



# 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)



**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**Graduation—Scout Recognition**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
**June 8, 2025**

*From May 25 through Labor Day weekend, we follow our Summer Worship Schedule. The Sunday service each week starts 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 will continue with a simple wide shot of the service and not the multiple cameras and special screen shots of the hymns and various parts of the bulletin 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 are asked to join their parents in worship which gives our Faith Formation volunteers a little time off as well.*

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

Order of Worship

Postlude                                      *Sonata in C Major K 330, movement 1 (excerpt)*                                      W. A. Mozart

An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements                                      Rev. Mark Mendes  
*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey  
you are welcome in this place.*

Musical Introit                                      *Suite in B Minor - Sarabande*                                      J. S. Bach

The Deacon's Greeting ..... Deacon Riley Elliott  
*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.*

Call to Worship..... Deacon Riley Elliott  
**Leader:** The Spirit of God swept over the unformed substance of creation and brought order to chaos from the words of God's mouth.

**People:** **And boom, a beautiful, mystical, unfolding, and awe inspiring universe came into being. Thanks, God.**

**Leader:** When kings and priests were more interested in power than people, God sent Spirit filled folk with strange ways of making points about justice and righteousness to get them back in line.

**People:** **Prophets then and now are maddingly persistent in challenging us to live ways more aligned with God's ways. Thanks, God, for the reminder.**

Leader: From Jesus' birth to his baptism, from his healings to his teachings, from his prayers to his miracles, from his death to the resurrection and beyond, the Holy Spirit led Jesus every step of the way.

**People: And now in Christ's Church, we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in our faith and living. Thanks God for the help.**

Leader: Welcome to Pentecost Sunday, a day when the Holy Spirit alighted on heads, started the church and infused humanity with purpose.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

# 286 vv. 1-2

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

**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.**

Children's Message

Rev. Mark

**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.**

**A Celebration of Our Graduates**

Leader: Come, let us gather as a community to pay tribute to and honor those among us who have worked hard to graduate from school. This year's graduates are:

Ryan Clark, Jacob Hoy, Anna Kinney, Braeden Koch, Caitlin McGeary, Ezra Moos, Aaron Olson, Zach Schmalz, Sara Sinkewicz, Sara Taylor Zalinger

**Pulpit Side: When one part of our body celebrates with joy, all of us share in that joyful celebration. We, your brothers and sisters of the faith, think that you are great, and are thrilled that you are part of our family of faith!!! We admire your efforts, and wish you well as you set out on your new journey.**

**Lectern Side:** We thank God for the lives and gifts of our graduates, and the work they have invested to reach this day of accomplishment. We thank God for supportive families, and for the love this church has shown our graduates throughout their lives.

**Pulpit Side:** This place has helped plant the power of God in these graduates, taught them the love of Christ, and offered them a foundation in which to explore the world. We offer these blessings to our graduates as they journey to new places.

**Lectern Side:** May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace.

**Leader:** Armed with your degree and girded with all of our love and support, go forth from this place strengthened to succeed, poised to prosper and eager to engage the world.

Our Graduates Then and Now [slide show]

### **Congregational Hymn of Choice**

*For the middle hymn, the worship leader will ask the congregation for suggestions to what to sing. This affords the congregation the opportunity to choose their favorite hymn for all of us to sing.*

### **New Testament Scripture Readings**

Historical	Acts 2:1-21	[page 90]
Epistle	Galatians 5:16-26	[page 146]

### **The Foundations to the Scouting Way**

#### **The Boy Scout Promise and Law [in unison by all]**

**On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.**

#### **The Girl Scout Promise and Law [in unison by all]**

**On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law. I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.**

#### **A Time of Sharing What Scouting Means**

*Both current and past scouts are invited to share the lessons learned and the ways that scouting has encouraged and or cross referenced God in their lives.*

Anthem *Concerto in A Minor* (1st movement) J.S. Bach

Summer Meditation *The Work of the Spirit* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *La muse naissante* François Couperin

from *Ordre No 7 in G: Les petits âges*

**\*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.**

Pastoral Prayer Bob Driver

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response *Suite in B Minor - Bouree II* J.S. Bach

