

*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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Essex Junction, VT 05452
www.fccej.org

Phone: 802-878-5745

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E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Twitter: [1stChurchEJ](https://twitter.com/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
United Church of Christ
February 26, 2017
First Service-Transfiguration Sunday

A Welcoming Church,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

The King of Love
Air from "Orpheus"
Canticle

Dykes
Gluck
Wilson

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and 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 Book.

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Musical Introit by the Currier Bells

Appassionata

Joy

Call to Worship

Leader: Holy one, we come to you knowing that we are not whole; we come knowing that we have yet to become what you know we can be.

People: God, our Creator, make us whole.

Leader: Yet we go about our lives thinking that we are complete, that there is nothing more we can learn, that there is nothing more we can do.

People: God, our Savior, make us whole.

Leader: But God, we attest that it is through you that we can find our true selves, that it is you who can change us into our best selves.

People: God, Our Loving Spirit, Make us whole.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

#403

Children's Message

**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.**

**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.**

Anthem by the Currier Bells

God's Amazing Grace

Larson

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response by the Sanctuary Choir *We Sing of Your Glory* Young

**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.**

***Hymn**

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

#184

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Sanctuary Choir Anthem

Plenty Good Room

Simms

***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.**

Hebrew Bible reading Exodus 24:12-18
New Testament Scripture Reading Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon *SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD!!!* Devon Thomas

***Closing Hymn** *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* #396

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love**

***Postlude:** *Lord, Dismiss Us* Ashford

***Please stand if you are able.**

*The flowers on the altar are given by Cathie Goodheart
& Tim Carney in loving memory of their Uncle Bill.*

Worship Participants

Deacon: Marie Johnson

Greeters: Marion Ferris & Sylvia Nyhagen

Ushers: Tim Carney & Cathie Goodheart

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Rachel Jarvis	Bruce Parker	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Annette	Dee
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
Campbell Miller George Jackson
Mike Heston Leigh Davidson

Don Foss
Cathleen & Lilianna
Shirley Boucher

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~ 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, TODAY, February 26th 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.



* * * **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!

Wednesday Night Searchers

We will not meet on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and will start our new book, "Soul Feast" by Marjorie Thompson on March 8th. 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.



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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

A BIG thank you to all our offering presenter who joined us during worship on February 19th and to all our children and youth who made our worship service such a wonderful offering of God's amazing love.



A NEW Place ~ Alan Sousie, Board Chair of ANEW Place
(formerly Burlington Emergency Shelter)

Humane Society ~ Lauren & Cameron Starkey (Cameron is a volunteer & a counselor at camp PAWPAW this summer)

JUMP ~ Carolyn Rushford, former board member



The vote were totaled and the results are: JUMP = 32;
A NEW Place = 43; Humane Society = 74

You will be hearing more about the Humane Society of Chittenden County who relies completely on outside donations to stay open and help give pets a home.

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$80.15

Remember to 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!



We also welcomed Vicki Smith, Executive Director of King Street Center and presented her with a check for \$894.64 that they were so thankful to receive and will use for their new programs that they are creating for the children at the Center!



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 6th grade

February 26th ~ Multi – Age Activity Day

March 5th ~ Communion Sunday ~ Spiritual Friends

March 12th ~ Pretzel Sunday & Class Time

March 19th & 26th ~ Lenten Class Time Rotation

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 (2nd 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 11th

March 12th ~ Pretzel Sunday Sign Up to Volunteer with Laurie

CE sponsors this great Sunday each year...pretzels for fellowship time after each of our worship services, but we can't do it without our volunteers....



Kitchen volunteers are high school youth and adults of all ages! Sign up for one of these shifts!

7:30am to 9:45am (mix up dough...divide, roll & bake some pretzels)

9:30am- 10:30am (watch the ovens)

10:30-11:30am (help kids roll pretzels, bake & watch ovens)

11:30am -12:15pm (cleanup crew)

Or donate a 5lb bag of white flour

Signup sheets are in Fellowship Hall on the PURPLE table!

Children and youth will start their time in Fellowship Hall rolling pretzels before they move off to class time.

August 7th - 11th ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2017

Hero Central: Discover Youth Strength in God!

Monday – Friday from 9am to 11:45am; Reg. forms on Table in FH
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;

Discover Leader ~ Barb Smith

Recruiting for Bible Story Stations

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



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



**Next Food Pantry dates are March 13th, 5:30-7:30pm
and Thursday, March 23rd, 2-6pm**

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** * * *

Six Week Bible Study Series ~ ROCKING THE CREDO!!!

