

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



*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All
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.”

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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
November 13, 2016
Social Justice Sunday-First Service

A Welcoming Church,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Song of Hope
In the Chapel
Air du Dauphin

Simone
Moore
Roeckel

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church, highlight significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to sign the Friendship Books.

Musical Introit

Song of Hope

Folk Melody

Call to Worship

Leader: The Hebrew people were formed when God heard their cries of distress in Egypt and saved them from the yoke of oppression.

People: God's law ensured that the poor, the widows and the strangers were taken care of by the majority.

Leader: Prophets of God spoke to power and called upon the rich to care for the poor and remember God and the love God has for everyone.

People: Jesus, a humble nobody, stood up for social, political and religious outcasts and preached that God loved them.

Everyone: We believe God calls us to make the world a better place by standing up for love and justice. Come, let us re-commit ourselves to this vital and ever important task. Come, let us worship the God of justice!

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer

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

***Opening Hymn**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#573

Commissioning the Associate Pastor Search Committee

Laurie Chipman	Lisa Clark
Laura Cunningham-Firkey	Eva Cunningham-Firkey
Myrna Doney	Marlene Frank
Nicole Frank	Carl Houghton
Joanne Irwin	Mark Mendes [ex officio]
Josh Sharp	

The 1st Scripture of Justice: Feed My Sheep: John 21:15-19 [pg. 88]

Children's Message

Helping The Least Among Us

After the Children's Message, first service, the self-serve Nursery is available if you need it. There is a speaker in there so you can hear worship and it is streamed to Fellowship Hall.

The Heart of God's Call for Justice Demands Us to Give

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Try a Little Kindness

Austin & Sapaugh

During the Anthem, everyone is asked to bring their food item and morning offering to the table. All the food will be donated to the Heavenly Food Pantry

***The Doxology**

**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 2nd Scripture of Justice: Caring for the Least Among Us: Matt 25:31-46 [pg. 22]

A Personal Witness Shares His Story: Edward Prosser

Our Response to God's Need

While Catherine plays everyone is invited to get out of your seats and look at the possible ways you could minister to the needs of the least among us as written on the various post it notes on the walls in the sanctuary. Please take the post-it note of your choice off of the wall and commit to doing what it suggests. The suggestions will include things like:

Financially Supporting a local organization

Writing a letter to your congressmen about various social issues

Volunteering at a local agency to help make society better

Behaviors to change at home that will make the world better

Hymn of Justice

Christian Rise and Act Your Creed

#537

The 3 rd Scripture of Justice: Peace Not War: Micah 4:1-4 [pg. 670]
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A Pastoral Prayer for Justice in the World

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Choral Response

What Does the Lord Require of You

Strathdee

Anthem

Hope of Humanity

Eaton

An Invitation to Respond

During this time, Rev. Mendes will invite people to sign up for a host of various social justice activities downstairs. Although, the service will seem to end, it will actually continue as we prepare to take some of Christ's love out into the community. Everyone will be invited to.....

Create Meals of Rice and Beans for JUMP

Deliver meals to 1st Congo Burlington

Make Bag lunches: sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit, note

Deliver meals to Steps to End Domestic Violence

And to the Daystation Lunch Program

Create Placards for Public Display

Walk to 5 Corners to Make a Public Witness

Hymn of Peace

For the Healing of the Nations

#576

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

Canzonetta

Hollaender

**Please stand if you are able.*

The flowers on the altar are given by Sally Turner in honor of her parents.

Worship Participants

Deacon: Gary Smith

Greeters: Mary Ellen Grove & Pat Seaver

Ushers:

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lisa	Nancy Allen	Fletch Coolidge
David Tibbetts	Annette	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
Lorrayne Sawyer	Pete Schmalz	Cathleen & Lilianna
Donna	Carol	Ed Constantine
Campbell Miller	Michael	

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:welcomes@fcej.org)

*** * * TODAY * * ***

Green Table-Jamaica Bound 2017 Fundraising



The Jamaica Mission Team will be selling Stock in their trip after both services from now until Christmas. If you would like to support this mission trip, stock is \$25/share and entitles the holder of the stock to a luncheon with delicious Jamaican food as well as a report of our experience. Look for the Jamaica table in Fellowship Hall.

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 until 11:30am. Nursery Room 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.

Purple Table-Advent Event-Church Decorating & Nativity Building!

Sign up for the year nativity set you would like to make or sign up to help decorate the Sanctuary. Both activities will happen after we enjoy a lunch together in Fellowship Hall. This event is fun for all ages! If this is your first year attending, sign up for year 1 so you leave with the basic nativity of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. We'll have Christmas music playing, and folks can also go upstairs to decorate the Sanctuary. Come and prepare yourselves for the coming of God's precious son, Jesus, and enjoy a great time of fellowship with other First Church families.

Year 1 ~ Mary, Joseph & Baby Jesus

Year 2 ~ Angel, Donkey & Sheep

Year 3 ~ King, cow, Shepherd

Year 4 ~ 2 Kings & a sheep

Year 5 ~ 3 camels



2017 First Church Budget Process Beginning

Church Council and Finance Committee will begin developing the 2017 First Church budget in December. If you are interested in the process please contact anyone on Council (see back of this bulletin for a list) or on the Finance Committee.

