



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

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022

During the summer, we have one service that starts at 9am and is both live in the sanctuary and streamed [www.fccej.org]. Both of our choirs are enjoying the beautiful weather and some down time, while we celebrate and welcome individuals and small groups of people to offer their musical abilities to the congregation; please contact Bethany Blake if you are interested.

Currently, mask wearing is up to each individual.

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

Prelude *Prelude in C Major, BWV 846* J.S. Bach**

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 to church and then highlight some significant events and/ or announcements in our shared life, and then encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Book.

Musical Introit *Clair de Lune (excerpt)* Claude Debussy**

Call to Worship Deacon

Leader: We celebrate God's presence in all our lives, in each one of us. God's image is seen in all the ways humanity reflects the divine.

People: We are in the image of God. We have come to rejoice in the magnificence of the divine and celebrate our humanity.

Leader: We especially celebrate LGBTQ people today. We celebrate the seminal moment at the Stonewall Inn 53 years ago when a rock thrown at a glass window and riot started to wake queer people up to know that a new life, life out of the shadows and into the open is possible.

People: When others are allowed to live freely, we all are given permission to live freely and be who we are.

Leader: Come, let us worship God and celebrate God's presence in all of humanity.

Opening Hymn *Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling* #67**
verses 1-4

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer.....Deacon
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..... 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 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.....Rev. Ron Faux

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response

*A 17th-century courante
Brussels manuscript 27220*

Composer unknown**

Congregational Hymn of Choice

For the middle hymn, the minister will ask the congregation for song suggestions.

Scripture Reading

Mark 3:21, 31-35

1 Samuel 18 - David and Jonathan

Rev. Josh Simon

Anthem

Toccata IV in G Minor

Girolamo Frescobaldi**

Summer Meditation

Celebration

Rev. Josh Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God Rev. Josh Simon
Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication
Offertory *Nordisches Lied (Nordic Song)* Robert Schumann**
***Doxology** #778**

**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.**

***Closing Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #4**

Benediction
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 *Chaconne in C Major (excerpt)* G.F. Handel**

*Please stand if you are able

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A Few Key Announcements:

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship - 9am through June, July, and August
 - ⇒ In-person and streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)
 - ⇒ 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!
- ◆ Thank you to Bethany Blake for the beautiful music this morning!

Weekly Calendar - June 26 - July 2

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Today, Sunday, June 26

Sunday Morning: Outdoor Ministry Camping Trip,
Lake Carmi

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 27

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-up, Fellowship Hall

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Music Sub-Committee,

2nd Floor Programming Room

7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Tuesday, June 28

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

5:30pm: Finance Committee, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, June 29

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

7pm: Wednesday Night Searchers, Marvin Lounge

7pm: BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, June 30

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

7pm: Open & Affirming Committee, Marvin Lounge

Friday, July 1

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 2

10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 3—Communion Sunday

9am: Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary

11:30am: Music Committee, Marvin Lounge

1pm: Racial Justice Task Force Vigil,
Church Grounds

1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

**Rev. Mark will be on vacation starting June 27 and returns August 2.
Please contact Rev. Josh with any pastoral needs.**

Community Concerts @ First presents

Ray Vega Jazz QuARTet - Sunday, July 10 at 7pm

Community Concerts at First is thrilled to host the Ray Vega Jazz QuARTet. Come and enjoy local jazz greats Ray Vega/Trumpet, Michael Hartigan/Piano, Jeremy Hill/Bass, and Geza Carr/Drums. Concert proceeds support FCCEJ community outreach and Dismas House.

Ray Vega has established himself as one of the innovators of the international Jazz and Latin music scenes. A multi-talented trumpeter, percussionist, composer, and arranger, he presents Jazz from a refreshingly original and contemporary perspective. You might also know him as host of VPR's Friday Night Jazz and UVM faculty member.

\$20 suggested donation. Tickets are available in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship as well as on the FCCEJ website, at the church office or at the door.

Vacation Bible Camp ~ Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!

- ◆ August 8-12th from 9am to 11:45am - Outside on the lawn or inside on a rainy day.
- ◆ Visit our website: <https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/vacation-bible-camp/> to register for camp or volunteer. Join the fun!

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is Monday, July 11 from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

The pantry needs help to fulfil the delivery part of its mission. If you have an hour or so available on a food pantry day and the means to deliver 8-10 bags of food, then the pantry could use your help. Please call the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to welcome@fccej.org.

We appreciate all the support as we continue the pantry's mission of seeing that no one goes hungry! www.fccej.org/Serving-Others/Heavenly-Food-Pantry.

Donate to FCCEJ

Your donations support music, youth, missions, adult enrichment, Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, and more! We are also a United Church of Christ "5 for 5" participant in these fundraisers: Per Capita, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund. Here are a few ways that you may help our ministry:

- ⇒ Send a Check or use BillPay. This is a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail. Please contact your banking institution for details. Please note the reason for your donation in the check's memo line (e.g., "missions").
- ⇒ Shop using Amazon Smile. To get started, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216>. We receive 0.5% of your purchases!
- ⇒ Send money via PayPal. Visit paypal.me/fccej. (A PayPal account is not required to donate.)

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.

Victims of gun violence and their families

Jack & Sally Hartfiel

Cara and her son

Wayne

Jon & Karen Putnam

Family and friends of Fern Feather

Bruce Giannuzzi

Joe and Ann Wells

The Family of Mary Gellatly

Sean McKenzie

All those suffering due to
the violence in Ukraine

Graduates and their families

...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar are giving by Andrea Sharp
in honor of Pride Month
and remembrance of Stonewall*

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 August 18



Summer Sunday Worship @ 9am
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)
On hiatus till September



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

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]
Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com]
Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]
Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]
Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

Music

Chair of Music: Denise Keating
Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Officers

President: Cathy Shearer
Vice President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville
Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]
Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]
Clerk: Brenda Dawson
Historian: Ann Gray
Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel & Steve Wood

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Lisa Clark, Derek Lyman
Communications: Francis Gravel
Deacons: Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs
Finance & Pastoral Relations: Judy Larrabee Pomainville
Hospitality: Jen Dooley
Human Resources: Cathy Shearer
Missions: Paula Sargent
Music: Denise Keating
Nominating: Dick Harris
Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan
Trustees: Kaki McGeary
Ushering: Marlene Frank

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sue Wood
Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert