



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



Second Service

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

Our worship opportunities during the year offer two services: one traditional with our outstanding organist and Sanctuary Choir at 8:30am and one less traditional with our talented Finally @ First Band and our Faith Formation Program for our children at 10:15am. We worship together with communion on the first Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us as a precious child of God. Each week our service is streamed for all to see live or whenever they would like; check it out on our web page at fccej.org. From June through September, we have one service at 9am with our organist and a group of talented volunteers offering their musical abilities to God and our congregation.

<i>A Welcoming Community Accepting and Serving All In the Spirit of Christ</i>

Order of Worship

An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements Pastor Bob
*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Deacon's Greeting Deacon Jim Glatz
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.

Introit *I Will Sing, I Will Sing* Max Dyer

Call to Worship Deacon Jim Glatz
Leader: We gather in abundance, to celebrate the generous spirit that without fear sings,
"May All Have Enough".

People: We gather to live into the work of God's call.

Leader: We gather in grace, awake to the chance to be more, and the possibilities we have within ourselves.

People: We gather to grow, to change moment by moment, in grace again and again.

Leader: We gather in hope, ready to do more than talk. Ready to make changes one meal, one home, one gift, and one hand at a time. Ready to be the change God calls us to be.

People: We gather to give of our time, our talents, and our treasures. We gather to be!

*Opening Hymn *Blessed Be Your Name* Max Dyer
[handout]

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 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 Transition to Peer Groups (PreK-8th)

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

Musical Response	<i>Multiplied</i>	Bo & Bear Rinehart
	God of mercy, sweet love of mine, I have surrendered to Your design May this offering stretch across the skies, And these hallelujahs be multiplied, these hallelujahs be multiplied.	

New Testament Scripture Readings:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Read by Rev. Mark	[page 141]
Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21	Read by Pastor Bob	[page 4]

Special Music Anthem	<i>This Kind of Love</i>	Sister Hazel
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Stewardship Skit	Bridge to the Future of FCCEJ "The Mission to Planet Generosity"	Stewardship Players
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Narrator: Alex John	Captain James T. Kirkcheck: Rev. Mark Mendes
Mr. Stock: Carl Wermer	McOffering Scott "Scotty": Pastor Bob Driver
Dr. McCain: Heather Stein	Voice of the Computer: Beth Volker
Alien: Jen Kelly	Set Decoration Artwork: Amanda Palmer
Creation of Opening Theme Music: Dave & Bethany Blake	

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Musical Offering

What a Friend

Matt Maher

***The 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.**

***Hymn**

***Shout to the Lord*
[handout]**

Darlene Zschech

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 appreciation to Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band for sharing their wonderful musical talents with us this morning!
- ❖ *Special request from your Deacons and staff: As we head into “sniffle season” please remember to take your used tissues with you after worship. There are garbage cans in the Narthex, by the elevator, and in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!*
- ✠ *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 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, 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.

<i>Family and friend of Lyn Beliveau</i>	<i>Family and friends of Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen</i>
<i>Mike LaMoy</i>	<i>Nick Hella</i>
<i>Josephine Lawrence</i>	<i>Bob Hahner</i>
<i>All those affected by violence around the world</i>	<i>Fran Thomas</i>
<i>David and Family</i>	<i>Remi and Family</i>
<i>Bill Bickford Jr.</i>	<i>Myrna Dooney</i>
<i>Michael Lafoy</i>	<i>Audrey Sawyer</i>
<i>Allan and Barbara Reith</i>	<i>Jane Piper</i>
<i>Laura Cunningham-Firkey and Family</i>	<i>Fletch Coolidge</i>
<i>Lou Ann Pioli</i>	<i>Paula Sargent</i>
<i>Phil Bourn, all troops currently deployed, and all those adjusting to being back home</i>	
<i>Everyone that may be privately suffering</i>	<i>Flood victims in Nepal and surrounding areas</i>
<i>Everyone experiencing uncertainty and fear in their communities</i>	



****The flowers on the altar today are given by Beth Volker***

In loving memory of John Denver on the 29th anniversary of his death 10/12/1997. *

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#/



Grief Support

Grief Support Group meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday in the Marvin Lounge from 10-11:30am. Led by Mary McHugh and Sharon Dettenrieder. This is a safe place to share, question, and learn about the grief experience. Next meeting is November 12.

Adult Bible Study

Bible Study dates & topic: October 23 & Nov 13 / Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians. We meet from 1:30-3pm in Marvin Lounge. Led by Mary McHugh.

Stay Connected!

Our weekly E-Connection 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.

Pastoral Search Update

The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to share that the search for the next pastor of First Congregational Church of Essex Junction continues to move forward with care, prayer, and thoughtful discernment. After reviewing initial candidate materials and identifying individuals whose gifts and experience align with our congregation’s mission and values, the committee has begun conducting first-round interviews to learn more about candidates’ ministry backgrounds, leadership styles, and visions for congregational life. We anticipate inviting a smaller group of candidates to participate in second-round interviews later this fall, with continued discernment extending into late fall and early winter months. We are encouraged by the progress being made and the quality of candidates who have expressed interest in serving our church, and we remain grateful for the prayers, support, and encouragement of the FCCEJ church family as we seek God’s guidance for this important next chapter.

Judy Allen, Matt Clark, Jen Dooley-Secretary, Bob Driver-Chaplain, Micah Heaney-Forbes, Marian Lawlor, Kaki McGeary, Betty Marthaler, Laura Marthaler, Cathy Shearer-Chair, Amy Trimble McIntyre

Josh Sharp Ordination & Celebration

We are thrilled to celebrate the ordination of (soon-to-be Reverend) Josh Sharp on Sunday, October 25 at 3pm! There will be an ordination service in the FCCEJ Sanctuary, followed by a pot-luck reception in the Fellowship Hall. Scan the QR code or follow the link to sign up for the potluck:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0545A8AB2FAAF58-66498972-josh>

PS – Please wear RED



Annual Craft Fest

The annual Craft Fest is Saturday, November 14th from 9am to 3pm.

