



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



First Service

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024

We offer two different worship services: our First Service with organ and traditional choir is in-person and streamed and begins at 8:30am with access via 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 streamed on the 3rd Sunday of the month. On the first Sunday of each month we celebrate communion and have a single service at 10am and is in-person and streamed. Our Faith Formation Program for all children is in person and starts at 10:15am. Listen Assist Headsets are available in the Narthex and next to the elevator and can be used with or without hearing aids.

Our Nursery is open at all services.

Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude

Gymnédie No.1

Erik Satie**

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

Musical Introit

"Bethany" hymn tune for SATB voices

Arr. David Blake **

Call to Worship

Deacon Allison VanSteensburg

Leader: Come from East and West, come from North and South; let us come together to praise the Living God.

People: This morning, we come from anguish and celebration. We come from different backgrounds of race, culture, genders, language and familial dynamics. Some of us have followed Jesus all our lives and some just a short time. Some of us are more progressive and others more traditional. But together we make up the body of Christ at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

Leader: We are united in our love for God, our respect for Jesus and our amazement at the work of God's Spirit. Come, let us unite in worshipping the Living God of all people.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon Allison VanSteensburg

***Opening Hymn**

Forward Through the Ages

#377**

Children’s Message..... Rev. Arnold Thomas

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord’s Prayer (“trespasses”)** Rev. Thomas

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

***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.**

Prayer Response

Fourfold Amen

Robert G. Barrow**

***Hymn**

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

#63**

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic

Joel 2:28-32

[page 658]

New Testament Epistle

Romans 8:22-27

[page 120]

Historical

Acts 2:1-21

[page 90]

Anthem

Always By Our Side

Mark Burrows**

With Emily Guziak on Flute

arr. Mary McDonald

Sermon

Searching for Eden

Rev. Arnold Thomas

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

3rd Gnossienne

Erik Satie**

***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. Amen.**

*Hymn

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

#270**

*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction Rev. Arnold Thomas

***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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Horatius Bonar**

Thomas Tallis

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."*

*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ Rev. Arnold Thomas for leading worship and providing the message!
- ◆ Bethany Blake, the FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, and Emily Guziak for the beautiful music!

Summer Schedule—June through Labor Day

- ◆ Sunday Morning Worship -
 - ⇒ One service at 9am—in-person & streamed
 - ⇒ All Family Worship—Faith Formation on hiatus till September
 - ⇒ Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month
 - ⇒ Rev. Mark on vacation July 1 through August 5

Dates to Remember

Saturday, May 25: Essex Memorial Day Parade—starts at 10am
Saturday, June 1: Essex Pride Festival—Maple Street Park, 1pm-5pm
Sunday, June 9: New Members Class—10:30am in Marvin Lounge

Summer Music in Worship

During the summer, we encourage our musically inclined faith community members to consider sharing their talents in worship. We're looking for folks to do from one to four pieces in a service (whatever you're most comfortable with). The date is always based on your schedule. You may nominate yourself, a child, grandchild, or other family member. It could be you and a friend who doesn't attend our church. It may be a solo, duet, trio, etc. If you need piano or organ accompaniment, our amazing Music Director, Bethany Blake, can offer that for you. This is a great way to experience that connection Rev. Mark was describing in a recent sermon: the imagery of the vine connecting all of the branches on it...one way that we can connect is through music! Contact the church office or Bethany to sign up - bblake@fccej.org.

Grief Support Group

2nd Thursday of each month from 10am to 11:30am in Marvin Lounge.

This group is open to anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. The sessions are facilitated by Sharon Dettenrieder, MSN, RN and Mary McHugh, MAPS. Both Sharon and Mary have years of experience in leading Grief Support groups as well as personal experience with loss. Next session is 6/13. Contact the church office for more info: 802-878-5745 or welcome@fccej.org.

Planned Giving Seminar

As a component of the Planned Giving Program we are pleased to have the opportunity to host Holly LeMieux, local estate planning attorney, on May 23, from 6:30 to 8pm in the Marvin Lounge. Holly's area of expertise includes estate planning, wills, and elder law. She will present, have time for questions, and provide take-away materials.

There is no charge to attend this seminar. Please contact the church office to sign up or if you need more information.

Celebrating Graduates

Do you have a graduate in the family? Graduation Sunday is June 2!

Email Jen at the church office (welcome@fccej.org) the following info:

- ◆ Name of graduate
- ◆ Graduation/recent picture **AND** baby/young picture
- ◆ School (high school, undergrad, graduate) & degree if applicable
- ◆ Their plans for the future

The deadline for submissions is May 29. Contact the church office for more information.

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 (802) 878-5745.

The Haitian People

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii

Everyone affected by the recent floods

Victims of gun violence and their families

Family and Friends of Dick Davidson

Bruce Parker

Skip Bergin

Julia Tanner Holly

Kim Sonntag

Jon Eric Lindholm

Albert

Ozzy and Family

Russ Wilson & Cathy Galbraith

Juliana Faux

Connor Bryce and Family

Ruby and Family

Michael Flynn

Bruce Gianuzzi

Maureen Evans & Family

All those suffering due to violence in
Ukraine and the Middle East

...and all persons affected by COVID19

CONNECTIONS:

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

Our "Weekly Update" eConnection: <http://bit.ly/3rlsISv>

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

*also available in a printed, snail-mailed format

ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ◆ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesdays at 8:30am in Marvin Lounge & Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036#success>
- ◆ **Tai Chi Class**, Tuesdays at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **Yoga @ First**, Tuesdays at 5pm in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone's
- ◆ **Lunchtime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays @ 11:30am in Marvin Lounge
- ◆ **Bridge Group**, 1st & 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

Weekly Calendar: May 19 - May 26

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, May 19

8:30 & 10:15am: Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10:30am: Faith Formation (PreK-8th)
11:05am: Joyful Noise Rehearsal, West Wing
12pm: SHY & JHY at Spare Time in Colchester
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 21

8:30am: Sermon Talkback, Marvin Lounge
10:15am: Tai Chi, Fellowship Hall
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
5pm: Yoga, Sanctuary
7pm: CE, Marvin Lounge
Communications, 2nd Floor Program Room

Thursday, May 23

8:30am: Food Pantry Set-Up, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
3pm: Food Pantry Distribution, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
6:30pm: Planned Giving Seminar, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, May 25

*8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
Give It A Go Support Group, Marvin Lounge*
9am: Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall
10am: Memorial Day Parade
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 20

8am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: Lunchtime Book Group, Marvin Lounge
Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6pm: Essex Junction Cemetery Association, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, May 22

10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
6:30pm: Men at First Rehearsal, West Wing
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 24

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 26

8:30* & 10:15am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming*
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

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

Ministers of Visitation:

Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com] / Mary McHugh [mmmchugh@hotmail.com]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]

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

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

Social Media Marketing Specialist: Andrea Hickey [socialmedia@fccej.org]

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

Music

Chair of Music: Mindy Bickford & Joann Irwin—Co-Chairs

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Men at First Director: Bill Bickford

Officers

President: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Vice President: Terry Stein

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

Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [treasurer@fccej.org]

Assistant Treasurer: Matt Clark [mattclark48discovery@gmail.com]

Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Betsy Weischedel, Allan Kinney

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Derek Lyman & Terri Livak

Communications: Francis Gravel

Deacons: Alison Wermer, Judy McCullen—Co-Chairs

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Terry Stein

Hospitality: Jen Dooley

Human Resources: Judy Larrabee Pomainville

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Kaki McGeary

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert