



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



Unison Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

Loving and gracious God, we come before You with humble and contrite hearts, acknowledging our sins and shortcomings before You today. You are righteous and just, full of grace and compassion, and we know that we have fallen short of Your glory. God, we surrender our lives to You once again. Guide us in Your ways and strengthen us to follow You wholeheartedly. May our lives be a testimony of Your mercy and transformation. We give You all the glory, honor, and praise, now and forever. We pray this all and more in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to say when praying....

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 Assurance of Pardon Pastor Bob

Leader: Here is the Good News! God is willing to cleanse us from our pride, our blindness, our stubborn insistence on having things “our way”. Through God’s grace we are washed and forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! Amen

The Children’s Message..... Pastor Bob

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.**

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Bob

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven

New Testament Scripture Readings

Romans 7:15-25

Read by Jim Glatz

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Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Read by Pastor Bob

[page 9]

Anthem

My God and I

J.B. Sergei

Sung by Beth Volker

Communion Meditation

Conflicts

Pastor Bob

Sharing the Sacrament of Communion

This month, we will share the bread and cup by congregational intinction, which means that the Deacons will pass out both the bread and the cup together and each member will receive the elements and pass it to the person sitting next to them. This emphasizes the personal connections we have with each other even in the midst of community. The juice is non-alcoholic and the bread is gluten free so that everyone may feel welcome.

Invitation, Passing Out the Elements & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion Music

Bread and Wine

Richard Blake

Come, Share the Lord

Bryan J. Leech

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

America the Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward

***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**

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

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***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.**

*Please stand if you are able

- ◆ *Sincere thanks to Denise Keating and Beth Volker for sharing their fabulous 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.

Michael Lafoy
 Audrey Sawyer
 Allan and Barbara Reith
 Chris Canosa
 Family & Friends of
 Russ Kinaman
 Cheryl Dow
 Meg Audette and Family
 Fletch Coolidge
 Annette Whitemar
 Laura Cunningham-Firkey
 and Family

Myrna Lindholm
 Myrna Dooney
 Mike and Carole Allen
 Shashaunah
 Michael Hahner
 Bill Bickford Jr.
 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

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#/



Three Summer Evenings

On July 22 plan to join us between 5:30 and 6 for a quick bite to eat, then our programming will start at 6:15. Each evening we will be using some (if not all) of our parking lot for the event, so if you are able, please park offsite. Our plan is to conclude by 7:30, with clean-up being done by 8.

We will explore Moses' journey in the wilderness, and on August 19 we will have a street dance, with music provided by Supersounds! Look for save the date cards in the bulletin.

Summer Lawn Sale

The annual Craft Fest Summer Lawn Sale is Saturday, August 15th from 9am to 1pm. We'll be accepting kitchen items, books, children's toys, holiday items, puzzles, baskets, bath items, paintings, frames, jewelry, and furniture. Any furniture which hasn't sold can be picked up at 1pm. If not picked up, then the item will be left for free. Please note no early shoppers.

Items can be dropped off at the church starting July 6th in the West Wing. Signs will be up indicating where to leave your items. Items can also be dropped off that Saturday starting at 7am on the church lawn. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Friday, August 14th from 4:30—5:30pm—setting up Tents
- Saturday, August 15th from 6:30—7am—setting up tables
- Saturday, August 15th from 1—2pm taking down tents and tables

All proceeds from the sale benefit the church budget. The sale will also have a bake sale hosted by the Missions Committee, and a food drive to supplement the Heavenly Food Pantry. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Soda Drive for Josh's House

The Missions Committee continues to support Josh Pallotta House in Winooski. Josh's House VT is for Veterans & current military personnel. It's a designed recreation/wellness space offering meeting and study areas, a large communal kitchen, video games, and a state-of-the-art gym.

Many of the veterans being served at the Pallotta house are recovering substance abusers. These veterans rely on sugar items to get them through their addiction. Missions is has agreed to sponsor a soda drive during July, August & September. You can drop the soda anytime while the church is open. The drop-off place will be in Fellowship Hall. Signs will be posted to provide the exact location. **Remember—sugar soda only, no diet.** Thank you for your support!

Stay Connected!

Our weekly EConnection contains timely information about the FCCEJ faith community including children/youth happenings, special events, links to online bulletins and worship services, and our current calendar. Our monthly newsletter "SPIRIT@FIRST" is available by "snail mail" and email, as well as on our website. Please share your contact information via the Friendship Pad and indicate which communications you are interested in receiving.

Weekly Calendar: July 5—July 12

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<p><u>Sunday, July 5</u> 9am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>	<p><u>Monday, July 6</u> <i>9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>
<p><u>Tuesday, July 7</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></p>	<p><u>Wednesday, July 8</u> <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>
<p><u>Thursday, July 9</u> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge</i> 3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop</p>	<p><u>Friday, July 10</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone’s Deli <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>6pm: Blue Spruce Grange—Fellowship Hall</i></p>
<p><u>Saturday, July 11</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 <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, July 12</u> 9am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming 10:30am: Christian Formation—Marvin Lounge Music Committee—2nd Floor Program Room <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

Attention Committee Chairs & Group Leaders

Please remember to communicate your summer meeting schedule to the office. Some groups 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!

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 Jr.

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:

Francis Gravel, Beth Warren—Co-Chairs

Human Resources: Terry Stein

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Deacons:

Judy McCullen, Bob Driver—Co-Chairs

Nominating: Lauren Starkey

Stewardship: Beth Volker

Finance & Pastoral Relations:

Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Rob Gibson

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Betsy Weischedel, Lisa Clark