



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

July 13, 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

Prelude

People

Merrill/Styne

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 Gary Hartmann

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

Morning Has Broken

Eleanor Farjeon

Peter Schmaltz, soloist

Call to Worship..... Gary Hartmann

Leader: Welcome to one of God's houses in Essex, a place that reminds us of Christ's Kingdom, a place that strengthens us for life and love.

Pulpit Side: With God, we can transform even the smallest effort into incredible outcomes.

Lectern Side: With God, we can prioritize our lives and free the divine treasure within us all.

Pulpit Side: With God, we can discern the good from the bad and move forward with hope.

Lectern Side: With God, we can claim treasures beyond measure from all times and places.

Leader: Come, let us worship our God.

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 PrayerJosh Sharp M.I.D.

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

Memories

Maroon Five

Peter Schmaltz, soloist

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

Amos 7:7-17

[page 663]

New Testament Epistle

Luke 10:25-37

[page 54]

Special Music

“Both Sides Now”

Joni Mitchell

Peter Schmaltz, soloist

Summer Sermon by Josh Sharp, M.I.D.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Josh Sharp M.I.D.

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Annie’s Song

John Denver

Peter Schmaltz, soloist

***Doxology**

**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.**

*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

Get Me to the Church on Time

Lerner & Loewe

*Please stand if you are able

- ◆ Sincere thanks to Josh Sharp for leading worship and providing the message, and to Denise Keating and Peter Schmaltz for sharing their incredible musical talents with us!

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 Sunday scripture.

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@fcej.org or call (802) 878-5745. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

Texas flood victims

Family and friends of Bruce Parker

Family and friends of Bruce Blackman

Family and friends of Malcolm LeVanway

Family and friends of Elaine Helmstutler

Family and friends of Ruth Furman

Janet Warden

Danair Williams

Joe Shields

Heather Rogers

Sean Garvey

Josh Winslow

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 THROUGH LABOR DAY

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ One service at 9am. In-person and streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.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 till August

SUMMER PASTORAL COVERAGE

While Rev. Mendes is on vacation, the following people will be officiating the worship services in conjunction with our Deacons:

- ◆ 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.

Vacation Bible Camp 2025—IMPORTANT UPDATE

Due to a variety of recent circumstances, it was necessary to restructure our Vacation Bible Camp. It will now be Saturday, August 23 from 9am to 12pm, and Sunday, August 24 from after Children's Moment to 11am.
More details will be announced very soon. Please watch for updates on Social Media, the Sunday Bulletins, and the Weekly Emails.

Annual Summer Lawn Sale

Save the date for our annual lawn sale—Saturday, August 16 from 9am to 1pm. If you have items to donate you may bring them starting at 7am on the day of the sale, or you may make arrangements with the church office to drop them off early.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

The following volunteers are need for the lawn sale:

1. Setting up tents at 4:30pm on Friday, August 15th
2. Setting up tables & chairs at 6:30am on August 16th
3. Bringing tables & chairs back to the church at 1pm on August 16th
4. Bringing items from the West Wing of the church to the tables at 7am on August 16th
5. Volunteering on August 16th from 9am to 1pm

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at welcome@fccej.org.

Bake Sale for J.U.M.P. (Joint Urban Ministry Project)

The Missions Committee is hosting a bake sale in conjunction with the annual lawn sale to support J.U.M.P. We are asking our fabulous, talented bakers at FCCEJ for donations. All items can be dropped at the church on Friday, August 15th with the items clearly marked for bake sale. Items can also be brought to the church on Saturday, August 16th, starting at 7am.

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, canned veggies, and condiments are most appreciated, and we also need empty one-dozen egg cartons.

Josh Pallotta House Soda Drive

During the months of July & August, the Missions Committee is asking for donations of canned sugar soda to benefit the Josh Pallotta House.

Josh's House combines local and national resources, emergency services, and research to provide veterans the resiliency, transition and reintegration tools to help them sustain or return to full and healthy lives. Many veterans being served at the Pallotta House are recovering from tobacco, alcohol, and drug addiction. These veterans rely on sugar to get them through their addiction.

Missions agreed to help supply them sugar soda and candy for the upcoming months. We'll be asking for candy donations this Fall. You can drop off the soda during office hours (9am-2pm) or on Sunday mornings. Look for posters around the facility to provide the exact location.

COTS Back to School Bonanza

COTS is seeking donations for their Back to School Drive which supports the Back to School Bonanza. Please consider donating money and new supplies to COTS. You can also donate through their Amazon Wish List: Search for **2025 COTS Back to School Wishlist** in your Amazon account.

The COTS Back to School Bonanza is a free kid-centric community event where any Vermont student in need can come get ready for a successful school year in a dignified, stress-free, and fun environment. The goal is to foster confidence through picking out school supplies and a backpack, choosing first day of school outfits, getting a haircut, and so much more. It is set up like a carnival so that students can have fun while they get ready for a successful school year!

The Back to School Bonanza will be held on August 2nd in the parking lot at COTS; 95 North Avenue in Burlington, from 12pm-3pm. The rain date is the following Saturday. This event takes place in the parking lot so it is street parking only! More info can be found at cotsonline.org/backtoschool.

Hospitality Updates

During the month of July, the Hospitality Committee is 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.

Weekly Calendar: July 13—July 20

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<u>Sunday, July 13</u> 9am: All-Family Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Monday, July 14</u> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen 5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary <i>7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i>
<u>Tuesday, July 15</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> 4pm: By Laws Team—Marvin Lounge 6:30pm: Eagle Scout Board of Review—Marvin Lounge	<u>Wednesday, July 16</u> 8am: Food Bank Delivery—Fellowship Hall <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> Missions Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing
<u>Thursday, July 17</u> 10am: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Friday, July 18</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club—Marvin Lounge</i>
<u>Saturday, July 19</u> <i>8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge</i> <i>The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing</i> <i>8:30am: Weight Loss Support Group—Fellowship Hall</i> 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Sunday, July 20</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