



# 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)    **Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Pentecost**  
**June 23, 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.**

<i>A Welcoming Community,      Accepting and Serving All In the Spirit of Christ</i>
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Prelude	<i>Joshua Fit The Battle As You Come To This Holy Ground</i>	arr. Robert Olson Dorothy Robson
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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	<i>My Lord What A Mornin'</i>	Traditional
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Call to Worship ..... Deacon Donna Burnett

**Leader:** God plants a tune in our heart and a dance in our step. Music transforms us and touches our hearts in mystical and powerful ways. Come, let us celebrate the music of our Men At First and sing some of our favorite hymns with great joy.

**People:** **With music in this place, we are transformed from a lone voice to a glorious chorus, from a single person to a family of faith. Come, let us enjoy the beauty of this day as we sing our hearts out!**

**Leader:** The world is crazy around us, but today we will sing of God's glory and restore our hearts, minds, and souls with a sweet balm of melodies. Come, let us worship and praise the living God.

*Opening Hymn	<i>Rejoice, You Pure in Heart</i>	#55
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Deacon's Prayer of Invocation ..... Deacon Donna Burnett

**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 and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")** ..... Mary McHugh

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.**

Musical Prayer Response

Anthem

*Wade In The Water*

arr. Moses Hogan

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic

I Samuel 17:1-11, 31-49

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New Testament Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

[page 30]

**A Little Congregational Reflecting**

*The Deacon on duty will encourage comments and reflections from the congregation about today's two readings and how they might be applied to our lives and situations in the wider world.*

**\*Congregational Hymn of Choice**

*Each week, the worship leader will ask for a suggestion from those in attendance for a hymn the congregation should sing. The organist will then lead us in the singing. If you pick one the organist cannot sightread, then be ready with another selection.*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Ride The Chariot*

arr William H Smith

**\*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**

*Amazing Grace*

**#547**

\*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

**\*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 Can Only Imagine*

by Bart Millard

\*Please stand if you are able

Sincere thanks the morning to:

- ◆ Men At First, under the fantastic direction of Bill Bickford, for giving us the gift of their amazing musical talents!
- ◆ Denise Keating for providing the beautiful musical accompaniment!

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month
  - ⇒ Rev. Mark on vacation July 1 through August 5

## 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](mailto: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  
The FCCEJ Service Trip Team  
Chris Hathaway  
Bruce Parker  
Skip Bergin  
Julia Tanner Holly  
Kim Sonntag  
Jon Eric Lindholm  
Ruby & Family

Patty Giroux  
Roger Mathey  
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 this morning  
are given by Julie Leach  
In honor of Virginia Facteau*

### 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](https://bit.ly/39039ht)



INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgZf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgZf)



INTERNET

[fccej.org](http://fccej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://bit.ly/3oPpBv9)

### **Heavenly Food Pantry**

Our Heavenly Food Pantry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of clients we serve. On our most recent distribution date, we provided food and other essentials for 53 families – up from about the regular 30. This is approximately a 76% increase.

We are in particular need of the following food items: Cereal, Peanut Butter, and Baked Beans, although all non-perishable items are gratefully accepted. Please also consider donating non-dairy milk (almond, soy, etc...) as well as gluten-free items and women's hygiene products.

Donations can be dropped off just outside the church office or across from the elevator in the grocery cart.

The pantry continues to need 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 we could use your help. Please call the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org).

We appreciate your support as we continue the mission of seeing that no one goes hungry!  
Monthly Distribution Schedule: 2nd Monday from 5:30-7:30pm & 4th Thursday from 3-6pm.

### **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](mailto:bblake@fccej.org).

### **Faith Formation**

During the summer months starting June 23, Children's Ministry will explore The Beatitudes through materials provided in the Narthex. On a weekly basis, children and their families will learn the blessings and hope The Beatitudes offer followers of Jesus. Enjoy!

### **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)

Toddlers with a Parent & on up through current 5th graders—Plenty of room for Campers!

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

## **Weekly Calendar: June 23—June 30**

**\*Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections\***

### **Sunday, June 23**

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

### **Monday, June 24**

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

### **Tuesday, June 25**

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: Trustees, 2nd Floor Program Room  
Stewardship, Marvin Lounge

### **Wednesday, June 26**

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: *BSA Troop 624, Fellowship Hall*

### **Thursday, June 27**

8:30: 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  
6:15pm: *Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary*

### **Friday, June 28**

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

### **Saturday, June 29**

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*  
6pm: *BSA Safety Training, Marvin Lounge,*  
*Grounds*

### **Sunday, June 30**

9am: 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