



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

Scout Sunday

June 9, 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*

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

A Special Welcome to our Scouts

A Special Welcome to the Bartlett family as Asher is Baptized today

Musical Introit

Canticle of the Sun

Marty Haugen

Call to Worship Deacon Donna Burnett

Leader: Today, we come to worship our God: our Creator, Teacher and Friend. We also come to lift up our partnership with the scouts in this church and beyond.

Pulpit Side: Both Scouts and Christians love nature and are dedicated to caring for all creation.

Lectern Side: Both Christians and Scouts live by Christ's golden rule as we try to help others and live by the highest ideals within humanity.

Everyone: Both Scouts and Christians lift-up a mysterious and divine presence that inspires both of our organizations to do good.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the gifts God has given us and work together to make our corner of the world a better place in which to live.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation Deacon Donna Burnett

The Sacrament of BaptismAsher Carl Willis Bartlett

Let's give a warm First Church welcome to the Bartlett and Barnes families as we baptize their precious son Asher. Asher's parents are Megan and Travis Bartlett and his older brother is Lincoln. His grandparents are Ann & Jack Barnes, and Shawn & Debbie Bartlett.

Children's Message:

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.**

The Foundations to the Scouting Way

The Boy Scout Promise and Law [in unison by all]

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

The Girl Scout Promise and Law [in unison by all]

On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law. I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Philippians 4:2-9 [in unison by all]

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

A Summer Meditation

"The Incognito Christ"

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Show Me the Way

Dennis DeYoung

***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.**

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

Multiplied

Bo & Bear Rinehart

God of mercy, sweet love of mine, I have surrendered to Your design

May this offering stretch across the skies,

And these hallelujahs be multiplied, these hallelujahs be multiplied.

***Hymn**

Go Make a Difference

Steve Angrisano

***Benediction**

Pastoral Benediction and Special Blessing..... Rev. Mendes

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!

With God our Creator, family all are we,

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

***Postlude**

Vespers

As the night comes to this land, On my promise I will stand,

I will help the pack to go, As our pack helps me to grow.

Yes, I'll always give goodwill, I'll follow my Akela still.

And before I stop to rest, I will do my very best.

Softly falls the light of day, While our campfire fades away.

Silently each scout should ask: "Have I done my daily task?

Have I kept my honor bright? Can I guiltless sleep tonight?

Have I done and have I dared Everything to be prepared?

Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band for sharing their awesome musical talents with us!

Special Offering for June—Strengthen the Church

This 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 are collecting our special offering for Strengthen the Church today, 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

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

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**, On Hiatus till September



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

New Members Class

Join us today 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 today, 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.

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

Hero Central—"Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" Psalm 34:14b

Mornings 9am-12noon OR All-Day 9am to 4pm (scholarship available)

Plenty of room for Campers!

Toddlers with a Parent & on up through current 5th graders

JHY helpers & SHY helpers and/or staff (application online - need 3 more)

Register Online today!

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

Our current volunteer team for the week:

Music/Bible Drama: Bob Driver; Science: Lauren Starkey; Snack: Judy Allen, Mary Anne Warren, Ginny Coe, Mary Ann Phelps; Craft: Judy Roy, Cathy Lapierre; Games: Bill Bickford, Eric Lindholm ; Nurse: Jane Piper; Afternoon Adult Support: Cathy Lapierre; Tech: Doug Olufsen

Summer Music in Worship

During the summer, we encourage our musically inclined faith community members to consider sharing their talents in worship. 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. 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.

Weekly Calendar: June 9—June 16

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

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

Tuesday, June 11

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, Fellowship Hall
3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee, Marvin Lounge
5pm: Yoga, Sanctuary
6pm: Lambert Elder Care Seminar, West Wing
7pm: Deacons, Marvin Lounge
*BSA Three Rivers District Roundtable,
Fellowship Hall & 2nd Floor Program Room*

Thursday, June 13

10am: Grief Support, Marvin Lounge
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Marvin Lounge
1pm: Service Trip Leadership Team,
Marvin Lounge
6:15pm: Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, June 15

*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
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 10

8am: Food Pantry Organizing, Fellowship Hall,
2nd Floor Storage Room
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
1pm: Food Pantry Set-Up, Fellowship Hall,
Kitchen
5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution,
Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary
7:30pm: Group Victory, Marvin Lounge

Wednesday, June 12

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
Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall

Friday, June 14

8am: Coffee Clatter, Martone's Market
Foodbank Delivery, Fellowship Hall
10am: Bone Builders, Fellowship Hall
11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm: Blue Spruce Grange, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 16

Juneteenth Celebration & Father's Day

9am: All-Family Worship, Sanctuary/Streaming
1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Events in italics = Local Community Groups