The following are a few ways to assist in FCCEJ’s biggest fundraising event of the year:

1. Volunteer on Friday November 13th in setting up the church
2. Volunteer on Saturday November 14th as a greeter
3. Bake a treat for the Sweet Shop
4. Make a dish of mac & cheese or chili for the Heavenly Cafe
5. Donate items for Nearly New beginning November 1st

You can sign up at the volunteer table starting October 25th or reach out to the church office if interested in helping. Lastly, mark your calendar and come to shop!

Thank you on behalf of the Craft Fest Committee.

Election Volunteer Opportunity

If you are interested in serving as an election observer at the polls in Essex, Essex Junction, or Williston on Tuesday, November 3 during the peak polling hours (7-9am, 11:30am-1:30pm, 5-7pm), please see Emily Guziak or email guziakemily335@gmail.com. You do not need to be a resident of these towns.

This is a volunteer, nationwide effort organized by the League of Women Voters to protect voter rights. You will only be asked to observe and make a phone call if you witness suspicious behavior. Everyone will work in pairs.

Detailed instructions will be provided, and you will be highly encouraged to attend a Zoom training on October 21 or 24 from 5:30 to 7:30pm. You will be making a difference in ensuring that voter rights are not compromised on this election day!

Cabin Fever Calcutta

The Calcutta Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the 10th annual Cabin Fever Calcutta. This evening of fellowship is our biggest fundraiser for the Service Trip to the Blackfeet Reservation. We need people to help with prize solicitation as well as planning the event. Contact Lisa Clark or Sharon Dettenrieder for more information.

Committee Fair

FCCEJ has members from many different denominations and or religious backgrounds. Each organization operates a little differently with some led by clergy and others led by democratic policy. Our governing body is the congregation with officers and committees elected to accomplish various aspects of running the church. The ministers and staff work with these folks and together we make it work. The heart of FCCEJ is committees and we have a bunch! They work with Rev. Mark with worship, help our children learn about God, organize Fellowship Hour after worship, oversee the music program, and ensure that our building and grounds are maintained. These committees do work and make decisions, working together in community – it's a great way to connect. On **November 1**, committee representatives will be in Fellowship Hall before and after the worship services. Come and learn and maybe express interest in a particular committee. Or just come and learn how we make it all happen at FCCEJ.

New Member's Class Offered

TODAY, Sunday October 18th after the second service (around 11:30am) in the Marvin Lounge.

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 love to come and sit in the sanctuary and soak up God's presence? If so, then maybe it is about time you join this great church. We are offering a New Member's Class to any and everyone who would like to learn more about this amazing faith community. No obligation to join.

A deli-style lunch will be provided for all. The class lasts about an hour and a half.

Weekly Calendar: October 18 – October 25

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

<u>Sunday, October 18</u> 8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming* 10:30am: Peer Groups (PreK-8th) 11:30am: New Members Class – Marvin Lounge <i>1pm: Brown Bag—Fellowship Hall</i>	<u>Monday, September 19</u> <i>8:15am-3:30pm: Bluebird Montessori</i> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing— Fellowship Hall, Kitchen 11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group – Marvin Lounge <i>Brown Bag—Fellowship Hall</i> 4:30pm: Music Lesson – Sanctuary
<u>Tuesday, October 20</u> <i>8:15am-3:30pm: Bluebird Montessori</i> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge/Zoom 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>10:15am: Intermediate Tai Chi – Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag - Fellowship Hall</i> 3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee – Marvin Lounge <i>5pm: Essex Pediatrics Workshop – Gym, 3rd Floor, West Wing</i> 7pm: Christian Formation – Marvin Lounge Communications – 2nd Floor Program Room	<u>Wednesday, October 21</u> <i>8:15am-3:30pm: Bluebird Montessori</i> 10am: Missions Committee – Marvin Lounge <i>Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag—Fellowship Hall</i> 3pm: Highland Dance Rehearsal – Gym <i>5:30pm: Cub Scouts Pack 630 – Fellowship Hall</i> 7pm: Searchers – Marvin Lounge <i>BSA Troop 624 – Fellowship Hall</i>
<u>Thursday, October 22</u> <i>8:15am-3:30pm: Bluebird Montessori</i> 9am: Food Pantry Setup – Fellowship Hall, Kitchen <i>11:30am: Brown Bag—Marvin Lounge</i> 3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Food Pantry Distribution – Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary 5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal – Program Room <i>6pm: Music Lesson—Sanctuary</i> 7pm: Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	<u>Friday, October 23</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone’s Deli <i>8:15am-3:30pm: Bluebird Montessori</i> <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>Music Lesson - Sanctuary</i> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag—Fellowship Hall</i> 1:30pm: Bible Study – Marvin Lounge <i>7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club – Marvin Lounge</i>
<u>Saturday, October 24</u> <i>8am: Give It A Go Support—Marvin Lounge</i> <i>The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing</i> 8:30am: Weight Loss Support —Fellowship Hall 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>1pm: Brown Bag—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>GMKCS – Gym, 3rd Floor</i> 2:45pm: Lord Family Party – Fellowship Hall	<u>Sunday, October 25</u> 8:30* & 10:15am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming* 10:30am: Peer Groups (PreK-8th) <i>1pm: Brown Bag—Fellowship Hall</i> 2:30pm: Champlain Association – Sanctuary 3pm: Josh Sharp Ordination & Celebration – Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Streaming