



# 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)



*First Service*

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**  
**November 16, 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</i>   | <i>Accepting and Serving All</i> |
| <i>In the Spirit of Christ</i> |                                  |

*Order of Worship*

|         |                                     |           |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prelude | <i>Spiegel im Spiegel</i> (excerpt) | Arvo Pärt |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|

|                                                                                                    |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements                                                           | Rev. Mark Mendes |
| <i>No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey<br/>you are welcome in this place.</i> |                  |

The Deacon's Greeting ..... Deacon Rusty Sargent

*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                                         | Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God  | Trad. South African, |
| attr. to S.C.Molefe as taught by George Mxadana |                                                                                                                      |                      |

Call to Worship

Leader: God desires our attention. God calls us by name. God sends us prophets and teachers, ministers and poets, writers and friends to encourage us to connect with our Creator.

**People: I am glad when I am on my way to church. I know my life is better when I align it with Jesus' teachings. I know my life is healthier when I am connected to a family of faith. I know God is with me all the time.**

Leader: Come, let us commune with our Best Friend. Come, let us accept divine forgiveness and its accompanying peace. Come, let us enter the presence of Love as we sing for joy.

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 ..... Deacon Bob Driver  
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other  
A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer  
Musical Response *Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant* Richard Gillard

Scripture Readings  
**Old Testament** **Isaiah 65:17-25** **Read Responsively [insert]**  
**Gospel** **Luke 21:5-19** **[page 65]**

Special Music *King of Kings* Sophie Conty/Naomi Batya;  
anon. music

Sermon *The Long and Short of It* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God  
Invitation and Offering  
Offertory *The Ash Grove* (excerpt) Welsh folk tune arr. Lani Smith  
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**

**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

*Be Glad in the Lord*

Wihla Hutson

\*Please stand if you are able

- ◆ Sincere thanks to Bethany Blake and the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, for providing the beautiful music this morning!

✪ *Presented in accordance with our Royalties for Spirituals Project: a practice of valuing musical contributions of enslaved Africans to American worship and song. We honor unrecognized musicians who created these pieces by singing them with reverence, gratitude, and open hearts. Royalties set aside for the use of these songs today will go to a local organization that supports African American musicians.*

## 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) or call (802) 878-5745. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

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

*\* The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Sharon Dettenrieder  
In Memory of Doug Dettenrieder \**

### 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 this 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 will be provided for all. The class will last about an hour and a half.

### **Giving Tree**

Once again FCCEJ has the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to children in our community through our Giving Tree Program. There will be a "tree" with gift tags in the Narthex as well as virtual tags on Sign Up Genius starting next Sunday, November 23. Tags will be available till November 30. There is always great anticipation around the Giving Tree. We hope you will join us in making this Christmas a season of hope and love for many families 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

**Monday, November 17, 2-3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall**

### **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 December 11.

### **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](http://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!

### **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!

### **November Special Offering**

As you plan your Thanksgiving meal, think about making your favorite side dish, and look forward to spending time with family and friends, please remember those who are food insecure and rely on the Heavenly Food Pantry. Our special offering on November 23rd is designated for the Food Pantry. Please use the special envelopes provided and make sure they are marked “Food Pantry”. Participating in the special offering can really make a difference and will go directly toward the Heavenly Food Pantry’s mission. Thank you in advance for your generosity and helpful spirit!

## Weekly Calendar: November 16—November 23

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><u>Sunday, November 16</u></b><br/> 8:30 &amp; 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming<br/> 11:30am: New Members Class—Marvin Lounge<br/> <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i><br/> 3pm: Confirmation Class—Marvin Lounge<br/> Community Concerts @ First—Sanctuary</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b><u>Monday, November 17</u></b><br/> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room<br/> 11:30am: <i>Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i><br/> Lunchtime Book Group—Marvin Lounge<br/> 2pm: Hospice/Palliative Care Workshop—Fellowship Hall<br/> 6pm: Hospitality Committee—Marvin Lounge<br/> <i>7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i></p>                                                                   |
| <p><b><u>Tuesday, November 18</u></b><br/> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge/Zoom:<br/> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036">[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036]</a><br/> 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop<br/> 10:15am: Intermediate Tai Chi—Fellowship Hall<br/> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i><br/> 7pm: CE—Marvin Lounge<br/> Trustees—2nd Floor Program Room<br/> Communications—Google Meet</p>                                                                         | <p><b><u>Wednesday, November 19</u></b><br/> 8am: Food Bank Delivery—Fellowship Hall<br/> 10am: Missions Committee—Marvin Lounge<br/> <i>Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i><br/> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i><br/> 5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal—Sanctuary<br/> Planned Giving—Marvin Lounge<br/> 6pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing<br/> 7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge<br/> <i>BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym</i></p> |
| <p><b><u>Thursday, November 20</u></b><br/> 8:30am: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall<br/> 9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting—Marvin Lounge<br/> <i>10:30am: Music Lesson—Sanctuary</i><br/> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge</i><br/> 12pm: Calcutta Team—2nd Floor Program Room<br/> 3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop<br/> Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall<br/> <i>5:30pm: Reiki Healing—Marvin Lounge</i><br/> <i>6pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary</i><br/> 7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary</p> | <p><b><u>Friday, November 21</u></b><br/> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's<br/> 10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall<br/> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i><br/> 1:30pm: Bridge Group—Marvin Lounge<br/> 7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club—Marvin Lounge</p>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b><u>Saturday, November 22</u></b><br/> 8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge<br/> The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing<br/> 8:30am: Weight Loss Support —Marvin Lounge<br/> 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop<br/> 1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall<br/> GMKCS—Gym, 3rd Floor, Kitchen, West Wing</p>                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b><u>Sunday, November 23</u></b><br/> 8:30* &amp; 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming*<br/> 11:30am: Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas<br/> <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*