

*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.”

One Church Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
[www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)

Phone: 802-878-5745

Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

Twitter: [1stChurchEJ](https://twitter.com/1stChurchEJ)

Facebook: [First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofEssexJunctionUCC)



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

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
January 8, 2017**

**First Service ~ A Service of Contemplation & Meditation**

*A Welcoming Church,*

*Accepting and Serving All,*

*In the Spirit of Christ.*

*Order of Worship*

Prelude

*Chanson  
The Gift of the Holy Spirit  
Lyric Piece*

Macklin  
Blake  
Grieg

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 and highlight significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to sign the Friendship Book.*

Introit: A Musical Refrain

*Be Still And Know That I Am God*

Bell



Call to Worship

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.  
Therefore do not be afraid.....

**People: Though the earth should change, though the oceans roar and foam, though the mountains shake and tremble.....I will not fear.**

Leader: Be still and know that I am God.

**People: Though the nations are in an uproar and empires totter, though wars bring desolation upon the earth, though chaos threatens to undo us.....I will not fear.**

Leader: Be still and know that I am God.

**People: Though disease and death discourage our spirits, though dysfunction and apathy draw us into darkness, though isolation and ignorance build walls and increase prejudice .....I will not fear.**

Leader: Be still and know that I am God.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Spirit of the Living God*

**#283**

Children's Message

*After the Children's Message, children & youth are welcome to go to their Sunday school class for our Faith Formation program. Parents/Grandparents are welcome to accompany their children to their class, help get them settled and stay in class or return to worship. Children in Preschool up through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class will need to be signed out by an authorized person at 11:30am when class time ends. Also, Mallory Charland is staffing the nursery if needed.*

**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.**

Entering Contemplation with Breathing..... Dirga Pranayama by Jonah Moos

**Prayer of Invocation & Lord's Prayer** [Ted Loder: Breathe Deeply into Us]

O unwearying One

who stalks us down all our days,  
bring us up short now.  
and breathe deeply into us  
for we come breathless to you  
from fretful times and frangible relations,  
our attention distracted, our energy drained,  
our intentions splintered, our love glazed over,  
our hopes unmet, our faith frayed.

**Musical Refrain**

**“Be Still”**

**Still, we grasp to thank you for this undeniable impulse  
to thank you,  
for this insistent yearning to know you,  
for this throbbing desire to love you back;  
for this quick, trembling,  
sensuous sense of all your gifts  
showered like rain on lives  
long parched by inattention:  
bread to empower our bodies,  
beauty to quicken our pulse,  
night to night to show off the stars  
and put us in our awesome place,  
problems to summon our talents,  
love to link our lives,  
laughter to nurse our wounds,  
passion to shape our maybes into a brighter day  
for the whole human family.**

**Musical Refrain**

**“Be Still”**

And for this mystical, magical moment  
of peace and shimmering power,  
of grace and prophetic stretch,  
in which you work the miracles  
of gladdening our hearts yet again,  
in spite of painful patches,  
sobering losses and puzzling trials;  
of balmng our souls with a touch of joy  
because we are, and are yours,  
and you are forever;  
of heeding our prayers beyond our words  
in the spirit of Jesus  
who taught us to say when praying.....

**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.**

## Contemplating God's Presence in our Lives

*The Prayer of Invocation in a worship service is the time when we ask God to enter our worship space and ourselves. During this three minutes of silence, let us think about the ways that we invite God into our lives, decisions, families, work places and world. Think about ways God can be more present in your own life.*

Anthem

*Lord, Be With Us On This Day*

Althouse

### **Prayer of Confession** [Ted Loder: Restore Our Souls to Singing]

Please, do not weary of us, O God,  
as yet again we open before you  
the dark places of our lives.  
and seek the healing of your light.

Forgive us for the pace  
that forgets you and snarls our days  
in a faithless scramble  
to make more ends meet than we can manage  
or than you purpose for us.