Next meeting is Wed, March 1st at 12pm and we will meet every other week after. 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 in the Christian tradition.



March 5th ~ Sunday Supper

Join us for FCCEJ's second Sunday Supper, March 5th at 5 pm! Instead of hibernating, venture out to a fellow member's home for a potluck supper. If you are willing to drive someone to supper, let us know. To sign up, write Sunday Supper next to your name in the Friendship book. If you'd like to host, add an H, if you can provide a ride, add an R. Questions? Call Lauren at 578-7505.

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

Come join the fun and fellowship at this monthly (2nd 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 11th



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 12th ~ Pretzel Sunday Sign Up to Volunteer with Laurie



VT Outdoor Ministry Camp Week

Go swimming, play disc golf, camp fires, and more during a fun week at Rock Point Camp in Burlington, VT!

July 30th – August 4th for youth going into 5th - 8th grade Laura Labrie (College



Street UCC) and Dave McGowan (Waterbury UCC) will be our Deans leading this week of camp! Visit Horton Center website to register for this camp. www.hortoncenter.org VT UCC OM Team is recruiting volunteer counselors, a lifeguard and a nurse for this week camp!

UCC Outdoor Ministry @ Horton Center Camp, NH

www.hortoncenter.org

Join Laurie Chipman @ Horton Center~ July 9th – 15th for 7th -

9th grade Do you like to rock climb? Go caving? Sleep out under the stars? Go hiking? Laurie is counseling!



More fun camps like: 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!

THIS WEEK: February 26th - March 4th

- TODAY:** 8:30 & 10:15am **Worship Services / Sanctuary**
9:30 - 10:00am **Social Justice Committee / Marvin Lounge**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
5:00 - 7:00 pm **Jr & Sr High Youth Group / Youth Lounge**
- MONDAY:** Life Safety Alarm Testing / All Church / All Morning
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**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Fellowship Hall**
5:30 - 6:30 pm **Group Victory / 3rd Floor**
6:30 - 9:30 pm **Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Ladies Night Out / Marvin Lounge**
- 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 **Trustees / Marvin Lounge**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Stewardship / Fellowship Hall**
- WEDNESDAY:** 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 **Rocking the Credo Bible Study / Marvin Lounge**
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:** 8:30 - 11:30am **Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 - 2:00pm **JOY / Marvin Lounge**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
6:30 - 7:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
7:30 - 9:00 pm **NO Confirmation Class**
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
5:00 - 8:00 pm **Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / FH & Kitchen**
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm **Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
2:30 - 5:00 pm **Baby Shower-Karen Hathaway / FH & Kitchen**

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fcej.org]

Music Director: *Catherine McMaster* [ourvinn@hotmail.com]

Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fcej.org]

Bridge Part-time Associate Pastor: *Devon Thomas* [dthomas@fcej.org]

Youth Team *Devon Thomas & Erica Garvey* [egarvey@fcej.com]

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fcej.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@fcej.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] *Mike Bottamini* [879-0763]

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 26, 2017

Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17: 1-9

Dazzling Reign

Spoiler alert: The Son of Man may lose his life on the cross, but in the end he will return and shine as the sun. In a sentence, that's kind of what the Transfiguration is – a spoiler. It lets the disciples know that even as Jesus has just predicted his death on a cross they needn't fear, they needn't worry, because he is unstoppable – he is, after all, the beloved Son of God. And, because of this mountaintop vision they can hold that dazzling vision and it will give them hope in the frightening days ahead.

A Transfiguration is more than a makeover, more than a new, whiter robe and a spotlight. It's a change in form to something different, more essential and more spiritual. But the Jesus that went up the mountain was the same one who came down. He didn't change, he just got unmasked.

What the disciples saw on that mountaintop was not a different Jesus but the real Jesus. There with Moses and Elijah he was himself, revealed to them so they would know for sure who they were traveling with and who, when the day came, they would watch die. This is no ordinary rabbi, no regular teacher, and, as good as he was to them, he was more than they understood.

Wouldn't it be something remarkable to see the world that way, to see the glow of divine creation inside everything? Poets do that, don't they? They look at the world and transfigure it with words, revealing the dazzle and light we missed. Gerard Manley Hopkins, famed English poet, wrote of Jesus Christ in his poem "Pied Beauty,"

*With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.*