

*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](http://www.fccej.org)**

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**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 9, 2016*  
**First Service - Peace Sunday**

*A Welcoming Church,*

*Accepting and Serving All,*

*In the Spirit of Christ.*

*Order of Worship*

Prelude

*In a World Where Love Abides*  
*Blessed Quietness*  
*Aria Tranquillo*

Simone  
Marshall  
Mozart

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

*Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*

Temple

Call to Worship: A Reading by ETTY HILLESUM

Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will also be in our troubled world.

Come, let us seek the peace that flows from our soul, to our neighbor and to our world. Come, let us enter into a relationship with our God.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Let Us With a Joyful Mind*

**#16**

Children's Message

*After the Children's Message, 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.*

**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.**

## The Reception of New Members

### The Invitation & Questions

Sarah Metcalf & Donna Dulaney  
Christine Czarny & David Dewey  
Robert & Claire Deal with son Langston  
Paul & Marilyn Hyde  
Sean Palmer with children Liam and Elijah  
Heather & Terry Stein with children Adeline and Tristan

### The Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us all now proclaim what we believe in our covenant....

**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.**

### Welcome and Reception

Deacon: Let us, the members of The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy in the communion life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ at First Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

### A Stewardship Skit

### Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*The Blessing Riddle*

Choplin

**\*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.**

## Seeking God's Peace Within

*Let us use the sound of our singing drum  
as a transition to focus on God's desire for our personal peace.*

### A Call for Personal Peace

Leader: St. Augustine said, "Lord, you made us for yourself and we can find no rest until we find rest in you."

**People: Dante said, "In your will is our peace."**

Leader: From the garden to the valley of the shadow of death, from stressful turmoil to nature's beauty.....God wants us to have peace of heart and mind.

**People: Being one with God is the beginning of peace's journey.**

Leader: Come, let us open our heart to our God.....

A Scripture for Personal Peace.....John 16:29-33

A Message for Personal Peace by Devon Thomas

A Prayer for Personal Peace and Choral Response: *Peace Like a River*

**Hymn of Peace**

***O Love that Will Not Let Me Go***

**#485**

*As we sing our hymn for peace,*

*We will light a candle for our desire for peace in our lives.*

*Everyone is invited forward to light your own candle for your own personal peace*

### Seeking God's Peace with Our Neighbors

*Let us use the sound of our singing drum*

*as a transition to focus on God's peace in relationship.*

### A Call for Communal Peace

Leader: Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. [John F. Kennedy]

**People: Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.** [Martin L.King, Jr.]

Leader: It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance. [R. F. Kennedy]

**People: Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are.** [Hafsat Abiola]

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts to each other.....

A Scripture for Communal Peace.....John 20:19-23

A Message for Communal Peace

*On the day of resurrection, Jesus offers peace to his disciples and urges them to forgive others. The early church tradition that embodies Christ's call to forgive had followers seek out the people between which enmity existed and make peace with them before receiving communion.*

*In light of Christ's demand for forgiveness and the early Church's ritualizing that act of peacemaking, today, we are providing a blank note card and envelope so that you can make peace with someone in your life. As the choir sings their anthem, write a note, forgive, make peace.*

Anthem

*Song of Peace*

Donnelly

A Prayer for Communal Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*The minister will first offer the peace of Christ to the congregation and then invite all of you to pass the peace of Christ among each other.*

**Hymn of Peace**

***Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant***

**#539**

*As we sing our hymn for peace,  
We will light a candle for our desire to live in peace with our neighbors.*

### **Seeking God's Worldly Peace**

*Let us use the sound of our singing drum  
as a transition to focus on God's desire for world peace.*

A Call for World Peace

Leader: War is an instrument entirely inefficient toward redressing wrong; and multiplies, instead of indemnifying losses. [T. Jefferson]

**People: If the human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another.** [Winston Churchill]

Leader: We seek peace, knowing that peace is the climate of freedom.  
[Dwight D. Eisenhower]

**People: Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways.**  
[Dalai Lama]

A Scripture for World Peace.....Isaiah 9:1-7

A Message for World Peace by Devon Thomas

## A Prayer for World Peace

*The minister will pray for world peace and then we will be surrounded by the Lord's Prayer in many languages. Then we will all unite to say the Lord's Prayer in English.*

German.....read by Dave Johnson  
French.....read by Mary-Ellen Grove  
Spanish.....read by Terri Livak  
Arabic.....read by Jessica Basmadjian  
English.....in unison by congregation

## Hymn of Peace

### *We Shall Overcome*

#570

**We shall overcome. We shall overcome. We shall overcome some day.  
Oh deep in my heart I do believe that we shall overcome some day.  
We shall live in peace...  
We'll walk hand in hand...  
We shall all be free...**

*As we sing our last hymn, we will light the a candle for world peace and then everyone is invited to follow Rev. Mark outside to the PEACE POLE for the concluding remarks, prayer and the releasing of doves.*

## Gathering at the Peace Pole

Final Reading..... Martin Luther King's Nobel Peace Prize Speech  
Final Prayer and Benediction  
The Release of the Doves of Peace  
Sung Benediction.....*as the released birds circle.....*

## 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 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.**

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Cynthia & Todd Kelley in honor of their 30th anniversary and the wonderful people of First Church.*

*Worship Participants*

Deacon: Mark Chardurjian  
Greeters: Lester & Muriel Nutting  
Ushers: Betty & Bill Adams

### **First Church's Prayer Ministry**

Lisa	Nancy Allen	Lilly & Donald
David Tibbetts	Sabrina Spillar	Tim Frazier
Emily Carroll & family	Peggy	Jaime Real
Andy Tager	Richard	Jim VanOrden
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](mailto:welcome@fcej.org)*

### **Worship at First Church**

Welcome to worship services at First Church! In all our services we strive to build closer relationships to a loving God, with each other, and with the world. We draw inspiration from Scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus. We hope you will find a spiritual home in one of our two different worship services.

#### **Our Early Service at 8:30 a.m.**

Our early service is a bit more traditional. It tends to be quieter and features classic hymns, the Sanctuary Choir, and organ music. Sunday School is not in session during this service. We are working to provide paid Nursery Care but currently have a self-serve nursery area where the service is projected.

#### **Our Later Service @ 10:15 am**

Our later service is a bit more contemporary. This worship features our Finally at First praise band, and more contemporary songs of worship. We offer a Sunday School program that commences after the Children's Message. Nursery care is available.

### **Communion**

Our church has an "open" communion table which means that everyone is welcome to come and celebrate Christ's meal of love. We use grape juice and gluten free bread for the elements. We welcome children at the table as well but also recognize that each family is free to determine how to interpret the communion tradition.

#### **Yellow Table -- - Bible Mentors for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders**

Spend a little time on a Sunday, beginning October 30<sup>th</sup> Bible Sunday or pick another day during the week. Read a piece of scripture and chat together using a list of questions (both provided). This will run for 3 weeks and we will celebrate our time on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> during class time. There is no planning time on your end, just be a mentor who is interested in the Bible stories and loves kids. Laurie will provide a

children's Bible and the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be using their new Bible. Mentors can be Confirmation students or adults. See Laurie to sign up or the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

### **Parent Helpers in Classrooms**

Signups to be a helper in the classroom and experience what faith formation is like this year are in the Gym. Please stop by and have goodies and conversation with Laurie.

### **Refreshment Table in the Gym after Faith Formation Class Time**

Enjoy this table and please feel free to bring in donations on class time Sundays! You can drop items off in the main kitchen on the designated trays as you make your way up to worship and they will make their way to the Gym in time to enjoy. Meet and say hello to your friends after class and introduce yourself and make some new friends.

### **October 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Fall Clean Up**

After Second Service, Trustees will have a list of outdoor AND indoor projects to work on-many hands make light work@ Donut holes, coffee & cider will be provided.

