



# 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 10, 2026**

*Our worship opportunities in May are as follows....*

*May 10th : Two Services at 8:30 a.m. [traditional] & 10:15 a.m. [Band]*

*May 17th: Two Services w/ Band at 8:30 & 10:15. Blessing of Animals*

*May 24th: ONE Service @ 10 a.m. Confirmation Sunday*

*May 31st: ONE Service @ 10 a.m. Music Appreciation Sunday*

**SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS**

*June 7th: ONE Service @ 9:00 a.m. Ice Cream & Bless Montana Team*

*A Welcoming Community                      Accepting and Serving All  
In the Spirit of Christ*

**Order of Worship**

Prelude

*Little Green Apples*

Bobby Russell

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..... Paula Sargent

*Our Deacon will welcome everyone to our community of faith; ask if anyone has special joys to share, 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

*To Music (An die Musik)*

Franz Schubert,  
arr. Louis Victor Saar

Call to Worship

Leader: Everyone is welcome to explore their faith here.

**Lectern Side: Some see God in mothers or fathers.**

**Pulpit Side: Some see God in children and babies**

**Lectern Side: Some see God in the beauty of nature.**

**Pulpit Side: Some see God in the sustenance we receive.**

**Lectern Side: Some see God in protests for justice.**

**Pulpit Side: Some see God in prayer and spiritual disciplines.**

**Lectern Side: Some see God in faith filled communities.**

**Pulpit Side: Some see God in one's mystical union with the Divine.**

**Lectern Side: Some see God in righteous judgement.**

**Pulpit Side: Some see God is abundant Grace.**

Leader: Everyone is welcome to explore their faith here.

Come let us worship the great I AM!

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us*

**# 583**

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's 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.**

The Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

Shirley Erena Murray,

attr. to B.F. White; harm. Ronald A. Nelson

**\*Hymn**

*I Would Be True*

**# 492**

New Testament Scripture Readings

Epistle I Peter 3:8-22 Page 183

Gospel John 14:15-21 Page 83

Anthem

*A Quiet Sanctus*

Douglas E. Wagner

Sermon

*The Power of Being True*

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*The Trees of the Field*

Steffi Geiser Ruben,

Stuart Dauermann

**\*Doxology**

**The Day of Resurrection**

**# 245**

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its songs begin,  
The whole world keep high triumph and all that is there in;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ again has risen, our joy that knows no end.**

\*Hymn

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

# 493

\*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

*Toccata in G Minor*

Johann Pachelbel

\*Please stand if you are able

- ◆ Sincere thanks to Bethany Blake, the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Harmony, and Peter Schmaltz for sharing their amazing musical talents with us this morning!



*The flowers on the altar today are given by Riley & Lorinda Elliott  
In memory of Lorinda's mother, Donna Flint.*

## OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

*If you desire prayers for yourself or a loved one; or if you wish for a call from a pastor, you may use the Friendship Pads, email [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.*

Sharon Dettenrieder and the  
Owens Family  
Family & Friends of  
Jean Tucker  
Dennis McMahon  
Myrna Dooney  
Family & Friends of  
Bill Bickford Sr.  
Myrna Lindholm  
Faye Fittipoldi  
Mike and Carole Allen  
Family & friends of  
Barbara Williams

Shashaunah  
Michael Hahner  
Bill Bickford Jr.  
Elizabeth O'Beirne & Family  
Joe Shields  
Jeffrey Basiliere  
Elizabeth Stone  
Patty Geiger  
Thomas Cencer  
Jane Piper  
Josh Winslow

Tatyana Szymanski, Bobby  
Evans, and all troops  
currently deployed  
Carol Daigle  
Patty Giroux  
Everyone experiencing  
uncertainty and fear  
in their communities  
All those affected by the  
violence around the world  
Everyone that may be  
privately suffering

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Blessing the Animals:** Sunday, May 17—after each service on the church grounds
- **Estate Planning:** Thursday, May 21 in Holy Family Parish Hall from 6:30 to 8pm—register by May 15 through FCCEJ office
- **Confirmation Sunday:** Sunday, May 24—One Service at 10am
- **Music Sunday:** Sunday, May 31—One Service at 10am
- **Ice Cream Social:** Sunday, June 7—after worship (at 9am) in Fellowship Hall
- **Celebrating Graduates:** Sunday, June 14

### FCCEJ SUMMER SCHEDULE—STARTS JUNE 7

June through August—One Service at 9am  
In the Sanctuary and Streamed ~ All Family Worship  
Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES IN MAY

**Jean Tucker's** Celebration of Life service will be on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at FCCEJ  
with a reception to follow.

**Bill Bickford Sr's** Celebration of Life service will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at FCCEJ  
with reception to follow.

### **Free Dinner for Young Families**

On the first Friday of each month, we host a free dinner for families of elementary-age children. No agenda, no program—come and eat and visit with other families. The kids are welcome to burn off some energy in the gym, too! All are welcome—bring a friend!

