



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

Trinity Sunday

May 26, 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

From A Distance

Bette Midler

Amanda Palmer, soloist

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

Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream

Ed McCurdy

Beth Volker, soloist

Call to Worship Deacon Judy McCullen

Leader: Springtime is here and the mountains, lakes, rivers and gardens are calling. Relishing the colors, savoring the aroma of flowers, enjoying the antics of birds and squirrels: all of nature draws me in.

People: Thank you, God, for being an outstanding Creator!

Leader: Springtime is here and new life erupts all around us mirroring the new life of Christ's resurrection. Christ's teachings of love and modelling of sacrificial giving shows us how to live in this world.

People: Thank you, God, for being the greatest teacher EVER.

Leader: From joining our church community, to living into the highest of human values, to using our gifts to make the world a better place, to seeing God's imprint on absolutely everything in the universe: God's spirit continues to inspire and show us the living presence of our God.

People: Thank you, God, for touching our souls with your Spirit.

Leader: Come, let us worship our Trinitarian God.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Judy McCullen

***Opening Hymn** *Come Now, Almighty God* #275

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

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** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* #292

Scripture Readings

New Testament	Gospel	John 3:1-17	[page 71]
	Historical	Acts 9:32-35	[page 98]
		Acts 10:44-48	[page 99]

Anthem *The Heavens Are Telling* Beethoven

Sermon *Mystery, Teachings and the Power of the Trinity* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

From A Distance
(instrumental reprise)

Bette Midler

***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**

America the Beautiful
[handout]

***Benediction**

Pastoral Benediction Rev. Mendes

***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**

Taps

Brian Chipman on Trumpet

***Please stand if you are able**

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ Bethany Blake, Amanda Palmer, Beth Volker, and Brian Chipman for sharing their fantastic musical talents with us!

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.

Those impacted by the fires in Hawaii
Everyone affected by the recent floods
Victims of gun violence and their families

Bruce Parker

Skip Bergin

Julia Tanner Holly

Kim Sonntag

Jon Eric Lindholm

Ruby & Family

Albert

Ozzy and Family

Russ Wilson & Cathy Galbraith

Connor Bryce and Family

Michael Flynn

Bruce & Lori Gianuzzi

Maureen Evans & Family

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

...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar are given by Wayne & Nancy Hall
in memory of their parents.*

CONNECTIONS:

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

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

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

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, June 1: Essex Pride Festival—Maple Street Park, 1pm-5pm
- Sunday, June 2: Celebration Sunday at our 9am Worship (more information below)
- Sunday, June 9: New Members Class—10:30am in Marvin Lounge
Racial Justice Panel Discussion—3pm in the Sanctuary

Racial Justice Event

The Racial Justice Group invites you to join us on Sunday, June 9 at 3pm in the Sanctuary for “*Inclusion, Diversity and New Americans*”. We have invited three New American panelists; Eric Agnero, a leader of Vermont Institute of Community and International Involvement; Jeetan Khadka, owner of the Nepali Kitchen, and Oluchukwu Ebele, a woman currently working as a para-educator and studying to be a nurse’s aid, to share their experiences and answer questions you may have. Please save the date and we look forward to seeing you. For more details, please reach out to Betsy Weischedel at eweischedel@gmail.com.

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 FCCEJ. 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. 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.

Celebration Sunday—June 2

Graduates

Do you have a graduate in the family? Email Jen at the church office 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.

Volunteers

As we end our program year and begin our summer schedule, we will recognize and celebrate our Christian Formation (Education) volunteers!

Children & Youth

Enjoy the musical and dramatic talents of our children and youth! The Joyful Noise Children's Choir will sing "Clap Hands" and our Junior Youth will present a modern day performance of "The Good Samaritan".

Ice Cream Social

After worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social, hosted by the Christian Formation (Education) Committee! A perfect way to celebrate the start of our summer!

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

Joyful Noise is singing 'Clap Hands' in worship on June 2.

Today, May 26, practice in West Wing after children's message for 15-20 minutes and then return to worship.

Saturday, June 1, 10 - 10:30am in the West Wing

Sunday, June 2, 8:45am warm up before the 9:00 service

Youth Ministry

Youth Summer Service Days (current JHY & SHY) ~ July 17 & 18 and July 24 & 25 ~ half & full days ~ one or two or all the dates. Reach out to Laurie.

Vacation Bible Camp ~ August 5- 9, 2024

Mornings 9am-12noon OR All-Day 9am to 4pm ~ \$100 per camper (scholarships available)

Register online ~ campers, youth & volunteers!

Sign up today! <https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/vacation-bible-camp/>

Weekly Calendar: May 26 - June 2

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, May 26

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

Tuesday, May 28

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
3pm: By Laws Review, Marvin Lounge
5pm: Yoga, Sanctuary
5:30pm: Finance Committee, Marvin Lounge
7pm: Stewardship, Marvin Lounge
Trustees, 2nd Floor Program Room
HRC, Conference Room

Thursday, May 30

11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
6:15pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, June 1

8am: The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary
Give It A Go Support Group, Marvin Lounge
9am: Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall
10am: Joyful Noise Rehearsal, West Wing
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
1pm-5pm: Essex Pride Festival,
Maple Street Park
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day—Office Closed All Day

8am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, May 29

10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
4pm-7pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
5:30pm: Finally @ First Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30pm: Men at First Rehearsal, West Wing
7pm: Searchers, Marvin Lounge
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 31

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 2

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10:30am: Montana Team, Marvin Lounge
Music Committee, Program Room
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups