

*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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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  
United Church of Christ  
February 12, 2017**

*A Welcoming Church,*

*Accepting and Serving All,*

*In the Spirit of Christ.*

*Order of Worship*

Prelude

*Duetto*

Mendelssohn

Welcome and Introduction to our 1867 Service

*[Children spoken to and then sent to Sabbath School-2nd Service only]*

Invocation

**Hymn**

**All People That On Earth Do Dwell**

*Based on 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm*

*Words William Kelhy – 1608*

*Old Hundredth Tune from Geneva Psalter of 1551*

**All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice  
Him serve with mirth, his praise foretell, Come, ye before him and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed; without our aid he did make us.  
We are his folk, he doth us feed. And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto;  
Praise, laud and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good, his mercy is forever sure.  
His truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure**

Reading the Scriptures

Genesis 37 – 46.....The Narrative Story of Joseph

Acts 7:26-40.....The Ethiopian Eunuch

Pastoral Prayer

**Hymn**

**We Limit Not the Truth of God**

*Based on Pastor John Robinson's Parting Words to the Pilgrims of 1620*

*By George Rawson*

*Old 22<sup>nd</sup> Tune from Anglo-Geneva Psalter of 1556*

**We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,  
By notions of our day and sect, crude partial and confined.  
No, let a new and better hope, within our hearts be stirred:  
The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.**

**Darkling, our great forefathers went, the first steps of the way;  
"Twas but the dawning yet to grow, into the perfect day.  
And grow it shall, our glorious sun, more fervid rays afford:  
The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.**

**The valleys passed, ascending still, our souls would higher climb,  
And look down from supernal heights on all the by-gone times.  
Upward we press, the air is clear, and the sphere music heard:  
The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.**

**O Father, Son, and Spirit, send us increase from above:  
Enlarge, expand, all Christian souls to comprehend thy love,  
And make us to go on, to know with nobler powers conferred:  
The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.**

Notices

Sanctuary Choir Anthem                      *How Can I Keep From Singing*                      Lowry

Sermon                      *What Is Needed in These Dark Days*                      Rev. Mark Mendes

Collection

**Hymn                      O God of Love, O King of Peace**

*Words and Setting by Henry Baker: 1854*

**O God of love, O King of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease.  
The wrath of sinful man restrain: Give peace, O God, give peace again!**

**Remember, Lord, thy works of old, the wonders that our fathers told;  
Remember not our sins dark stain: give peace, O God, give peace again!**

**Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word?  
None ever called on thee in vain: give peace, O God, give peace again.**

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

*Romance*

Beethoven

*The flowers on the altar are given by Maureen McKenzie  
in loving memory of Ruth & Ray McKenzie.*

Worship Participants

Deacon: Gary Smith/Rick Dooley

1st Service Greeters: ; 2nd Service Greeters:

Ushers: 1st Service: Rob & Maureen Evans ; 2nd Service: Linda Bogardus & Carolyn Toof

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Rachel Jarvis	Bruce Parker	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Annette	Tim Frazier
Emily Carroll & family	Dick Leavitt	Jaime Real
Carlene Lawrence	Carol	Don Mable
Louise Kolvoord	Roger Kalar	Ed Constantine
Ralph Abeling	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Don Foss
Campbell Miller	George Jackson	Cathleen & Lilianna

*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*

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

TODAY ~ Join the Music Discussion



Many of you love the music at First Church, under Catherine's direction and with the talent and leadership of our many directors, we have six fantastic groups that offer glory to God and warmth to our hearts. Catherine will be leaving at the end of May and we need to enter into a search process. We need your input and help. Would you prefer one person doing it all or two or does that matter? Do you want our program to reach out into the community more intentionally or remain a group focused on our own worship? HRC needs your input as they shape the position and job description. Everyone is invited today after each service or you can attend, please e-mail Rev. Mark your input.



### **Check Your Newsletter For Special Offering Dates**

Throughout the year we have special offerings such as Endowment Sunday, per Capita, Pastor's fund etc. Check your February Newsletter for the dates of these offerings. Those who get pledge envelopes have specially marked envelopes in their boxes. People who do not get envelopes learn of the special offerings through announcements and the bulletin. Remember, you can give to any of the special offerings anytime all year long, write in the memo line which offering you are supporting. Thank you.

\* \* \* **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 are welcomed.

### **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!

### **New Six Week Bible Study Series ~ ROCKING THE CREDO!!!**



Next meeting is this Wed, February 15th at 12pm and it will meet every other week. This series is meant to give people the opportunity to build up their own theology, so, perhaps you think of yourself as a Trinitarian, or perhaps you call yourself a Unitarian, but you don't really know why. Maybe you think that the creation story is the most important part of the bible, or perhaps you don't think that Christians need to know the "Old Testament" or Hebrew scriptures, at all. This bible study is meant to challenge you and give you all the introductory information you need to come to an educated conclusion as to why those beliefs may be important to you and are important in the Christian tradition.



### **Wednesday Night Searchers**

We have moved on to our next book, "Man Is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion" by Abraham Joshua Heschel from until Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. We have the books available in the office if you would like to pick one up and get into the reading. Come and bring a friend.



## **This Saturday, February 18th, 5:30-7:30pm**

### **Praise-a-Palooza: Soup and Songs of Praise**

FCCEJ and Finally @ First are thrilled to again be hosting this fun evening for all ages, mark your calendars for this Saturday night, Feb 18th for a wonderful, hearty, soul-warming soup dinner followed by amazing music welcoming area groups and our very own Finally @ First!

### **February 19<sup>th</sup> ~ A.P. Search Needs Your Input**

The A.P. Search Committee is getting to the end of the Church Profile creation process and has one last piece that they need your input into. Please spend the week thinking about these four discussion questions and then come and share your thoughts after each service next week in the Marvin Lounge.



1. Describe the ministry goals you envision for the next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.
2. Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond the church's walls.
3. Reflection: Considering our congregation's demographics and activities, how would you reflect about our congregation's overall ministry.
4. Comment on what our church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who have provided ministerial leadership in the past.

### **February 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Social Justice Committee Meeting**

The Mission's Committee is creating a subcommittee to look at issues of advocacy that our church could make publicly to help spread Christ's love and justice in our local community and express to the congregation our church's emphasis to speak out for good. This is a new venture and so we are starting slow with some intentional conversation about both the process and types of issues to look at for action. Their next meeting will be between services, 9:30 am, on February 19<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Lounge. Everyone is welcome to come and or join this subcommittee. Talk to Rev. Mark, Linda Lou Parker or someone from the Mission Committee for more information.



### **February 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Children, Youth & Outdoor Ministry Sunday**

Join us in celebrating God's great outdoors! Come in your hiking boots, fishing cap/vest, mud boots, jeans, sunglasses, comfy jeans, sweatshirt...you decide! Wear what will help you celebrate nature and our connect with God.

A special offering to help support our Vermont UCC Outdoor Ministry program will be taken next Sunday. Have you sent a child or youth away to a UCC camp before? Think of Vacation Bible Camp, but out in God's creation for a week ... sharing, connecting, making friends, growing, learning about God or even finding God for the first time. By giving you help the program through scholarship for campers to attend and the resources needed to make a week of camp a fun and wonderful experience for all. Our VT UCC week at Rock Point camp in Burlington is July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup> on the beautiful shore of Lake Champlain for youth going into 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Interested in more information?, See Laurie. Recruiting is underway for volunteer counselors 18 years and older. Last year we were blessed to have Ethan Benton, Katie Tallman and Dan Forcier participate.

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

**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017**

**2017 Offering ~ \$69.15**

Where will your 2017 offering go?

**Voting on February 19<sup>th</sup> after worship!**

Bring your Sunday School offering each week and use an envelope in the pews for your money so that you know it will be put towards the Sunday School offering and not be confused with regular offering for the church.

\$1 a week can go a long way!

**Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

**Preschool – 6th grade**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Faith Formation Class time ~ practice for next Sunday

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ all children & youth in worship to lead service

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Multi – Age Activity Day

All our First Church Youth Programs are parent supported!

1 to 3 parents/volunteers are needed at every youth group gathering!

Bulletin boards with Youth Group information can be found in the lower staff hallway.

Sign up to volunteer and/or bring a meal.

All youth, parents and volunteers ~ see a staff person to update and fill out paper work.

**March 9th, 5:45-7pm ~ Faith Formation Family & Volunteer Dish Share**

Come join the fun and fellowship at this monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.) potluck supper! Bring the family or just yourself and a dish to share. Organized to help our families with children to meet others here at First Church. Enjoy a great meal and a group building activity.

*Mark your calendar our next Dish Share will be May 11<sup>th</sup>*

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



**Food Pantry dates in February**

**THIS Monday, February 13th & Thursday, February 23rd**

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

*We could also still use egg cartons for packaging eggs*

**Don't Forget the Red Tent!**

The Red Tent Project has become even more important as we enter a period where funds for women's health and marginalized immigrant groups may be significantly cut back.

Donating woman's hygiene products to JUMP is a positive way we can show that we will continue to support those who will be facing increasingly difficult times. Look for the Red Tent in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.



**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!

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

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*Mark your calendar our next Dish Share will be May 11<sup>th</sup>*

**March 11th ~ Cabin Fever Calcutta**

The Third Annual Cabin Fever Calcutta tickets are now available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays from team members: Cameron Starkey, Carolyn Rushford, Christine Czarny, David Dewey, Mark Mendes, Nicole Frank or Sharon Dettenrieder. Your \$125 ticket supports the Jamaica Mission Trip and includes dinner for two & one Calcutta ball. Make checks payable to FCCEJ with "Jamaica" in the memo. A wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.





