



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
A United Church of Christ

June 29, 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.

A Welcoming Community

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements

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

A Special welcome to Laura and Tom Chadwick for leading music today.

Laura and Tom help resource a number of churches with their music including Ascension Lutheran Church in South Burlington and Malletts Bay Congregational Church in Colchester. We are thrilled to have them join us for today's service.

The Deacon's Greeting Donna Burnett

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.

Musical Introit

Let Everything That Has Breath

Matt Redman

**Let everything that,
Everything that,
Everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, a place where we try to live into the extravagant love that our Friend and Savior Jesus offers to everyone.

People: Thank you, God, for welcoming me into this church, feasting at its table, serving on its committees, and communing with its members over coffee and goodies.

Leader: When Elijah was getting old and ready to retire, God appointed Elisha to carry on the work with signs, wonders, and teachings.

People: Ministers change, lay leaders change, membership changes, and yet God’s work goes on generation after generation using all the gifts offered to shape a future of hope and love.

*Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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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

Pastoral Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other
A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer
Musical Response

Kyrie Eleison

Chris Tomlin

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.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic	2 Kings 2:1-22	[page 259]
New Testament Epistle	Philippians 3:1-16	[page 153]

Special Music

I Want to Know You

Andy Parks

Summer Meditation

Elijah and Elisha

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Love Never Fails You

Brandon Heath

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, amen.**

***Hymn**

I've Got Peace Like a River

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***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.**

***Postlude**

The Blessing

Cody Carnes

***Please stand if you are able**



***The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Marti Hopkins
In memory of her parents, Lois & Arthur Anderson.***

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.

Family and friends of Bruce Parker
Family and friends of Bruce Blackman
Family and friends of Elaine Helmstutler
Family and friends of Ruth Furman
Danair Williams
Joe Shields
Heather Rogers
Sean Garvey
Josh Winslow
Family and Friends of Geoff Grove

Judy Moreau
Victims of gun violence and their families
Everyone experiencing uncertainty and fear
in their communities
Carol Daigle
Jon Eric Lindholm
Patty Giroux
All those affected by violence in Ukraine, the
Middle East, and around the world
Everyone that may be privately suffering

SUMMER SCHEDULE—MAY 25 THROUGH LABOR DAY

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ One service at 9am. In-person and streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej
 - ⇒ All Family Worship—Faith Formation on hiatus till September
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month
 - ⇒ Rev. Mark on vacation July 1 through August 4

SUMMER PASTORAL COVERAGE

Rev. Mendes will be away from church from July 1st through August 4th and while he is away the following people will be officiating the worship services in conjunction with our Deacons:

- ◆ July 6th: Jonah Moos
- ◆ July 13th: M.I.D. Josh Sharp
- ◆ July 20th : Mary McHugh
- ◆ July 27th: Rev. Arnold Thomas
- ◆ August 3rd: Rev. Arnold Thomas with Special Guests:

The Green Mountain Gospel Choir

For any and all pastoral emergencies, please first call Jen Kelly at the church office so that she can coordinate the pastoral coverage [802-878-5745]. Leave a message in her voice mail if it's after hours—she receives notifications on her cell phone and will respond in a timely fashion.

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) or Emily Guziak (guziakemily335@gmail.com) by Tuesday, July 1.

Hospitality Updates

During the month of July, the Hospitality Committee will be taking a break from serving food and drink during Fellowship Time after worship. If you would like to volunteer to make coffee and provide baked goods for a July Sunday, please contact Sue Conti—sueconti@comcast.net.

We are also looking to form a sub-committee for assistance with funeral receptions. This would involve helping with set-up, serving food and beverages (provided), and clean up. If you would like to be part of this important aspect of our ministry, please contact Sue Conti or the church office. Thank you!

Heavenly Food Pantry

We’ve been selected as a recipient for the Hannaford’s “Fight Hunger Bag Program” for the month of July. Heavenly Food Pantry will receive \$1 from every purchase of a reusable bag for \$2.50 from the Hannaford’s in Essex (21A Essex Way). The Food Pantry is always in need of reusable bags so consider donating it—with maybe some non-perishables to stock our shelves. Peanut butter, baked beans, cereal, spaghetti sauce, specialty soups, and condiments are most appreciated, and we also need empty one-dozen egg cartons.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2025

AUGUST 4—AUGUST 8

Register today!



Faith Formation Summertime Worship

Children’s Worship Bulletins – by Illustrated Ministry

- Weekly in the Narthex for kids to use during the service, finish at home, and share with their family.
- Activities are based on the Lectionary for the week.

Encourage your children to be a part of the blessings of the church and local community!

Weekly Calendar: June 29—July 6

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<u>Sunday, June 29</u> 9am: All-Family Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Monday, June 30</u> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room, Kitchen <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 7pm: Trustees—2nd Floor Program Room <i>7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i>
<u>Tuesday, July 1</u> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge & Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036] 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Wednesday, July 2</u> <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing 4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
<u>Thursday, July 3</u> <i>8:30am: Essex Art League—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Friday, July 4</u> Independence Day—Office Closed <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>
<u>Saturday, July 5</u> <i>8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge</i> <i>The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary,</i> <i>West Wing</i> 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Sunday, July 6</u> 9am: All-Family Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>

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]

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

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

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

Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.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@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, 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