### **October 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Bible Sunday**

\* \* \* **TODAY** \* \* \*

All our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be receiving their very own Bible during worship today. If you are in 4<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>, Five Corners Craft Fest**

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

### **Faith Formation Sunday Mornings**

*Preschool thru 12th grade during Worship*

*October 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Faith Formation Class time*

*Special Guest – Vicky Smith, Executive Director of King Street Center*

*October 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Faith Formation Class time*

*October 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Faith Formation Class time*

*October 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Faith Formation Class time*



**2016 Faith Formation Sunday School Offering**  
**King Street Center ~ Total is now up to \$**  
**635.69**

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!



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



**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!**

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

With plans being made for a Monday evening Food Pantry, we are still in need of a few more volunteers. We especially need people who are able to help with some of the lifting that is involved. An example is lifting boxes of meat out of the freezer. The Pantry will be held on the second Monday of each month from 4PM to 8PM. If you are called to help with this vital church mission, please contact Judy Allen at [judy@invalidate.net](mailto:judy@invalidate.net), Elaine Raymond at [ebraymond@gmail.com](mailto:ebraymond@gmail.com) or the church office.



Next Food Pantry is Thursday, October 27th

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



**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.

**Pictures Needed**

The Communications Committee is looking for new pictures for the FCCEJ website. You don't need to be a photographer, just have an eye for all the wonderful activities going on here at First Church! If you are here at an activity, meeting or practice, snap a pic! Please use high resolution & forward them to the office at [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org).



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



**Vermont Conference UCC Outdoor Ministry**

The Outdoor Ministry Team is seeking to gather more people to serve. This began last year as a task force seeking ways to engage our UCC kids & youth in outdoor ministry. We are growing our team to help plan and recruit more volunteers for our program in the summer of

2017 and beyond. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please be in touch with Laurie Chipman.

### Winter Clothing Drive – Donations by November 13<sup>th</sup> for Nov. Food Pantry

Mission Possible is again sponsoring a collection – coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for adults and kids as well as snow pants & snowsuits for children. We will be distributing the clothing at the Food Pantry on Nov. 17, as well as the men who live at the Dismas House. We especially need articles for children and men. Please do not donate sweaters and we request that the clothing be clean and in good repair. Please deliver 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](mailto:sue.conti@myfairpoint.net) if you have any questions.

Thank you so much for your help again this year.



### THIS WEEK: October 9th - 15th

TODAY:

**8:30am & 10:15am** Worship Services / Sanctuary  
**11:30 - 1:30pm** Craft Fest Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
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  
**5:30 - 6:45pm** Yoga / Gym

5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor-5/6 Class  
6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall

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

**7:00 - 9:00 pm** Deacons / Marvin Lounge

WEDNESDAY: **9:00 - 11:00am** Food Pantry Field Trip / Fellowship Hall

9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / Gym

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open

11:30 - 1:30 pm Community of Practice (Laurie) / Marvin Lounge

12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

**5:30 - 7:00 pm** Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall

**6:30 - 7:30 pm** Currier Bells / Sanctuary

**7:00 - 9:00 pm** Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin

Got Coats?



Lounge

7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY: **9:00 - 11:00am** Food Pantry Field Trip / Fellowship Hall

12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

**4:00 - 8:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open

**5:00 - 7:00 pm** Calcutta - Jamaica Bound Meeting / Marvin Lounge

**6:30 - 7:00pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**

**7:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Meeting / Marvin Lounge**

**7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**

**7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge**

**FRIDAY:**

**\*Newsletter Articles Due\***

**9:00 - 11:00 am Food Pantry Field Trip / Fellowship Hall**

12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge

**SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH

**9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge**

1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

## 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]  
Called To Care Contact: *Beth Volker* [879-4708]  
Nepali Christian Community Contact: *Dan Raut* [310-4371]  
Craft Fest Committee Contact: *Linda Bogardus* [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net]