



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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

Our First Service with organ and traditional choir is streamed and begins at 8:30am with access on our webpage @ www.fccej.org. You can watch that service any time thereafter.

Our Second Service with our praise band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and it is not streamed.

Currently, mask wearing is encouraged, but usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude

Proclaim the Glory of the Lord

Borop/Liles
arr. by Stan Pethel**

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome in this place.*

Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone and highlight significant events and/or announcements in our shared life.

Musical Introit

I Will Call Upon the Lord

Michael O'Shields**

Call to Worship (Ps 46, 146, Hebrews 10) Deacon Jonah Moos
Leader: We come to worship to be restored, renewed, and re-energized. From the ancient of days, people have always relied on the presence of God, especially in times of trouble.

People: God is our strength and refuge, a very present help in trouble.

Leader: Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the One who made the promise is faithful.

People: Let us always encourage each other to love and to do good works.

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in Yahweh, their God, who keeps faith forever. Come, let us worship our God, who is the source of our hope.

Opening Hymn

This is the Day

#84

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer..... Deacon Jonah Moos
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.

Recognition and Appreciation of Marie Johnson and Denise Keating

Children's Message..... Rev. Josh Simon

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 Faith Formation

**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.**

**2nd service ~ PreK – 8th graders are invited to follow Laurie for Faith Formation.*

High school youth are welcome to help.

Parents, please collect your children from their peer rooms after service.

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response

Cares Chorus

Kelly Willard**

Hymn

The Strife Is O'er

#242

Scripture Readings

Psalm 142

With my voice I cry to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, you know my way. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. Look on my right hand and see— there is no one who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Revelation 21: 1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the One who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then that One said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Anthem *Here I Am, Lord* Arnold Sherman**

Sermon Hope and Faith in Crisis Rev. Josh Simon

Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

Offertory *What Does the Lord Require of You* Jim Strathdee**

Offertory Prayer

***Doxology** #780

**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.**

Thank you to those at home who are joining us and financially supporting our ministry and thank you to folks in the sanctuary who are present and offering their gifts.

***Hymn** *My Eyes Have Seen the Glory* #610

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction..... Rev. Josh Simon

***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

To God be the Glory

William Diane
arr. by Jenifer Cook**

*Please stand if you are able

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A Few Key Announcements:

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship - 8:30 and 10:15
 - ⇒ In-person and streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej (8:30 service only)
 - ⇒ We are pleased to offer in-person worship—masks are optional
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month. The elements are sealed and passed out to the congregation.
- ◆ Sincere thanks to Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann, Francis Gravel, Linda Lou Parker and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech!

Sunday Morning Faith Formation—10:30am

- ◆ Pre-K through 8th grade—Peer groups after Children’s Moment
Parents, please come pick up your children after worship

Young Apostles & Youth—LAST MEETINGS BEFORE SUMMER HIATUS

- ◆ Young Apostles (3rd - 5th graders & their families)
This group meets once a month with Laurie for fun-filled fellowship, recreation, mission projects, laughing & talking, and, most important, creating bonds that will steer our children towards lasting friendships into their teen years and beyond.
Next meeting: Today, May 15, at 4pm.
- ◆ Junior Youth (6th—8th grade)
Next meeting is a pizza party TODAY, May 15 at 11:30am.
- ◆ Youth Gathering (9th—12th grade) meets again at 4pm on Sunday, May 22 at Spare Time in Colchester. Lanes are already reserved—contact Pastor Josh to RSVP.

First Community Concert at First!

Vermont pianist Claire Black will perform our inaugural concert TODAY, Sunday, May 15 at 7pm. A classical pianist with a vibrant history of solo performances, chamber music, and accompanist, Ms. Black will present a program of piano music by Robert and Clara Schumann.

Community Concerts at First is an opportunity to experience great music while raising funds for FCCEJ and our community partners. The recipient organization for our May 15 event is Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington. The mission of Spectrum is “to empower teenagers, young adults, and their families to make and sustain positive changes through prevention, intervention, and life skills services”.

