



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 First Sunday of Epiphany
January 12, 2025

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. Our nursery is open for children 6 months-3 years at both services (self-serve at 8:30 and staffed at 10:15). Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

<i>A Welcoming Community Accepting and Serving All In the Spirit of Christ</i>

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements

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

The Deacon's Greeting

Our Deacon will welcome everyone to our community of faith; ask if anyone has special joys to share; invite any guest to introduce themselves if they want to and encourage anyone to fill out the welcome sheet found in the pew to lift up any needs and place it in the offering plate.

Introit

Call to Worship.....Deacon

Leader: Today, we leave the Christmas season behind and journey to Epiphany, a time when we focus on some of the major events and teachings of Jesus' life. The Epiphany journey begin with baptism.

People: Baptism is when we welcome Jesus and his teachings into our hearts and strive to live into his ways of Love. Getting baptized is an outward and visible sign of an internal reality.

Leader: Come, let us remember our own baptism or focus on our own relationship to the divine. Come, let us recognize a larger and deeper force in the universe. Come, let us speak God's name right out loud!

***Opening Hymn**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

351

Deacon’s Prayer of Invocation Deacon

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 Transition to Faith Formation (PreK-8th)*

**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.**
[Parents, please collect your children by 11:30]

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, and deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever, amen.**

A Musical Response

*Hymn	<i>Child of Blessing, Child of Promise</i>	# 325
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Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic	Isaiah 43:1-9A	[page 520]
New Testament Historical	Acts 8:4-24	[page 96]
Gospel	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	[page 46]

Anthem	<i>Brother</i>	Bo and Bear Rinehart
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Sermon	<i>Who’s In and Who’s Out</i>	Rev. Mendes
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Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem Offertory

***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.**

***Closing Hymn**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

***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

***Please stand if you are able**

- ◆ *Sincere thanks to Bethany Blake and the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir for sharing their amazing 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. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

Joanne Irwin
Bethany Blake & Family
Family and friends of Nancy Hayes
Victims of gun violence and their families
Ashley Frazer and Family
Marie Benway
Carol Daigle

Chris Hathaway
Bruce Parker
Kim Sonntag
Jon Eric Lindholm
Patty Giroux
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
Francis & Elaine Raymond in celebration
of the 102nd birthday of Betty Baker, Elaine's mom.***

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

Weekly Calendar: January 12—January 19

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<p><u>Sunday, January 12</u> 8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/ Streaming* 10:30am: Faith Formation—Peer Rooms 11:30am: Music Committee—Program Room Junior Youth—Youth Room, Kitchen, 3rd Floor <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 2pm: Ecclesiastical Council for Joshua Sharp— Sanctuary</p>	<p><u>Monday, January 13</u> Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen 5pm: Yoga at FCCEJ—West Wing 5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary <i>7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i></p>
<p><u>Tuesday, January 14</u> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 10:15am: Tai Chi—Fellowship Hall <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>6:30pm: BSA Three Rivers District Roundtable— Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room</i> 7pm: Deacons—Marvin Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, January 15</u> 8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop Off—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room 10am: Missions Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 5pm: Yoga at FCCEJ—West Wing 5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing <i>BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym</i> 7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge</p>
<p><u>Thursday, January 16</u> 11:30am: Calcutta Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 6:15pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:30pm: Cub Scouts Pack 630—Fellowship Hall, Gym 7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary</p>	<p><u>Friday, January 17</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1:30pm: Bridge Group—Marvin Lounge 7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club— Marvin Lounge</p>
<p><u>Saturday, January 18</u> 8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge 8:30am: Weight Loss Support —Fellowship Hall 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 19</u> 8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/ Streaming* 10:30am: Faith Formation—Peer Rooms <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Events in italics = Local Community Groups</i></p>

Children & Youth Ministry

Sunday Morning Faith Formation:

- January 12, 19, 26—Faith Formation Peer Groups (PreK-8th)

Youth Calendar:

- January 12 ~ JHY from 11:30-1:30pm ~ blanket project with Terry Livak

Questions:

- Children's Ministries (Prk-8th) and Faith Formation: childrensministry@fccej.org
- JH and SH Youth: lchipman@fccej.org



Part Time Position Opening at FCCEJ:

Youth Ministry Coordinator

The job description and other details can be found on our website:

www.fccej.org/v5/who-we-are/work-with-us/

Please email cover letter and resume to welcome@fccej.org.

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 February 13. Contact the church office for more information.

Bakers & Buyers Needed for Funeral Receptions

Are you looking for a low key way to minister to our FCCEJ family? Our Hospitality Committee hosts funeral service receptions for FCCEJ families and we ask for donations of cookies/bars/brownies and also sometimes fruit/cheese & crackers. We generally have about six to eight of these each year.

We have an email list that we send out when we have an upcoming reception and if you are able and willing at that time, you can bake or purchase any of what we need to drop off in the main kitchen.

We also occasionally need assistance in the kitchen for a reception and we include that need as well.

If you would like to be added to the email list for this ministry, please send an email to Jen Dooley: dooleyjrj2000@comcast.net and the next time there is a reception scheduled you will get an email.

Many thanks!

Cabin Fever Calcutta—Early Bird Tickets

Early Bird tickets for the Cabin Fever Calcutta are now available. Anyone purchasing a ticket before January 15th will be entered into an Early Bird drawing for a \$100 cash prize, held at the Calcutta. Your ticket includes dinner for two plus a ball number. If you do not have a ball number, see Sharon Dettenrieder. Tickets cost \$150. Checks are to be made payable to FCCEJ with Calcutta on the memo line. All proceeds from the Calcutta support the intergenerational service trip.

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 O'Beirne [childrensministry@fccej.org]

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

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

Music

Chair of Music: Mindy Bickford & Joanne 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, Alan 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 McGearry

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert