

*The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ*



*A Welcoming
and Serving All*

Community, Accepting

in the Spirit of Christ

“We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We agree to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As in the past, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.”

One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
www.fccej.org

Phone: 802-878-5745

Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Twitter: 1stChurchEJ

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC

Open and Affirming means that we welcome everyone to First Church including our GLBTQ brothers and sisters.



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
October 2, 2016
World Communion Sunday

A Welcoming Church,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer
Andante

Rasley
Tschaikowsky

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church, highlight some significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will invite people to raise significant celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or a friend as a guest. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Introit

What Does the Lord Require of You

Strathdee

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made...

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Today we unite with Christians throughout the world...

People: Around Christ's extravagant table of forgiveness and service.

Leader: Come, let us sing our praise. Come, let us listen to the Word. Come, let us dine with each other. Come, let us be with our God.

***Opening Hymn**

Praise To The Living God

#8

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: No one is perfect, no not one. All people fall short of the glory of God. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are in need of the love and grace of a merciful and forgiving God.

People: We come humbly before our Lord, recognizing that we are the creature not the creator. We long for union, wholeness, unity, meaning and love. We fall short of God's expectations but seek grace enough to

move ever closer to our God and each other.

Leader: Come, let us approach our Maker and Friend.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, we come before you as the center of our own universe. We are too private, partisan, persuasive and persnickety. Help us to give up our self-indulgent ways and widen our perspective to include others in your kingdom of grace and truth. Remind us to walk humbly though this world as we move ever closer to your light. We need your help, come and transform our lives. We pray this in the name of our suffering servant, Jesus Christ.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God saw everyone in the world and declared that they were all good, very good. We all have the divine light within us: we are all saints. Resurrected and reigning Lover of Humanity, as we accept your forgiveness, empower us to spread your good news to all people.

Leader: God forgives you all, go and be more loving.

Children's Message

After the Children's Message, first service, our nursery is open for self-serve care, there is a speaker in the room so you can hear the service and it is broadcast to Fellowship Hall as well. Second Service, children in preschool up through 4th grade are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall with our First Sunday Spiritual Friends. Parents/Grandparents and older siblings are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay with the group or return to worship. Everyone will be returning to worship for Communion.

**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.
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.**

Anthem

Do This In Remembrance of Me

Hunnicutt

Pastoral Prayer & **Unison Lord's Prayer**

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Our Father, 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen

Musical Response

Bless The Lord

Berthier

A Stewardship Witness.....Kathy Finnie

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Let Us Be Bread

Porter

***The 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.**

Old Testament Scripture Reading Psalm 137 [page 448]

Communion Meditation

Brutal Honesty

Rev. Mendes

***Hymn**

Let Us Break Bread Together

#330

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will celebrate communion as we honor and celebrate World Communion Sunday. We will do this by having everyone come forward to the table and take one piece of the many types of breads and dip it into the cup and partake immediately. Anyone who has difficulty coming forward, please let a Deacon know so that we can bring the elements to you.

Special note: *All the bread offered today is gluten free. All juice used is non-alcoholic grape juice. Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!*

***Hymn**

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

#583

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***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 me walk with my fellow 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

March of the Steadfast
**Please stand if you are able.*

Troutman

The flowers on the altar are given by Beth Volker in loving memory of John Denver on the 19th anniversary of his passing, October 12, 1997.

Worship Participants

Deacon: Lori Giannuzzi

Greeters: First Service-Tom James, Second Service-George & Linda Jackson

Ushers: First Service-Alison & Carl Wermer, Second Service-Youth

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lisa	Nancy Allen	Lilly & Donald
David Tibbetts	Sabrena Spillar	Tim Frazier
Emily Carroll & family	Peggy	Jaime Real
Jessica Canavan	Richard	Bethany Mangis
Louise Kolvoord	Roger Kalar	Leigh Davidson
Suzanne	Jenna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Dave
Beth Terry	Todd & Danielle Charlebois	Cathleen & Lilianna
Donna	Carol	Ed Constantine
Campbell Miller	Lorrayne Sawyer	Fletch Coolidge

Please let us know if you would like a name added to our Prayer Ministry, you can write it on the Friendship Pad, call or email the office or send us a note, welcome@fcej.org

Hannaford Cards & Reloads are on Sale TODAY **in the Fellowship Hall**

Yellow Table In Fellowship Hall - Faith Formation Volunteers

We are continuing to build our village of volunteers for our Faith Formation programs this year. Please consider being a part of a team and getting involved by helping the children and youth who attend here at First Church to grow and build their faith.

Call Laurie or send her an email! We have openings for:

Parent Helpers, Class Leaders, First Sundays Spiritual Friends

Multi-Age Activity Sundays, Youth Group Volunteers

Nursery Volunteers for 2nd Service, Bible Partners for 3rd & 4th Graders

Be a Bible partner– sit & read a story and chat about a couple of questions with a 3rd or 4th grader outside of our Faith Formation class on Sunday morning or another time.

Fall dates – October 30th to December 11th

Spring Dates – March 12th – April 9th



* * * **TODAY** * * *

Blue Table In Fellowship Hall – Bible Display

Looking for a Bible for yourself or someone else? Stop by the table and have a look at some of the many Bibles we have on hand.



Mondays ~ Yoga @ First Are Going Strong!

New to yoga? Returning? Come sit with Jonah and practice a gentle sequence to integrate the mind, body, and soul. In each session, we focus, breathe, build heat, strengthen, and relax. We have switched to Monday evenings, from 5:30-6:30. Wear comfortable, nonrestrictive clothing. Bring a mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Donations to FCCEJ welcomed, but not required.

Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback

Join us on Tuesdays from 8:30-10am for coffee, home baked goods and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) that was delivered the previous Sunday. Come for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above! Join us!



Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue...

* * * **THIS WEEK** * * *



1st Friday of Every Month ~ **October 7th**
Come - Help – Eat www.essexeatsoout.org

Wednesday Night Searchers ~ We Are Reading A New Book!

The usual spiritual journey these days involve people leaving church and finding a spiritual awakening someplace else which has led to the phrase, "Spiritual but not religious." Church attendance is down and the future is bleak for many churches across our nation. In her book, "take this bread," Sara Miles journeys the other way.....that is toward the church as the place for her spiritual awakening. Her faithful grandparents and atheistic parents are the background of her journey where feeding people and sitting around the table with them within the church opens her heart to following Jesus and



his way. Come join us every Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. going through October 26th as we discuss this easy to read and spiritually significant book.

October 30th ~ Bible Sunday





All our 3rd graders will be receiving their very own Bible during worship today. If you are in 4th grade or older and do not have a Bible of your own, please let Laurie or Pastor Mark know so that we can have a Bible ready for you on this special day.



November 12th, Five Corners Craft Fest

Start cleaning out those closets for the Nearly New Sale, we will start accepting items in the Marvin Lounge Oct. 9th. Go through your recipes to decide which treats you can delight our shoppers with in the Treat Shop! Check out our specifics in your October Newsletter.

Ring the Church Bell

Sunday mornings at 8:15 & 10:00 am (15 minutes before worship). Families are welcome to sign up on the bulletin board to ring the bell.

* * * **SAVE THE DATES** * * *



Acolytes

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-acolytes>

Sign up on line or on the bulletin board downstairs to acolyte at worship service on Sunday morning. Acolytes (3rd grade and older) bring the light of Christ into the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship and carry it out at the end of worship to remind us that God is with us wherever we are. This is a great way to participate in worship with a friend or solo.

Faith Formation Sunday Mornings

Preschool thru 12th grade during Worship
October 2nd ~ Spiritual Friends & Communion



Sunday

Jr & Sr High Usher & Greet

October 9th ~ Faith Formation Class time & Fire Drills

* * * **SIGN-UPS** * * *



2016 Faith Formation Sunday School Offering
King Street Center ~ Total is now up to \$ 613.69

Remember to bring your Sunday School offering each week and don't forget to use one of the envelopes in the pews so that it will be put towards the Sunday School offering. \$1 a week can add up quickly!



Visit the Library in Fellowship Hall and sign out a book!

Located just outside the Nursery room. Children's books are inside and on display. Adult Searchers books are located on top of the library cart.

*** * * Children, Youth & Family Announcements * * ***

Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Hours

10 am - 3 pm Tuesday & Wednesdays, 4 - 8 pm Thursdays

Come on in and find us on Facebook!

Clean Out Your Closets and Bring Us Your Fall/Winter Donations!



Red Tent Feminine Product Drive

Please don't forget our ongoing commitment to JUMP by putting your feminine product purchases in the Red Tent in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or in the Marvin Lounge during the week!



Heavenly Food Pantry –Is Looking to Expand & Needs Volunteers!

Thank you for the quick response to our request for volunteers for the Monday evening food pantry. Our volunteer base is almost complete, except we need a few people who can move and lift at least 30 pounds, to round out our group. Please contact Judy Allen, judy@invalid.ate.net or Elaine Raymond, ebraimond@gmail.com or the office with any questions or to sign up.



WHAT: Monday evening food pantry for those who can't make the

*** * * Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate * * ***

Thursday food pantry WHEN: 2nd Monday of the month WHERE: Fellowship Hall

TIME: 4PM – 8PM (There are 3 shifts if you can't be there for the entire time)



Next Food Pantry is Thursday, October 27th



We are in need of tuna fish, canned fruit, fruit juice and regular size jars of jelly to restock our cabinets.

Looking For Another Way to Help The Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help pick up the Hannaford Helping Hands Food Boxes. We pick them up two or three **evenings** a week from the last week in October until the end of December. For info please contact Val at 879-0109.



Winter Clothing Drive – Donations by November 13th for Nov. Food Pantry

Mission Possible is again sponsoring a collection for warm winter outerwear – coats,

hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for adults and kids as well as snow pants and snow suits for children. We will be distributing the clothing to folks who will be coming to the Food Pantry on November 17, as well as to the men who live at the Dismas House in Burlington. We especially need articles for children and men. Please do not donate sweaters or other assorted winter clothing. We would also request that the clothing be clean and in good repair. We would like to receive your donations by Nov 13, so that we have time to organize them prior to pantry day. Please contact Sue Conti at sue.conti@myfairpoint.net if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your help again this year.



