



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**

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First Service

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
November 9, 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

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

both services (self-serve at 8:30 and staffed at 10:15).

Order of Worship

Prelude *If Ye Love Me* (organ part) Philip Wilby

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.*

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.....Psalm 17:1-9 [page 386]

Leader: O Lord, hear my just cause and attend to my cry for help. My prayers are free of deceit; come see the truth of my heart and vindicate me.

People: O God, if you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness or transgression. I have avoided the ways of violence.

Leader: O Lord, I have not strayed from your path, and my feet have been true to your ways. I call upon you to incline your ear to listen to my words and answer my plea.

People: Wondrously, show your steadfast love and keep those who seek refuge safe from their adversaries. Guard me as the apple of your eye and keep me ever safe in the shadow of your wings.

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

Morning Prayer Op. 39, No. 1

Tchaikovsky

*Please stand if you are able

- ♦ Sincere thanks to Bethany Blake and the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, 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.

Megs	Heather Rogers	All those affected
Judy Allen	Sean Garvey	by the violence in
Jane Piper	Josh Winslow	Ukraine, Gaza, and
Gracie O'Malley & Family	Victims of gun violence	around the world
Rob Robinson	and their families	Everyone that may be
Allysa Williams	Carol Daigle	privately suffering
Kathy & Mike Murray	Patty Giroux	
Colleen Kelly and Family	Everyone experiencing	
Danair Williams	uncertainty and fear	
Joe Shields	in their communities	

**** The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Carl & Alison Wermer
In honor of their children's birthdays, John, Roberta, Eva, & Leo****

UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ◆ Sunday, November 16: New Members Class, 11:30am in Marvin Lounge
Confirmation, 3pm in Marvin Lounge
CC@F presents Diana Fanning, 3pm in the FCCEJ Sanctuary
- ◆ Monday, November 17: Palliative/Hospice Care Workshop, 2pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Sunday, November 23: Hanging the Greens, after 2nd service in the Sanctuary
- ◆ Sunday, December 14: Blue Christmas/Healing Service at 8:30am
Christmas Pageant at 10:15am
- ◆ Sunday, December 21: Christmas Cantata—One Service @ 10am
- ◆ Sunday, December 28: Carol Sing/Brunch/Stuffie Blessing—One Service @ 10am

New Member's Class Offered

Do you like the values of love, justice, inclusion and diversity that we lift up as Christ's teachings here at FCCEJ? Do you enjoy the warmth of community that we cherish here? Do you like the ways we feed and clothe people in need? Do you like the many groups and organizations that we partner with in order to create a more perfect union in Vermont, our nation and world? Do you love the music that comes from so many different and talented groups in our church? Or do you just love to come and sit in the sanctuary and soak up God's presence? If so, then maybe its about time you join this great church. Both God and all of us need you to help us spread Jesus' love around liberally to people who need it and to a world in desperate need of some tenderness and light.

You are invited to attend our New Member's Class on Sunday, November 16 after the second service around 11:30am in the Marvin Lounge. Come and learn more about the UCC and FCCEJ in a relaxed setting with Rev. Mark and one of our Deacons. There will be child care and lunch

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!

The Palliative Care, Hospice, Death with Dignity:

Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

Making decisions regarding healthcare can be challenging. Being informed can ease some of the anxiety that naturally occurs. Join us for this presentation that will help us achieve a basic understanding of the areas of palliative care, hospice, and Death with Dignity. Advanced directives information will also be included.

Presenter: Julie Foy-Pack, RN, serves as the Community Hospice Liaison for University of Vermont Health. She provides education and guidance to patients, families, and healthcare facilities across the region.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

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.

Today, Sunday November 9 at 4pm—College Congregational Church in Burlington.

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

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 9—November 16

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<u>Sunday, November 9</u> 8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/ Streaming* 11:30am: Youth Group—Bowling at Spare Time Service Trip Team—2nd Floor Program Room <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Monday, November 10</u> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room 11:30am: <i>Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Storage Rooms 5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary 7:30pm: <i>Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i>
<u>Tuesday, November 11</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> 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	<u>Wednesday, November 12</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 7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge <i>BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym</i>
<u>Thursday, November 13</u> 10am: Grief Support—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>5:30pm: Reiki Share—Marvin Lounge</i> <i>6pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary</i> 7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary	<u>Friday, November 14</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1:30pm: Bible Study—Marvin Lounge 6pm: Blue Spruce Grange—Fellowship Hall
<u>Saturday, November 15</u> 8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing 8:30am: Weight Loss Support —Marvin Lounge 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall GMKCS—Gym, 3rd Floor, Kitchen, West Wing	<u>Sunday, November 16</u> 8:30 & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/ Streaming 11:30am: New Members Class—Marvin Lounge <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 3pm: Confirmation Class—Marvin Lounge Community Concerts @ First—Sanctuary

Events in italics = Local Community Groups