Also please return your pledge ASAP so we have accurate information to work with.

Thank you.

Craft Fest Was A HUGE Success!

If you won a Silent Auction item and haven't picked it up, please see the ladies in the Marvin Lounge. Also, please visit the Nearly New Sale in the Gym to take some treasures home for a steal!

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

Mondays ~ Yoga @ First !

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!



Wednesday Night Searchers

Now – Dec 14th: “Falling Upward: the Two Halves of Life”

For six weeks we will discuss Richard Rohr's book, Falling Upward: the Two Halves of Life. They are available in the office.



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

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.



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.



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



Faith Formation Sunday Mornings

Preschool thru 12th grade during Worship
November 13th ~ Faith Formation Class time

In Our Faith Formation Sunday School Classes Today

Preschool & Kindergarten – The Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37
1st & 2nd - Work Together – 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

November 20th ~ Faith Formation Class time

2016 Faith Formation Sunday School Offering

King Street Center ~ Total is now up to \$ 705.64

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!



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Schedule

Calling all Jr. High & Sr. High youth!

'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling'

Speaking parts – Non-speaking parts – Help with set/costumes/props
Adult helpers needed!

Mark your calendars and come join Laurie (pageant director), Erica & Devon.
Sign up to bring snacks is in office hallway.



November 27th – 5 to 7pm – read through and hand out parts

December 4th – 5 to 7pm – full rehearsal

December 11th – 11:30 – 2:00pm (preschool – 6th graders invtd to stay
& practice their part for the first 30 minutes)

Saturday, December 17th – TBA - dress rehearsal

December 18th – arrive at 7:45am for the Christmas Pageant presentation
at both our worship services

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.



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

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 & Bring Us Your
Fall/Winter Donations!**

We are also looking for new volunteers!



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!

Next Food Pantry is Thursday, November 17th

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



Got Coats?



Winter Clothing Drive – Donations due Today!

Our Winter Clothing Drive is currently underway including coats, snowsuits, snowpants, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for adults and kids. 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 would also

request that the clothing be clean and in good repair. We would like to receive your donations by today, Nov 13, so that we have time to organize them prior to pantry day.

Please drop donations in the box in the hallway of the administrative offices marked 'Winter Clothing Drive'. Please contact Sue Conti at sue.conti@myfairpoint.net if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your support of this program and helping our neighbors in need.

Christmas Poinsettias

Order your poinsettias for Christmas services in memory or honor of a loved one or special event. They are \$12.95 and come in red, white, pink or marbled varieties. Let Jen know your preferences and your dedication will be remembered in the Christmas bulletins.



THIS WEEK: November 13th - 19th

- TODAY:** **8:30am & 10:15am** Worship Services / Sanctuary
11:30 - 12:30 pm Jamaica Bound Team Meeting/Third Floor
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 5:30pm Holy Family Food Drive / FH & Gym
3:00 - 4:30 pm 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 - 6:30 pm Yoga / Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor-5/6 Class
- TUESDAY:** **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 Christian Education Committee / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions Committee / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **8:00 - 11:30 am** Food Pantry Delivery / Fellowship Hall
9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
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 Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** **8:30am - 6:30pm** Food Pantry Volunteers & Distribution (2-6pm)/FH
9:00 - 10:30am Newsletter Volunteers / Marvin Lounge
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
12:00 - 1:30pm Book Discussion Group / Youth Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
6:30 - 7:00pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
6:30 - 8:30pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Youth Lounge
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
- SATURDAY:** **9:00am - 12:00pm** Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building
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* [egarvey@fccej.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]

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

November 13, 2016
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 65:17-25

Infinite Possibilities

In Isaiah can be found the metaphors that inspire artists and peacemakers and hope-mongers everywhere. The wolf and the lamb and the lion and the ox all lying together in a world made new. Mission can be thought of as the church living as if that vision of peace is here now. People who live a life of peacemaking live their lives believing that peace is the norm and that our conflicted war-like ways reflect humanity not understanding the real truth of who we are: made in the image of God.

The Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ has started a program encouraging young people to explore the paths of peace. It's called Partners in Peace and it began in 2013, conceived by the three Penn Central Partnership Ministry Teams: Namibia Partnership; UEK Partnership (with the United Evangelical Churches of Germany); and Dakota Partnership (with the Dakota Association of the UCC). Young people came from all over, hosted by Penn Central.

They heard speakers, traveled to Washington D.C., visited the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries office, and they are geared up to meet again in 2016.

A new chapter of Partners in Peace will bring young adults to South Dakota and the Cheyenne River Reservation. There they will learn about peace and our past with Native Americans Toni and Byron Buffalo, and Lancaster Theological Seminary Professor, Jacquie Church Young.

Messages of discord and hatred and conflict abound in our world.

Spreading new metaphors, renewing the vision of Isaiah in the hearts of our young adults, is the way of Partners in Peace. You can learn more at the website of the Penn Central Conference of the UCC (www.pccucc.org).