“Mission Possible!”– Organizations and Points of Contact

We are interested in establishing hands-on mission opportunities for FCCEJ in our community; if you have any ideas, contact Peter Schmalz pnschmalz@comcast.net. The following is a list of the organizations that we currently actively engage with, along with our FCCEJ coordinator: Dismas House of Winooski – Dan Fortier, Vermont Foodbank – Cynthia Kelley Vermont Respite House – Gail Babinger, J.U.M.P. – Carolyn Rushford, C.O.T.S. – Lori Giannuzzi

Got Coats?



THIS WEEK: October 2nd - 8th
TODAY: 8:30am & 10:15am Worship Services / Sanctuary
11:30 - 12:30pm Music Committee / Choir Loft

1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 4:30pm Jr High Youth Group / Youth Lounge
5:00 - 7:00pm Sr High Youth Group / Marvin Lounge

MONDAY: 9:15 - 11:30am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
5:00 - 7:30 pm Thrift Store Potluck / Fellowship Hall



5:30 - 6:45pm Yoga / Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor-5/6 Class

TUESDAY: 8:00 - 10:00 am Business Networking International / Fellowship Hall
8:30 - 10:00 am Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 9:30 pm Essex Historical Society / Fellowship Hall

6:00 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm Trustees / Marvin Lounge
WEDNESDAY: 9:00 - 11:00am Food Pantry Field Trips / Fellowship Hall
 9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / Gym
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 5:00 pm Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lng
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
 7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY: 8:30 - 11:30 am Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 2:00 pm JOY / Marvin Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
6:30 - 7:00pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
FRIDAY: 9:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry Field Trip / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / FH & Kitchen
SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 3:00 - 4:00 pm Nielson - Roberts Wedding Rehearsal / Sanctuary

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]
 Music Director: *Catherine McMaster* [cmcmaster@fccej.org]
 Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fccej.org]
 Bridge Part-time Associate Pastor: *Devon Thomas* [dthomas@fccej.org]
 Youth Team *Devon Thomas & Erica Garvey* [engarvey27@gmail.com]
 Senior Pastor: Rev. *Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: *Kim Hamilton* [khamilton@ccsuvt.org]
 Currier Bell Choir Director: *Carolyn Harris* [899-6759]
 Finally @ First Director: *Rick Dooley* [rickdooley5@gmail.com]
 Heavenly Harmony Director: *Catherine McMaster* [ourvinn@hotmail.com]
 Junior Choir Director: see Catherine if interested
 Men At First Director: *Bill Bickford, Jr.* [bill.bickford@aol.com]
 Sanctuary Choir Director: *Catherine McMaster* [cmcmaster@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: *Brenda Crocket* [881-5253]
 Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: *Tom James* [879-1247]
 Treasurer: *Ann Gray* [878-4088]

Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]

Clerk: Andrea Sharp [879-0580]

Christian Education: Jenny Bourn [802-309-7441] & Marlene Frank [872-9126]

Deacons: Mark Chadurjian [310-2399] and Rick Dooley [578-0229]

Hospitality: Judy McCullen [878-9794]

Missions: Susan Kremer [233-9932] & Sandy Tallman [879-0665]

Music: Judy Larrabee [236-0604]

Nominating: Carl Wermer [879-7650]

Stewardship: Alison Wermer [879-7650]

Trustees: Kevin Meilleur [238-4041]

Ushering: Michael Sullivan [879-6044]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop [879-6552]

Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]

Nepali Christian Community Contact: Dan Raut [310-4371]

Craft Fest Committee Contact: Linda Bogardus [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net]

mission
M O M E N T S
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

October 2, 2016
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Psalm 137

Neighbors in Need

Across this country and throughout the United Church of Christ, grants are given each year for mission projects and partnerships and UCC-related ministries that reach into our neighborhoods and make a difference. Your gifts to Neighbors in Need make those grants possible. They fund community gardens, food banks, special ministries to the homeless, interfaith programming on college campuses, college and career counseling for inner city youth, programs to help with housing for at-risk families and children, and just about anything our congregations can envision a need for in their communities.

Look around your neighborhood. What neighbors are there who have a need that either you can help fill or that you can manage with the help of an existing organization? What needs might inspire you to start something yourself? Where might your congregation be called to lend a hand, make a difference, and be there for someone who needs the love of God made tangible? How can you make your town/city/village be better because there is a United Church of Christ worshipping and proclaiming the love of Jesus in its midst?

OFFERING PRAYER:

Oh God, thank you for all that we are able to give. Breathe your blessing on this offering. Send it into the world on the wings of the good news of Jesus Christ. May the givers be as full of your love as those who receive. May these gifts shine in the hearts of your people so that the hungry are fed. May all hear the message of hope born in our generosity. We are your church offering your love in the best that we do. Amen.