



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



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

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 Return to Their Families

**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.**

A Celebration of Our Graduates

Pastor Bob: Come, let us gather as a community to pay tribute to and honor those among us who have worked hard to graduate from school. This year's graduates are.....

Alex Dooley, Rachel Gibbs (granddaughter of Judy Allen), Robin Miller, Izzy Owens

Pulpit Side: When one part of our body celebrates with joy, all of us share in that joyful celebration. We, your brothers and sisters of the faith, think that you are great and are thrilled that you have been a part of our family of faith!!! We admire your efforts and wish you well as you set out on your new journey.

Lectern Side: We thank God for the lives and gifts of our graduates and the work they have invested to reach this day of accomplishment. We thank God for supportive families and for the love this church has shown our graduates throughout their lives.

Pulpit Side: This place has helped plant the power of God in these graduates, taught them the love of Christ and offered them a foundation in which to explore the world. We offer these blessings to our graduates as they journey to new places.

Lectern Side: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace.

Rev. Mark: Armed with your degree and girded with all of our love and support, go forth from this place strengthened to succeed, poised to prosper and eager to engage the world.

Our Graduates Then and Now [slide show]

Pastoral Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Prayer Response

Menuetto II from Sonata IV

J.S. Bach

***Hymn**

There is a Balm in Gilead

553

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Historical Genesis 18:10-15 [page 11]

New Testament Epistle Romans 5:1-11, 15-21 [page 118]

Gospel Luke 23:33-38 [page 68]

Anthem

Concerto in D Major RV 512, First movement

Vivaldi

Meditation

The Impossible Task

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Siciliano from Sonata II

J.S. Bach

***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.**

The Foundations to the Scouting Way

The Boy Scout Promise and Law [in unison by all males]

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and reverent.

The Girl Scout Promise and Law [in unison by all females]

On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law. I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

A Time of Sharing What Scouting Means

Both current and past scouts are invited to share the lessons learned and the ways that scouting has encouraged and or cross referenced God in their lives.

***Hymn**

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

327

*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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Bridges/Elvey
arr. Dave Blake

*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks to Bethany Blake and Zachary and Abigail Jackman for sharing their amazing 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, you may use the Friendship Pads, email welcome@fccej.org, or call (802) 878-5745. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

Chris Canosa
Family & Friends of
Russ Kinaman
Family & Friends of
Faye Fittipoldi
Cheryl Dow
Meg Audette and Family
Fletch Coolidge
Annette Whitemar
Laura Cunningham-Firkey
and Family
Sharon Dettenrieder and the
Owens Family

Family & Friends of
Bill Bickford Sr.
Myrna Lindholm
Myrna Dooney
Mike and Carole Allen
Shashaunah
Michael Hahner
Bill Bickford Jr.
Elizabeth O'Beirne & Family
Joe Shields
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

*The flowers on the altar today are given by Wayne & Nancy Hall
In memory of their parents.*

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.

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.

They are taking a summer hiatus and will start back up in September.

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, August 7 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.

Please note—no dinner in July.

Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar are a wonderful way to remember loved ones or celebrate a special day. We include a note in the bulletin about who donated the flowers and who/what they are honoring. Scan the QR code or use this link to sign up: www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0545A8AB2FAAF58-53196874-altar#/



Gabert Anniversary Celebration

Val and Henry Gabert are celebrating their **60th** wedding anniversary! They want to share the joy of this milestone. Everyone is invited to attend an open house style celebration on Saturday, June 20 from 1pm to 4pm in the FCCEJ Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with Val and Henry and their family. All are welcome—no gifts please.

Attention Committee Chairs & Group Leaders

Please remember to communicate your summer meeting schedule to the office. Some take months off, several skip July meetings, and others continue to meet. It's important that we know who is using the facility and when. Thank you!

Weekly Calendar: June 14—June 21

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<p><u>Sunday, June 14</u> Celebrating Graduates/Scout Sunday 9am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming 10:30am: Music Committee—2nd Floor Program Room <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>6pm: Marie Johnson Student Recital—Sanctuary</i></p>	<p><u>Monday, June 15</u> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> Lunchtime Book Group—Marvin Lounge <i>7:30pm: Group Victory—Marvin Lounge</i></p>
<p><u>Tuesday, June 16</u> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge/Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036] 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee—Marvin Lounge 7pm: Christian Formation—Marvin Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, June 17</u> <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 5:30: Three Summer Evenings Part One—Fellowship Hall, Gym, Grounds, Parking Lot <i>7pm: BSA Troop 624—Fellowship Hall</i></p>
<p><u>Thursday, June 18</u> 10am: Grief Support—Marvin Lounge <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge</i> 3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 6pm: Pastoral Search Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>Music Lesson—Sanctuary</i> <i>6:30pm: Cub Scouts Pack 630—Fellowship Hall</i></p>	<p><u>Friday, June 19</u> Juneteenth—Church Office Closed 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone’s Deli <i>Music Lesson—Sanctuary</i> 10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club—Marvin Lounge</i></p>
<p><u>Saturday, June 20</u> <i>8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge</i> <i>The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing</i> <i>8:30am: Weight Loss Support—Fellowship Hall</i> 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop 1pm: Gabert 60th Anniversary Celebration—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen <i>Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, June 21</u> 9am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

FCCEJ MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Commissioned Assistant Minister: Bob Driver [pastorbob@fccej.org]

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Elizabeth O'Beirne [childrensministry@fccej.org]

Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]

Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

Social Media Marketing Coordinator: Andrea Sharp [andrea.sharp@gmail.com]

Music

Chair of Music: Steph Field

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Men At First Director: Bill Bickford

Officers

President: Terry Stein

Vice President: Kathryn Brennan

Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]

Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus

Treasurer: Darryl Koch [treasurer@fccej.org]

Assistant Treasurer: Matt McGeary

Clerk: Alison Wermer

Assistant Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Dan Petherbridge, Alan Kinney

Committee Chairs

Christian Formation: Terri Livak

Hospitality: Sue Conti

Communications:

Human Resources: Terry Stein

Francis Gravel, Beth Warren—Co-Chairs

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Deacons:

Judy McCullen, Bob Driver—Co-Chairs

Nominating: Lauren Starkey

Finance & Pastoral Relations:

Stewardship: Beth Volker

Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Rob Gibson

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Betsy Weischedel, Lisa Clark