Tickets are still available for a suggested donation of \$20 per adult (under 18 free). For tickets, stop by the table in Fellowship Hall between services.

The War in Ukraine: Understanding the Conflict from the Personal to the Political

As the war in Ukraine continues, the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction is offering an opportunity to learn more about the conflict. Join us Sunday, May 22 at 4pm for a talk by Vermont residents Elena Spensley, a native Ukrainian, and Kevin Spensley, an expert on the history and politics of the region. A question-and-answer session will follow their talk, and a free will offering will be taken to benefit two Odessa-based grassroots humanitarian aid groups. Seating is first-come, first-served, and will begin at 3:30 (masks optional). Can't make it but want to make a donation? Here is a link to provide direct aid: <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8Je6AVcjkp>

Celebrating Graduates

Do you have a graduate in the family? Graduation Sunday is June 19!

Email Jen at the church office (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

The deadline for submissions is **noon, June 13**.

Contact the church office for more information.

Greeting & Ushering

The Greeting & Ushering Committee needs you! Please consider greeting/ushering during May. Specifically, we need to fill May 22nd & 29th (2nd service on 29th, please).

Visit our website (fccej.org/serving_others), or email Aimee Koch: aimkath@comcast.net.

Please include the date and service you'd like to serve. The time commitments of each service are: First Service: 8-9:15am; Second Service: 9:45-11:15am. Thank you for considering volunteering and for your support in helping us continue to *Love, Serve and Grow!*

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

If you require prayers for yourself or a loved one; or if you wish for a call from a pastor, please contact welcome@fccej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Jon & Karen Putnam

Elizabeth Stone

Family and friends of Fern Feather

Louise Kolvoord, grieving the death of her son,
Steven Kolvoord

Deb & Aliyah Watt, grieving the death of
Craig Watt, husband & father

Bruce Giannuzzi

Joe and Ann Wells

The Family of Mary Gellatly

Sean McKenzie

Claire Glatz

All those suffering due to the violence in Ukraine
...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Peter Fogg
"with gratitude for the love you have shown us and our family".*

CONNECTIONS:

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our "Weekly Update" eConnection
[https://www.fccej.org/v5/serving-others/
get-involved](https://www.fccej.org/v5/serving-others/get-involved)

Our monthly
"SPIRIT@FIRST" eNewsletter*
<http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

**also available in a printed, snail-mailed format*

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, 8am every Friday at Martone's
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, Every 3rd Friday at 1:30pm
Marvin Lounge—next meeting is May 20



Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15am
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: youtube.com/c/fccej



Sermon Talk Back
Tuesdays at 8:30am in the Marvin
Lounge and via Zoom: [http://zoom.us/
j/740803865](http://zoom.us/j/740803865)



Wednesday Night Searchers
7pm in Marvin Lounge and via Zoom:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/83272183334](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272183334) Next meeting is 5/18



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, in the Marvin
Lounge and via Zoom.



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Weekly Calendar - May 15 - May 22

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Today, Sunday, May 15

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th), Peer Rooms
11:30am: Junior Youth, Fellowship Hall
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
3pm: Lynn Coddington Ice Cream Social Memorial, Fellowship Hall
4pm: Young Apostles, Church Grounds
7pm: Community Concert—Claire Black on Piano, Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 17

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Missions Committee, Marvin Lounge/Zoom
7pm: CE Committee, 2nd Floor Program Room
7pm: Communications Team, Zoom

Thursday, May 19

8am: Calcutta Committee, Marvin Lounge
9am: Jamaica Leadership Team, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: Cub Scouts Bear Den, Fellowship Hall; Lion Den, 2nd Floor Program Room
6:30pm: Choir Practice, Sanctuary

Saturday, May 21

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 16

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Noontime Book Group, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6pm: Essex Junction Cemetery Association, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, May 18

8am: Food Pantry Delivery Drop-off
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm: St. Andrew's Pipe Band, 2nd Floor Program Room, Sanctuary
7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall
7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

Friday, May 20

JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market & Cafe
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 22

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th), Peer Rooms
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm: Youth Gathering (9th-12th grades), Spare Time in Colchester

Events in italics = Local Community Groups