### **Musical Refrain**

**“Be Still”**

**Lord, we lose the piping of your kingdom  
in trumpeting desires that mislead  
and leave us vexed by disappointments  
that make us bitter,  
in booming angers that make us lash out,  
and lash in, destructively,  
in shrieking fears that deafen us  
and scapegoat those who are different,  
in whining cynicism that turns us  
to jaded pursuits and mocking nightmares,  
in strumming arrogance that twists us  
away from our own and each other's face and truth  
and muffles the cry of our deep need for you.**

### **Musical Refrain**

**“Be Still”**

So do we corrode love, bruise those closest to us,  
turn cowardly at the summons of justice,  
slow leak our lives of hope and joy,  
fray the ties of community,

forsake the peace the world cannot give  
for the loneliness, anxiety, and emptiness it can.  
O Physician of our souls,  
heal us of our self inflicted wounds  
and the several dis-eases others  
have thoughtlessly bequeathed us, and we them,  
and use us as your instruments  
in healing those we have wounded.

**Musical Refrain**                      ***“Be Still”***

**Mercy us into humility and gratitude,  
restore our souls to singing,  
our hearts to loving, our hands to doing justice.  
Empower us to press on still and sturdily  
in the way you have shown us in Christ  
until we know in our blood and bones  
that nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.**

Anthem    *Spirit of God*    Holmes

**Contemplating God’s Forgiveness in Our Lives**

*The Prayer of Confession in the worship service is when we come before God with humility and honesty and share the ways that we have fallen short of God’s intention in our lives. We confess and seek forgiveness. God always offers forgiveness and when we can accept it, our relationship with God, humanity and the world is restored. Let us take three minutes of silence to reflect on the behaviors and thought patterns that detract us from following Christ’s call to love.*

**\*Hymn of Preparation**    ***Spirit of Gentleness***    **#286**

**Scripture Readings**

Old Testament	Psalm 46	[page 402]
New Testament	Matthew 4:1-11	[page 2]
	Mark 1:35-39	[page 27]

*After the scripture is read, let us take three minutes to reflect on how it applies to our lives as individuals or our lives as a church. Rev. Mendes will invite those of you who would wish to share any insights garnered during this reflection time, to share them with the congregation.*

**Musical Refrain**    ***“Be Still”***

Entering Contemplation with Breathing..... Ujjayi breathing by Jonah Moos

**Prayers of Petition** [Ted Loder]

God of Grace,

as you did with Mother Theresa, Joan Baynham, Steve Wark,  
Rosa Parks, Max Elliot, Alan Irwin and Desmond Tutu,  
strengthen us to answer with brave hearts  
your call to help shape a world  
not of death and oppression  
but of life and hope.

**God of power, strengthen us to help shape a country  
where children will be free of the burdens  
of racism and sexism, fear and exploitation,  
violence and indifference, greed and pollution;  
where all people work with dignity,  
are rewarded fairly, and respected fully;  
where labor, rest, play, and worship  
are in blessed, graceful balance.**

**Musical Refrain**

*“Be Still”*

God of Glory, strengthen us to help shape a society  
where the value of families is reflected  
in decent homes, good schools,  
safe neighborhoods, mutually earned trust,  
glad gatherings, respected differences;  
where older persons are not forgotten,  
trivialized, marginalized or brutalized,  
but honored for their experience,  
cherished for their gifts,  
sought for their wisdom.

**God of mercy, strengthen us to help shape a nation  
where diversity is a source of enrichment,  
compassion is common, life’s poetry realized,  
suffering lightened through sharing,  
justice attended, joy pervasive, hope lived;  
the hum of the universe heard,  
and together with you and each other  
we build what is beautiful, true,  
and worthy of your generosity toward us,  
an echo of your kingdom.**

**Musical Refrain**

**“Be Still”**

With the passion of the prophets,  
and in the insistent spirit of Jesus,  
we say, Amen and Amen

**Contemplating Our Response to God Call**

*The Prayers of Petition in the worship service is a time when we pray for ourselves and others. In those prayers, we seek enlightenment in how to seek God’s will in our lives, the lives of our neighbors and for God’s entire cosmos. Praying for others naturally engages our minds to apply God’s will in our lives and world. Let us take three minutes to reflect of who God is calling us to be in our lives and how we can best support God’s vision of love in this world.*

*During this time, everyone is welcome to come forward and light a candle for yourselves, someone you love who needs God’s guidance and help or for a situation in the world.*

**\*Hymn**

***We Would Be Building***

**#607**

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:**

*Grand March*

Rawlings

\*Please stand if you are able.

*The offering today will be taken as you exit the sanctuary by  
placing your offering in the basket provided.*

**Worship Participants**

Deacon: Myrna Doney

Greeters: Bob & Mary Coburn

Ushers: Don & Peter Gray

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

Lisa	Bruce Parker	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Annette	Tim Frazier
Emily Carroll & family	Peggy	Jaime Real
Carlene Lawrence	Carol	Michael
Louise Kolvoord	Roger Kalar	Leigh Davidson
Ralph Abeling	Suzanne	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Don Foss
Campbell Miller	George Jackson	Cathleen & Lilianna
Donna	Brace-Hatch Family	Ed Constantine

*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@fccej.org*

## **2017 Flower Chart is Up in the Fellowship Hall Hallway**

Please feel free to sign up for your special dates to remember loved ones or honor events in your family's life. Put a check next to your name if you would like to keep them!

## **Early Bird Calcutta Tickets Available until January 15th for \$100 Drawing!**

The third annual Cabin Fever Calcutta tickets are now available for those who want to reserve their ball number from last year. Those who purchase Early Bird Tickets will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize. Your \$125 ticket supports the Jamaica Mission Trip and includes dinner for two as well as one Calcutta ball number. Checks are to be made payable to FCCEJ with "Jamaica" in the memo. Join us on March 11th!

## **TODAY, 11:30 am ~ New Member Class Offered**

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome in this place and welcome to become a member. TODAY, January 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a New Member Class offered for anyone who would like to discover more about our church and/or join.

## **Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

### **Preschool – 6th grade**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ Faith Formation Class time, Matthew 3:13-17 - Christ baptism

**January 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ Faith Formation Class time

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Ask the Pastor Sunday – be thinking of a question to ask Pastor Mark

### **Lego Donations to use with our Curriculum!**

Looking for Lego donations for a couple of our Sunday School Faith Formation classes.

## **Food Pantry dates in January are**

### **THIS MONDAY, January 9th & Thursday, January 26th**

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



**THIS WEEK: January 8th - 14th**

- TODAY:** 8:30am & 10:15am Worship Services / Sanctuary  
11:30 - 1:30pm Junior Youth Group / Third Floor  
11:30 - 1:30pm New Member's Class / Marvin Lounge  
11:30 - 12:30pm Music Committee / Choir Loft  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
3:00 - 4:30 pm Jr High Youth Group / Youth Lounge  
5:00 - 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group / Youth Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym  
4:30 - 8:00pm Monday Night Food Pantry (serve 5:30-7:30pm) / FH  
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / 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 / Marvin Lounge  
7:00 - 9:00 pm Deacons Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 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 / Sanctuary  
6:30 - 7:30 pm Currier Bells / Gym  
7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open  
6:30 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary  
7:00 - 9:00 pm Essex Eats Out Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
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  
6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge  
7:30 - 10:30 pm Grange / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00pm Nepali Community Worship & Meal / All Building  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
3:00 - 6:00pm Ernie Drost Funeral & Reception / Sanctuary & FH

## 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

January 8, 2017

First Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 3:13-17

Possibilities Unfolding

Jesus was not the first person baptized. It didn't begin with him. John was baptizing and Jesus was probably just standing in line. Indeed, John said, "You should be baptizing me." But Jesus indicates that this is the way to do things properly. John was the one baptizing, and Jesus wanted to follow the tradition.

In Zurich in the 16<sup>th</sup> century there was a big dust up about baptism. A Swiss gentleman named Manz disagreed with an important Reformed theologian named Zwingli about the efficacy of infant baptism. Manz didn't believe in it. He believed that the only baptism that counted was one in which the baptized understood what was happening and could speak for themselves. In infant baptism the parents speak for the baby. In fact Manz was encouraging people to be re-baptized. Manz got a lot of people all riled up about it and was imprisoned. Then, the Swiss council made re-baptizing punishable by death. On January 5, 1527 Manz was the first Swiss Anabaptist (those in favor of adult baptism) executed by other Protestants for a belief. They drowned him by tying his hands behind his back to a pole placed between his legs and throwing him in the water.

Today, the main Protestant denominations all recognize each other's baptisms, and we don't drown dissenters. In January, 2013, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Presbyterian Church (USA), Christian Reformed and the Reformed Church of America, and the United Church of Christ signed a document known as the "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism." The next time a baby is baptized in your church, listen again to the words of the pastor and imagine how much has changed since Jesus stepped in that water to be baptized by John.