



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 Celebration Sunday

June 2, 2024

From June through Labor Day weekend, we follow our Summer Worship Schedule. The Sunday service each week starts at 9am and we have special music from individuals or groups that have volunteered, which gives our two musical groups [Sanctuary Choir & Finally @ First] the summer to rest and simply enjoy worship. Our streaming will continue with a simple wide shot of the service and not the multiple cameras and special screen shots of the hymns and various parts of the bulletin which gives our tech folks a break. Our nursery is open each week with a paid attendant for ages 6 months through 3 years. Children three and older are asked to join their parents in worship which gives our Faith Formation volunteers a little time off as well.

Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.

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

Prelude

Corre, Río, Corre.

David Lanz

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

Sonatina Op. 55 No 1 in C Major, Vivace

Friedrich Kuhlau

Call to Worship Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my thoughts from far away.

People: You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

People: You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Leader: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Come, let us worship the God who knows us all.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation..... Deacon Donna Burnett

***Opening Hymn** *Jesus Loves Me* #327

Children's Message: *Recognizing Children & Youth Program Volunteers*
Rev. Mark, Laurie Chipman, and Elizabeth Miller

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

The Prayer
[excerpt]

Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion

Joyful Noise Anthem

Clap Hands

Mindy Bickford, Director
Marie Johnson, Accompanist

Scripture Readings

Epistle	1 Corinthians 4:5-12	[page 138]	Deacon Donna Burnett
Gospel	Luke 10:25-37	[page 98]	Dramatized by our Jr. High Youth

***Hymn** *For Everyone Born* [handout]

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation: Luke 11:23-26

Communion Music

Return To The Heart

David Lanz

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Today, we will partake of communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person. The Minister will direct everyone to partake of the gluten free bread together. The Deacons will then pass out the non-alcoholic grape juice where everyone is welcome to partake when they choose. This symbolizes both the individual and corporate nature of our faith. **Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.***

Recognizing Our Graduates

A Litany of Celebration

Leader: Come, let us gather as a community to pay tribute to and honor those among us who have worked hard to graduate.

People: When one part of our body celebrates with joy, all of us share in that joyful celebration. We, your brothers and sisters of faith, think that you are great and are thrilled that you are a part of our family of faith!!! We admire your efforts and wish you well as you set out on your new journey.

Graduates, Parents & Family Members: We thank God for life, and gifts that have allowed our graduates to reach this day of accomplishment. We have nurtured them and offered our support and love. We are proud of you and want the best for you. We all celebrate this day of graduation as a great accomplishment.

Leader: Armed with your degree and girded with our love and support, may our graduates be strengthened to succeed, poised to prosper and eager to engage the world.

People: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace. Amen and Alleluia!!!

Our Graduates Then and Now.....A Slideshow

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Madre De La Tierra
(instrumental reprise)

David Lanz

***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**

Great Is Your Faithfulness

#423

*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction and A Special Blessing for Our Some of Our Service Trip Folk

***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

Piano Sonata in G major Hob. XVI:G1 No.4, Presto

Joseph Haydn

*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ Bethany Blake, Mindy Bickford, Marie Johnson, and the Joyful Noise Choir for sharing their fantastic musical talents with us!

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

Special Offering for June—Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the UCC cooperatively. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

We will be collecting our special offering for Strengthen the Church next Sunday, June 9.

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 Linda Lou Parker
in memory of Erica Ann.*

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

New Members Class

Join us next Sunday, June 9, after worship in Marvin Lounge for our New Members Class. Learn about our church and her many ministries. We will discuss our history, as well as what our denomination, the United Church of Christ, stands for and how they operate. Lunch is provided.

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.

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/>

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.

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

The Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop is open on the first Sunday of each month. Stop by after worship—they will be open from 10 to 11:30am during our summer schedule.

Weekly Calendar: June 2—June 9

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

Sunday, June 2

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10am: Ice Cream Social, Fellowship Hall
10am-11:30am: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
10:30am: Montana Team, Marvin Lounge
Music Committee, Program Room
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Tuesday, June 4

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: Church Council, Marvin Lounge
*BSA Troop 624 District Meeting,
Fellowship Hall*

Thursday, June 6

8:30am: *Essex Art League, Fellowship Hall*
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge*
6:15pm: *Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary*

Saturday, June 8

All Day: Scout Jamboree
8am: *The Vine Nepali Congregation, Sanctuary*
Give It A Go Support Group, Marvin Lounge
9am: *Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall*
10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
12pm: *Piano Recital, Sanctuary*
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*

Monday, June 3

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

Wednesday, June 5

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

Friday, June 7

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
10am: *Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall*
11:30am: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
12pm: Racial Justice Sub Committee,
Conference Room
1:30pm: Bridge Group, Marvin Lounge
6pm: *BSA Troop 624 Safety Training,
Marvin Lounge, Grounds*

Sunday, June 9

Scout Sunday

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
10:30am: New Members Class, Marvin Lounge
1pm: *Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall*
3pm: Racial Justice Discussion Panel, Sanctuary

Events in italics = Local Community Groups