



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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Second 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

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 GreetingDeacon Allison VanSteensburg

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

I Will Sing, I Will Sing

Max Dyer

Call to Worship.....Deacon Allison VanSteensburg

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.

***Opening Hymn**

Sing Praise to God
[handout]

Marty Haugen

Children’s Message

The Congregation Sings as the Children Come Forward
Jesus loves the little children, all God's children of the world.
Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through,
Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.

The Congregation Sings as the Children Transition to Peer Groups
God has made us all a rainbow. Colors dancing ‘round and ‘round.
In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,
God has made us all a rainbow dancing ‘round.

Pastoral Prayer Deacon Bob Driver

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

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

Isaiah 65:17-25

Read Responsively [insert]

Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

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Special Music

Life Uncommon

Jewel Kilcher

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation and Offering

Offertory

Rise

Shawn McDonald

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.**

***Hymn**

***Shine, Jesus, Shine*
[handout]**

Graham Kendrick

***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.

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

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

Sunday, November 16

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/Streaming
11:30am: New Members Class—Marvin Lounge
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
3pm: Confirmation Class—Marvin Lounge
Community Concerts @ First—Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 18

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
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
7pm: CE—Marvin Lounge
Trustees—2nd Floor Program Room
Communications—Google Meet

Thursday, November 20

8:30am: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall
9am: FCCEJ Staff Meeting—Marvin Lounge
10:30am: Music Lesson—Sanctuary
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge
12pm: Calcutta Team—2nd Floor Program Room
3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Reiki Healing—Marvin Lounge
6pm: Music Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Saturday, November 22

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

Monday, November 17

9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall,
Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
Lunchtime Book Group—Marvin Lounge
2pm: Hospice/Palliative Care Workshop—
Fellowship Hall
6pm: Hospitality Committee—Marvin Lounge
7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, November 19

8am: Food Bank Delivery—Fellowship Hall
10am: Missions Committee—Marvin Lounge
Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Planned Giving—Marvin Lounge
6pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing
7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall, Gym

Friday, November 21

8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's
10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
1:30pm: Bridge Group—Marvin Lounge
7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club—
Marvin Lounge

Sunday, November 23

8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary/
Streaming*
11:30am: Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent
and Christmas
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups