



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
All Saints Sunday
November 2, 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 10:15am 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).

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

Order of Worship

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.*

A Special Welcome to

Rev. Paul Sangree Assoc Conf. Min.: VTCUCC

Andrea Gagner Murphy: Exec. Dir. Josh Pallotta House

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

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Brian Doerksen

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus invited the children to come and hear his words and accept his care: Come, be God's child if only for this hour.

People: **We come to learn.**

Leader: Come, those of you who grieve over loved ones who have died; Jesus will offer you hope.

People: **We come longing for the day of reunion.**

Leader: Come, those of you who are excluded for God will welcome you to the table.

People: **We come to belong.**

Leader: Come, those of you burdened with too much God will offer you a way to refresh your spirit.

People: We come to give.

Leader: Come, and let us worship the Living God.

***Opening Hymn**

Here I Am to Worship
[handout]

Tim Hughes

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you teach us through the centuries to simply love: love and take care of the created order, love and cherish our relationship with you, love and treasure our neighbor, and love ourselves without measure. We are so sorry that we fail in this simple, long-standing request.

Forgive us for not taking care of the world.

Forgive us for not nurturing our relationship to you.

Forgive us for not thinking about others.

And forgive us for neglecting our own well-being.

Help us integrate your love into our psyche and ways of being so that we might sincerely follow you. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Luckily, God loves us and embedded in that belief is complete forgiveness. When we fall short of God's vision of love, God always forgives us. Jesus forgives all of you today.

People: We accept God's mercy and will use it to pay it forward.

Leader: Amen and Alleluia...The Good News of Christ's victory!!!

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")Rev. Mark
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

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.

Musical Response

Lord, I Need You

Matt Maher

Lord I need You, oh I need You.

Every hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness, O God, how I need You.

You're my one defense, my righteousness. O God, how I need You.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Torah

Exodus 3:1-5

[page 39]

New Testament Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

[page 63]

Special Music

What Faith Can Do

Scott Davis and Scott Krippayne

Communion Meditation

Endings and Beginnings

Rev. Paul Sangree

A Litany for Our Saints

Leader: Today, we come to recognize the power of God. We believe that God nurtures our lives and walks with us as we journey back to the divine.

People: Jesus embodies these truths and invites us into the eternal realm of God where peace, forgiveness and love reign.

Leader: We remember our saints that have joined their Maker during 2025. We proclaim their names knowing that they live on in the very presence of our God. We remember:

Bruce Blackman, Jared (Jed) Cilley, Alden (Duke) Ehler, Nancy Hayes, Elaine Helmstutler, Arthur LaGrange, Malcolm LeVanway, Betty Moody, Judy Moreau, Bruce Parker, Toni Taylor, Russell Wilson

[Our Deacon will light a candle for each person and then one for all]

We also remember others who have gone before.....

Everyone is welcome to mention the name of a loved one who has died, offering their name as a memorial to the congregation.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion.....Rev. Mendes & Rev. Sangree

Today, we will celebrate communion in the traditional manner by passing the bread [gluten free] and then the cup [non-alcoholic] out to the congregation. Please hold your bread until a minister directs you to partake. Once you receive the cup, partake when you would like. This difference of receiving symbolizes both the personal and corporate nature of the Christian faith.

***No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey,
you are welcome at Christ's table.***

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation and Offering

Offertory

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever

Brahms

Prayer of Dedication

***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**

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

- ◆ Sincere thanks to Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band, for sharing their awesome musical talents with us this morning!

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

If you desire 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.

Judy Allen
Jane Piper
Gracie O'Malley & Family
Rob Robinson
Allysa Williams
Kathy & Mike Murray
Colleen Kelly and Family
Danair Williams

Joe Shields
Heather Rogers
Sean Garvey
Josh Winslow
Victims of gun violence
and their families
Carol Daigle
Patty Giroux

Everyone experiencing
uncertainty and fear
in their communities
All those affected
by the violence in
Ukraine, Gaza, and
around the world
Everyone that may be
privately suffering

*** The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Wayne & Nancy Hall
In celebration of their 56th anniversary on November 1 ***

UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ◆ Sunday, November 2: Congregational Meeting, 11:15am in the Sanctuary
Andrea Gagner-Murphy, Josh Pallotta House Executive Director
in Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Saturday, November 8: Craft Fest, 9am to 3pm at FCCEJ
- ◆ Sunday, November 16: New Members Class, 11:30am in Marvin Lounge
CC@F presents Diana Fanning, 3pm in the FCCEJ Sanctuary
- ◆ Sunday, November 23: Hanging the Greens, after 2nd service in the Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Searchers

On Wednesday, November 5, the Searchers group will begin reading & discussing “*The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*”. Co-authors Douglas Abrams, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu share their discussion on the nature of joy and the methods to achieve it in the face of adversity. Their collaboration offers an intersection of Buddhist and Christian perspectives, informing the book’s thematic exploration of The Role of Adversity and Suffering in Personal Growth, The Practice of Forgiveness, Gratitude, Generosity, and The Nature and Sources of True Joy. Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Marvin Lounge. Books are available in the church office for \$15 each.