Next dinner is Friday, June 5 from 5:30 to 7. If the weather cooperates, we're thinking of a summer cookout—burgers, etc... with tables and games set up outside.

### **Celebrating Graduates**

The end of another school year is just around the corner and we want to celebrate all high school, trade school, college, and post graduate degree recipients related to the FCCEJ family.

We will acknowledge this milestone in worship on **Sunday, June 14** and share the information in the July/August newsletter.

Please email Jen at the church office ([welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)) the following info:

- ◆ Name of graduate
- ◆ Graduation/recent picture & baby/young picture
- ◆ School (high school, undergrad, graduate) & degree if applicable
- ◆ Their plans for the future

Deadline is June 1. Congratulations, Class of 2026!

### **Searchers**

The Wednesday Night Searchers will be viewing and discussing movies through June.

**May 13:** Bonhoeffer, Angel of Grace

**May 20:** The Shack

**May 27:** Babbette's Feast

**June 3:** Left Behind

**June 10:** The Davinci Code

Wednesday nights at 7pm in Marvin Lounge.

### **May's Special Offering ~ Per Capita Dues**

Every year, our church contributes to the Vermont Conference, of which we are a part. This is called our per capita dues. These dues cover such things as clergy gatherings and educational support, pastoral search and call assistance, faith formation resources, outdoor ministry camp for youth, training, and resources for staff and much more. They are assessed on a per member basis according to the membership numbers reported by churches to the Conference as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. This year, 2026, our per capita dues amount is \$16.38 per individual member. If possible, please pay during the month of May and, if you are able, please double your offering to cover the dues for members who may be unable to give at this time. Of course, any donation later in the year is also welcome. The giving tab at [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org) makes it easy to share your monetary gift with the church.

### **Estate Planning and Wills Clinic In May**

The Planned Giving Committee is offering an Estate Planning Seminar and Wills Clinic for all church members and friends on May 21. from 6:30 to 8:00pm in the Main Hall (top floor) at the Holy Family Parish House at 28 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction. The event is FREE.

The Seminar will cover all aspects of estate planning and information about the benefits of having a will. Also covered will be trusts, elder law, Medicaid planning, special needs planning and probate. Holly LeMieux, a local attorney specializing in these matters, will lead the workshop. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and the New England College of Law.

To attend, please contact Jen in the FCCEJ church office at 802-878-5745 before May 15.

### **Three Summer Evenings**

During the summer months, the Christian Formation Committee invites the entire church to attend *Three Summer Evenings!*

1. June 17 will be a campfire, along with s'mores, singing and stories
2. July 22 will be camp games
3. August 19 will be a street dance.

Food enough to call dinner will be provided each evening. Plan to join us as we follow the story of Moses through fun, fellowship and faith learning.

### **Heavenly Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry continues to need reusable shopping bags as well as cereal, baked beans, canned fruit, chunky soups, ready-made pasta (Spaghetti-O's, etc.) drip coffee (regular and decaf), empty one-dozen egg cartons, and feminine hygiene products - specifically pads (moderate, heavy, and extra absorbent).

We also always appreciate volunteers—either for organizing, set-up, during the distribution times, or to make deliveries in the Essex area. Contact the church office for more information.

### **Bible Study: Psalms**

Our Bible study group is discussing the book of Psalms. We meet in the Marvin Lounge from 1:30 - 3pm. Mary McHugh is leading and using Walter Brueggemann's book "*The Spirituality of the Psalms*" as a guide. (No need to buy the book.) Our next meetings will be June 12 and June 26.

### **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 May 14.

## Weekly Calendar: May 10—May 17

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

### Sunday, May 10

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming  
9:30am: Joyful Noise Rehearsal—Marvin Lounge  
11:30am: Music Committee—2nd Floor Program Room  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*

### Tuesday, May 12

8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge/Zoom:  
[<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036>]  
10:15am: Intermediate Tai Chi—Fellowship Hall  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
*6:30pm: BSA Troop 624 District Roundtable—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room*  
7pm: Deacons—Marvin Lounge

### Thursday, May 14

10am: Grief Support—Marvin Lounge  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge*  
3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*6:30pm: Music Lesson—Sanctuary*  
*Cub Scouts Pack 630 Den Meetings—Fellowship Hall, Program Room, 3rd Floor, Gym*  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

### Saturday, May 16

*8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge*  
*The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing*  
*8:30am: Weight Loss Support—Fellowship Hall*  
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*

### Monday, May 11

9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen  
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary  
6pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal—2nd Floor Program Room  
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—West Wing  
*7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge*

### Wednesday, May 13

*10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall*  
*11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*  
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal—Sanctuary  
6:30pm: Men At First Rehearsal—West Wing  
7pm: Searchers—Marvin Lounge  
*BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall*

### Friday, May 15

8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone's Deli  
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, May 17

#### **Blessing the Animals—after each service**

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming  
9:30am: Joyful Noise Rehearsal—Marvin Lounge  
*1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall*

*Events in italics = Local Community Groups*