## **March 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Pretzel Sunday Sign Up to Volunteer with Laurie**

## **August 7th - 11th ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2017**

Hero Central: Discover Youth Strength in God!

Monday – Friday from 9am to 11:45am

VB Camp is a week of energy and excitement of seeing God's Love in Action! All are encouraged to join up and be a part of this fun week!

**Station Leaders:** Crafts ~ Jenny Bourn; Snack ~ Judy Allen & Ginny Coe; Games ~ Jessica Moos; Music ~ Laura Cunningham-Firkey



## **Recruiting for Discover & Bible Story Stations**

**Group leaders:** Youth (sixth grade or older), Young Adults & Adults

## **UCC Outdoor Ministry Camps**

Summer is one day closer, and now you can register for your best week of the summer! Horton Center registration is now open, take a look at the schedule, as there is a session for everyone. With thanks to our Outdoor Mission Group and volunteer Deans, we are offering favorite sessions such as Grandparent & Grandchild, Family & Friends Weekend, Middler Camp, and others. Women's Weekend will be offered with an extra day due to popular demand. Our new offerings include a Family 4th of July half week, Leader in Training, Archery Camp, and Senior High Hike Week. We can't wait to branch out and connect through Christ with you this summer at Horton Center!

[www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org)

## **Vermont Outdoor Ministry Week**

Enjoy a fun week at Rock Point Camp in Burlington, VT!

July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup> for youth going into 5th - 8th grade

Laura Labrie (College Street UCC) and Dave

McGowan (Waterbury UCC) will be our Deans and lead this week of camp!

To registration for this camp go to Horton Center website. [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org)



VT UCC OM Team is also recruiting volunteer counselors, a lifeguard and a nurse for this camp! Interested? See Laurie!

**THIS WEEK: February 12th - 18th**

- TODAY: 8:30 & 10:15am Worship Services / Sanctuary**  
**9:30 - 10:00am & 11:30 - 12:00pm Music Discussion / Marvin Lounge**  
**11:30 - 12:30pm Jamaica Bound Committee / Third Floor**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm Jr & 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**  
**4:00 - 8:00pm Food Pantry / FH & Kitchen (open 5:30 - 7:30pm)**  
**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 / Marvin Lounge**
- WEDNESDAY: 8:00 - 11:30am Food Shelf Delivery / 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  
**12:00 - 1:00 pm Rockin' The Credo Bible Study / ML**  
**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 / Fellowship Hall**  
**12:00 - 1:30pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge**  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
**5:30 - 7:00pm Faith Formation Families Pot Luck / FH & Kitchen**  
**6:30 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Third Floor**  
**7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge**
- FRIDAY: \*MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE\***  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge**
- SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building**  
**9:30 - 11:30 pm Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**5:30 - 8:00pm Praise-A-Palooza / Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary**

## MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]  
Music Director: *Catherine McMaster* [ourvinn@hotmail.com]  
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]  
Joyful Noise: *Jessica Moos* [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]  
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: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]  
Treasurer & Historian: *Ann Gray* [878-4088]  
Asst. Treasurer: *Dan Petherbridge* [879-0261]  
Financial Secretary: *Pat Seaver* [879-4445]  
Clerk: *Alison Wermer* [879-7650]  
Christian Education: *Jenny Bourn* [802-309-7441]  
Communications: *Kevin Dorn* [878-3696]  
Deacons: *Rick Dooley* [578-0229]  
Hospitality: *Jackie Parks* [338-1561]  
Missions: *Sandy Tallman* [879-0665]  
Music: *Judy Larrabee* [236-0604]  
Nominating: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]  
Stewardship: *Kathy Finnie* [878-3696]  
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

February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 5:21-37

From the Heart

People talk about core values. Businesses gather employees and consultants and make lists and cover walls with sticky notes. Mission statements emerge. Vision Plans are articulated and those core values finally get whittled down. Churches do this. Conferences do this. Our denomination has done this. Jesus did it. In chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel Jesus lays out the core values for his community of disciples. These values reflect the practices of early Christian churches.

Does your church have a list of core values? Many UCC churches list their Core Values on their web sites. Some of those values are what you might expect, like sharing the Gospel, praying together, following Jesus, being open and affirming, and some have something on their list that is a little different from the others, but they all seem to have Matthew, chapter 5 as their inspiration.

Here are some interesting core values from our family of churches:

- Fellowship with open communication – Christ Church UCC in Bethlehem, PA
- Celebrating life with others – Community Congregational UCC, Benicia, CA
- Fun and Joy – Grace UCC, Lancaster, PA
- Relationship building with the community – First United Church, Tampa FL
- To learn from our past... – Ledyard Congregational UCC, Ledyard, CT
- We value questioning... – Cedar Hills UCC, Portland, OR
- Share our stories – Congregational Church Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- Provide a safe and encouraging environment – Immanuel UCC, Louisville, KY
- To stretch themselves – Archwood UCC, Cleveland, OH
- Reflect into the World – Austin Congregational UCC, Austin, MN