountain, and then in a still small voice, then in the words of Jesus from Nazareth and finally in the Holy Spirit which is everywhere.

People: We are thrilled God comes to us in so many different ways.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate God's presence among us.

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Open My Eyes

Jesse Manibusan

***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**

How Can I Keep From Singing
[handout]

Robert Lowery

***Benediction**

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace On Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

***Please stand if you are able**

Special thanks to Finally @ First Praise Band 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 Jen & Rick Dooley, remembering Pat Seaver.*

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>
- ♦ **Intermediate Tai Chi Class**, 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/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Together We Serve, Together We Thrive

Join the FCCEJ Nominating Committee TODAY 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!

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 October . Contact the church office for more information.

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>

Congregational By-Law Feedback

The Bylaws Committee has worked for many months and has a draft Bylaws Revision ready for comment. The Church Membership is invited to comment at the following dates and times, being mindful that we will receive comment only on the designated Articles for each meeting. There will not be any voting at these meetings. We will consider all comments and questions. Meetings will be held after the church service in the Sanctuary.

- October 6: Article I (no changes) , II, III, IV, V, VI
- November 3: Article VII, VIII
- December 1: Article IX, X, XI, XII, XIII

There will be no voting at these meetings. Once the review is complete the Bylaws Revision will be presented to Council and voted. We hope to present the Bylaws Revision for approval by the Membership at the Annual Meeting in February 2025.

Respectfully,

Judy Pomainville, Council President

Terri Livak, Brenda Dawson, Sharon Dettenreider, Pete Schmalz, Mark Mendes

Children & Youth

I hope everyone enjoyed the last official week of summer! The sun's rays are a great reminder of how much joy it brings to brighten our days. I want to thank Laurie, Matt, and Sarah for making last week's peer groups a fun time. This week peer groups will learn about the holy places in their lives. Also, Acolyte Orientation is rescheduled for September 29th at 11:30-12:00 in the Sanctuary. 3rd to 5th graders are encouraged to join and learn about the church and lighting the worship candles.

Stay well, and soak in the sunshine at one of the holy places in your life.

Warm Smiles,

Elizabeth Miller, *Children's Ministry Coordinator*

~ **10/6 J.A.M. ~ Jesus & Me** (3rd – 5th & parent) @ 11:30-12:30pm

JH Youth Faith Formation Peer Group News:

We had a small group here last Sunday, in large part due to Covid going around. Hope your family is being safe and you are staying rested and hydrated. I'm looking forward to our full SH Youth gathering this Sunday! It will be awesome to have a group of you here again.

Peace to you,

Laurie Chipman, *CE Director*

Save the Dates:

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

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

Heavenly Food Pantry

The FCCEJ Heavenly Food Pantry continues to need 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.

Monthly Distribution Schedule: 2nd Monday from 5:30-7:30pm & 4th Thursday from 3-6pm.
Thank you for your support!

Weekly Calendar: September 22—September 29

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, September 22

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/
Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation—Peer Rooms
11:30am: Nominating Fair—Fellowship Hall
Music Committee—2nd Floor Program Room
Craft Fest Committee—Marvin Lounge
Racial Justice Group—Conference Room
Senior High Youth—Youth Room, Kitchen
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 24

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
5:30pm: Finance Committee—Marvin Lounge
7pm: Stewardship—Marvin Lounge
Trustees—2nd Floor Program Room
HRC—Conference Room
Endowment Committee—West Wing

Thursday, September 26

8:30am: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge
3pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall,
Kitchen, Sanctuary
6:15pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Saturday, September 28

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation—
Sanctuary, West Wing*
Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge
*9am: Weight Loss Support Group—
Fellowship Hall*
*11am: Green Mountain Chorus—Sanctuary,
West Wing, 2nd Floor Program Room*
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 23

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

Wednesday, September 25

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
Eagle Scout Board of Review—Program Room
7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge

Friday, September 27

8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's Market
10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: Blue Spruce Grange—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 29

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/
Streaming*
10:30am: Faith Formation—Peer Rooms
11:30am: Acolyte Training—Sanctuary
Junior High Youth—Youth Room, Kitchen
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
3pm: CC@F Presents *Hairpeace*—Sanctuary

Events in italics = Local Community Groups