Heavenly Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to need reusable shopping bags as well as baked beans, canned veggies, chunky soups, canned pasta, peanut butter, and cereal and feminine hygiene products.

We need volunteers! The pantry has two distribution days each month and we’re looking for people to help our guests navigate through the process. We also need people that will deliver to our clientele who are unable to visit the food pantry in person. The time commitment isn’t extensive, but the rewards to your spirit definitely are! Please contact the Church Office if you are interested and thank you for your support of this important ministry in our community!

Craft Fest—Saturday, November 8 from 9am to 3pm

The Craft Fest is quickly approaching, and we need volunteers—there are ample opportunities for everyone! Sign up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship. The table will have sign ups to make treats for the sweet shoppe and luncheon, and donate a basket to the silent auction. You can also donate time to be a greeter, take a shift in nearly new and help in the kitchen. All donations for silent auction, non-food items for the luncheon and any nearly new items will be accepted these Sundays. Thank you!

Craft Fest Luncheon Needs

Thanks to all who signed up to bring in food and supplies for the Craft Fest Luncheon. Much appreciated! There are still slots open for butternut squash soup (vegetarian) and vegetarian chili. Please stop by our table after the church services on October 26th to sign up OR contact Janne Giles to make or donate for any of the above food items at giles.janne52@gmail.com.

Community Concerts @ First presents Diana Fanning

Sunday, November 16 at 3pm in the FCCEJ Sanctuary

Tickets are \$20 per adult—under 12 is free—and available online at:

www.sevendaystickets.com/e/diana-fanning-piano/tickets

Concert proceeds benefit Red Cross Disaster Relief and FCCEJ

Diana Fanning has toured extensively as a solo performer and chamber musician throughout the U.S. and in England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany. In recent years she has performed at the Schloss Leopoldskron (“Sound of Music” castle) in Salzburg, and in Prague at the invitation of the International Dvorak Society.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Fanning has been a guest artist with the Takacs, the Schumann, the Jupiter and the Alexander String Quartets, and with ensembles from Point Counterpoint Music Camp, which she owned and directed for ten years with her husband Emory Fanning. As a member of the Davydov-Fanning Duo with the outstanding cellist Dieuwke Davydov, she has performed widely in the U.S., completed eight concert tours of Europe, and recorded for Radio Netherlands. Ms. Fanning is currently an Affiliate Artist at Middlebury College. We are very fortunate to be able to bring such a talented and renowned performer to our community—we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity!

Aurora Chamber Singers presents their Fall Concert: "*Through a Glass, Darkly*"

Aurora Chamber Singers’ fall concert pairs ancient and modern composers’ settings of poignant religious texts. Through these pairings we see how musical styles have evolved and how composers have interpreted these beloved texts across generations. You’ll hear beautiful settings from Mozart to Vaughan Williams, Orlando di Lasso to Arvo Pärt, brought together under the baton of Aurora’s new Music Director, Cameron Brownell, accompanied by Bethany Blake, and featuring guest artist, Frances Rowell, cello.

Video preview: <https://youtu.be/NA-070EgoZs>

Tickets: <https://sevendaystickets.com/e/through-a-glass-darkly/tickets>

Giving Tree

Wow! It’s that time of year again. FCCEJ will have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to children in our community through the Giving Tree. There will be a “tree” with gift tags in the Narthex as well as virtual tags on Sign Up Genius starting Sunday, November 23. Tags will be available till November 30. There is always great anticipation around the Giving Tree in our community. We hope you will join us again in making this Christmas a season of hope and love for many families in the City and Town of Essex and Westford.

Grief Support Group

2nd Thursday of each month from 10 to 11:30am in Marvin Lounge.

This is open to anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. The sessions are facilitated by Sharon Dettenrieder, MSN, RN and Mary McHugh, MAPS. Next session is November 13.

Weekly Calendar: November 2—November 9

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<u>Sunday, November 2</u> 10am: Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming 11:15am: FCCEJ Congregational Meeting—Sanctuary & Zoom 11:30am: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Craft Fest Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Monday, November 3</u> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room 11:30am: <i>Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 5pm: Thrift Shop Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i>
<u>Tuesday, November 4</u> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge/Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036] 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 10:15am: Intermediate Tai Chi—Fellowship Hall <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>5pm: BSA Troop 624 Leaders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>6:30pm: BSA Troop 624 District Meeting—Fellowship Hall</i> 7pm: Church Council—Marvin Lounge	<u>Wednesday, November 5</u> <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing <i>BSA Troop 624 PLC—West Wing</i> 7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge Search Committee—2nd Floor Program Room <i>BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym</i>
<u>Thursday, November 6</u> <i>8:30am: Essex Art League—Fellowship Hall</i> 9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting—Marvin Lounge <i>10:30am: Music Lesson—Sanctuary</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>6pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary</i> 7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary	<u>Friday, November 7</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1:30pm: Bridge Group—Marvin Lounge
<u>Saturday, November 8</u> CRAFT FEST!!! 9AM-3PM 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop	<u>Sunday, November 9</u> 8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming* 11:30am: Youth Group—Kitchen, Youth Room Service Trip Team—2nd Floor Program Room <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>

Events in italics = Local Community Groups