**\*Hymn** *Spirit of Gentleness* # 286 vv. 3-4

\*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 *L'adolescente*, from *Ordre No 7 in G: Les petits âges* François Couperin

\*Please stand if you are able

◆ Sincere thanks to Bethany Blake for providing the beautiful music 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call (802) 878-5745. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

Family and friends of Bruce Blackman

Danair Williams

Josh Winslow

Family and Friends of Geoff Grove

Juno Johnson

Judy Moreau

Jim Driscoll

Victims of gun violence and their families

Carol Daigle

Bruce Parker

Jon Eric Lindholm

Patty Giroux

All those suffering due to violence in  
Ukraine, the Middle East, and around the world

### SUMMER SCHEDULE—MAY 25 THROUGH LABOR DAY

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
  - ⇒ One service at 9am. In-person and streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)
  - ⇒ 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
  - ⇒ Rev. Mark on vacation July 1 through August 4

### CASTING CALL!!!

Come join in the fun of the 2025 Stewardship skit, “*What if Pledging Didn’t Exist?*,” by being part of our cast!

This lively, comical sketch will be performed at both services on Sunday, October 19, to kick off the 2025 Stewardship Campaign and inspire us all to once again pledge our resources.

There is a spot for everyone interested in participating! Please reach out to Kathryn Brennan ([KHBrennan@comcast.net](mailto:KHBrennan@comcast.net)) or Emily Guziak ([guziakemily335@gmail.com](mailto:guziakemily335@gmail.com)) by Tuesday, July 1.

### Volunteer for Summer Music!!!

If you're now thinking, "Oh my gosh, the summer is soooo loooong...I'm really going to miss hearing/singing in the choirs and Finally at First..." fear not! There are ample opportunities to sing and/or play an instrument in church over the summer. Feel free to perform one or more of the following: Prelude, Introit, Anthem, Offertory. You are welcome to collaborate with friends/family/neighbors whom you think may be interested! Please reach out to Bethany Blake, Music Director, if you are willing to share your musical talents [[bblake@fccej.org](mailto:bblake@fccej.org)]



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2025

AUGUST 4—AUGUST 8

Register today!



## Weekly Calendar: June 8—June 15

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

### Sunday, June 8

9am: All-Family Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
*5pm: Marie Johnson Piano Recital—Sanctuary*

### Monday, June 9

9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen  
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, Kitchen  
*7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge*

### Tuesday, June 10

8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge & Zoom  
[<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036>]  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee—  
*6:30pm: BSA 3 Rivers District Roundtable—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room*  
7pm: Deacons—Marvin Lounge

### Wednesday, June 11

*10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
6pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing  
*6:30pm: BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym*  
7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge & Zoom  
[<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85355169054>]

### Thursday, June 12

10am: Grief Support—Marvin Lounge  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
*6:15pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary*

### Friday, June 13

8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's  
*10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
Montana Leadership Team—Marvin Lounge  
1:30pm: Bible Study Group—Marvin Lounge  
*5:30pm: Reiki Share—Marvin Lounge*  
*6pm: Blue Spruce Grange—Fellowship Hall*

### Saturday, June 14

*8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge*  
*The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing*  
*11:30am: Autism Playgroup—Gym*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*

### Sunday, June 15

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@fcej.org]

Ministers of Visitation:

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

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Elizabeth O'Beirne [childrensministry@fcej.org]

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

Social Media Marketing Specialist: Munroe Shearer [socialmedia@fcej.org]

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

## Music

Chair of Music: Mindy Bickford

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@fcej.org]

Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fcej.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, Beth Warren—Co-Chairs

### Deacons:

Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Terry Stein

Hospitality: Sue Conti

### Human Resources:

Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Nominating: Lauren Starkey

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

### Trustees:

John Burnett, Rob Gibson—Co Chairs

## Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert