

*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**

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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
United Church of Christ
April 30, 2017
Celebrating our 5th Anniversary of Being Open and Affirming

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Arioso

Bach

Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice

Elmore

What Offering Shall I Bring to Thee?

Elmore

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 some events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome folks and invite people to raise significant celebrations to the congregation or introduce a guest. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.

Introit

The Rainbow Connection

Williams

Call to Worship.....Rev. Martin Niemoller

Leader: Welcome to Christ's Church. Jesus commands us to love God, our neighbors, our enemies and ourselves.

**Pulpit Side: First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.**

**Lectern Side: Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak
out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.**

**Pulpit Side: Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.**

All: Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Leader: Welcome to Christ's Church. Jesus commands us to love God, our neighbors, our enemies and ourselves.

Prayer of Invocation and **Unison Lord’s Prayer (“trespasses”)**

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.

Sacred Reading and Personal Witness

Sacred Reading: Our Open and Affirming Statement from April 2012

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ’s call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

Personal Witness: First Service.....Barb and Frank Smith
Second Service.....Terry and Heather Stein
Both Services.....Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer’s Letter

Children’s Message

After the Children’s Message, our Nursery is available with Allie, our staff person, for infants and toddlers for both services. For second service, After the Children’s Message, children in preschool up through Senior High are welcome to join us for Multi-Age Activity Day on the second floor. Parents/Grandparents and older siblings are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. Children will return to worship during the final hymn.

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered Within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

Rise Up

Day

I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day. I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid.

I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.

And I'll rise up, high like the waves I'll rise up, in spite of the ache.

I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousands times again.

I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll rise up. I'll rise.

Scripture Reading and Personal Witness

Sacred Reading: New Testament.....Romans 8:31-39 [page 120]

Personal Witness: First Service.....Josh Sharp

Second Service.....Letter from Ed Steele

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

The Rose

McBroom

Doxology # 248.....*Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows

Where streams of living water flow, my loving Shepherd leads me,

And where the verdant pastures grow with food from heaven feeds me.

And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never,

Good Shepherd, may I give you gifts within your house forever.

Scripture Reading and Personal Witness

Sacred Reading: Old Testament: Psalm 139:1-18 [page 448]

Personal Witness: First Service.....Letter from Beth Paul

Second Service.....Amanda and Sean Palmer

***Hymn of Preparation**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#593

Sacred Reading and Personal Witness

Sacred Reading: New Testament.....Acts 10 [page 98]

Personal Witness: Rev. Mark Mendes

A Time to Celebrate Our Stories and Witness

During this time, members of the congregation are invited to share the ways in which their lives have been enriched through our church's Open and Affirming stance five years ago.

***Closing Hymn**

We Are Called (song sheet)

Haas

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

Look Up, My Soul, To Christ Thy Joy

Elmore

*Please stand if you are able.

Worship Participants

Deacon: Rick Dooley

Greeters: 1st Sue & Steve Wood, 2nd Catherine Lapierre & Mary Anne Warren

Ushers: 1st Dennis & Sue Conti, 2nd Linda Bogardus & Peter Schmalz

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Coby Miller	Bruce Parker	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Annette	Dee
Emily Carroll & family	Lilly and Donald	Jaime Real
Michael Flynn	Carol	Don Mable
Tim Frazier	Roger Kalar	Ed Constantine
Ralph Abeling	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Christian Harvie
Campbell Miller	George Jackson	Cathleen & Lilianna
Mike Heston	Mark Holden	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, welcom@fcej.org

*** * * TODAY * * ***



Claussen's Gift Cards Available Until May 7th

A perfect Mother's Day gift or a treat for your own garden! Sign up in Fellowship Hall after services to purchase a \$30 gift card, \$5 from the sale of each card will go to the Church. Pick up after services Sunday May 14th or during the next week in the office. You can also order gift cards by emailing maureen.mckenzie@ge.com

Meditation Room

Open and available until mid-JuneCome and climb the stairs to the 3rd floor and find a restful place to just be and connect with God. This room is self-guided and open for all anytime you are here at church. There is a basket by the door for you to put your items in that will help you disconnect from the world...cell phone, keys, etc.

TODAY ~ Joe Levesque Big Band Concert ~ 3 pm

This concert is open to the public and a free will donation will be accepted at the door to benefit the First Church music program.

* * * **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. Class is Monday evenings, from 5:30-6:45. 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

May 3rd – 31st – UCC Curriculum on “White Privilege: Let’s Talk”

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$605.49

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.



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 6th grade

April 30th ~ Multi-Age Activity Day

May 7th ~ Communion Sunday & Spiritual Friends
May 14th ~ Mother's Day & Jazz Sunday
May 21st ~ Graduation & Volunteer Recognition Sunday

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

May 7th ~ Spring Cleanup After Second Service



Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

Our 5th & 6th graders meet ONCE a month at this same time.

Looking for a couple volunteer parents and a meal. See Laurie.

May 7th ~ 11:30-1:30pm ~ Mission Focus ~ Lunch ~ Fellowship

Sat, May 20th at 2pm ~ 6th graders MOVE UP - Mark your calendars!



Thurs, May 11th 5:45-7pm ~ Faith Formation Family Dish Share

Come join the fun and fellowship at this monthly 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.

May 14th ~ Jazz Sunday & Mother's Day

Saturday, May 20th ~ 6th Grade MOVE UP & Jr. High Bowling

Call Out Meeting for all 6th grade youth and Parents
To the Jr. High Youth Group!

The 6th graders and parents are welcomed into the Jr. High Youth Group with a meeting at 2pm. Jr. High Youth arrive at 2:45 and at 3:00 we leave for the bowling alley. The bowling lanes are ours from 3:30-4:30 and we will return to First Church around 5pm. Bring your friends for the fun and info, please RSVP.



May 21st ~ Graduation & Faith Formation Volunteer Sunday



We seek to honor all of our graduates from: high school, college, graduate school, specialty programs, etc. Please get the name of your grad, school, program, and degree to the office, welcomed@fccej.org by Sunday May 14th. Please share two pictures with us. One of your grad when young and a current photo, perhaps in their school garb. We will include both of the pictures in a slide show during worship. Help us celebrate our graduates! Also if you have volunteered as a class leader, class helper, Spiritual Friend, Multi-Age Activity helper or leader ...we hope you will join us in worship so that we can thank you for all your time and energy this year.



Thursday, June 1st ~ Year End Youth Party @ Pastor Mark's

Calling all 7th – 12th grade youth! Pastor Mark and CE are hosting a year end party at his house right here in the Junction (9 King's Court). Come at 5:30pm, bring your parents, a potluck dish to share and we'll have hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. There will be games, food and great fellowship! We need a head count for the grill, so please RSVP!

June 4th ~ Confirmation, Pentecost & Ice Cream Sunday **One Service Starts @ 9am**

Join us on this special Sunday to help us celebrate Pentecost and our confirmands! Ice cream and many toppings will be available for our fellowship time after our 9am worship service.



August 7th - 11th ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2017 **REGISTER TODAY**



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 to be part of this fun week!

Station Leaders are getting ready! Crafts ~ Jenny Bourn; Snack ~ Judy Allen & Ginny Coe; Games ~ Jessica Moos; Music ~ Laura Cunningham-Firkey; Bible Drama ~ Barb Smith; Discovery Leader ~ Trista Acebo

Recruiting Leaders & Helpers: Youth (sixth grade or older), Young Adults & Adults

VB Camp Wish List:

Paper towel rolls (55 total); Small glass jars with lids (pimento/baby food/etc..55 total); Battery tea lights (55 total); Baking soda—1 container
white vinegar—small container; unscented natural liquid soap - small container; liquid water colors or food coloring 5 large raw baking potato; table or ice cream salt; 5 medicine droppers or pipettes (at least five) Baby carrots (5lbs); Ranch dressing (3/24oz bottles); Pineapple chunks (6/14oz cans) Strawberries (4 quarts); Pretzel sticks (2/20oz packages); Grapes (3 lbs) Cheese cubes (mild) (6/16oz); Cheerios (1g box gluten free) Raisins/Cranraisins (1/16oz); Pretzel pieces (gluten free)— any shape (1/32 oz package)
Apples (40); Fruit by the foot (6 packages/12 ct); Vanilla frosting tubes (2)
Mini chocolate chips (small bag); Vanilla Yogurt (2 large containers); Ice cream cones – either waffle or plain (70) Pirate Booty Popcorn (2 lg bags); Veggie Sticks (2 lg bags) banana bread – no nuts (6 loaves); Snack size resealable baggies (3 boxes)
Clear squat 9oz. plastic cups (300); Napkins (400); Small paper plates (200)



VT Outdoor Ministry Week

Enjoy a fun week at Rock Point Camp in Burlington, VT!
Swimming, hiking, canoeing, service project in Burlington, food, games, campfires and much more!

July 30th –August 4th for youth going into 5th - 8th grade

To registration for this camp go to Horton Center website. www.hortoncenter.org

Scholarship funds available... let Laurie or Pastor Mark know.

Many more camps available at Horton Center! Laurie will be counseling for Middler Week July 9th– 15th for those going into 7th - 9th grade.



VT UCC OM Team is Recruiting volunteer counselors (18yrs & older), a waterfront lifeguard & RN nurse for this camp! Flyers on table in Fellowship Hall. See Laurie for more information!

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



Next Food Pantry days are Mon, May 8th, 5:30-7:30pm & Thurs, May 25th, 2-6pm

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

We are ALL SET for egg cartons right now!

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 Has REOPENED ~ Store Hours

10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs,

9am-12pm first Sat of the month

Come on in, check out our renovations and find us on Facebook!

THIS WEEK: April 30th - May 6th

- TODAY:** **8:30 & 10:15am Worship Services / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 5:00 pm Joe's Big Band / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
5:00-7:00 pm Jr & Sr High Youth Group
- MONDAY:** 8:30 - 11:30am David Babcock Service / Sanctuary (9-10 Visitation, 10-11 Service)
9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / CANCELLED
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 / Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor
- TUESDAY:** **8:30 - 10:00 am Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge**
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm Church Council / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
9:30 - 11:30 am Life Safety Testing / All Building
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
6:30 - 7:30 pm Boy Scouts-PLC / Youth Lounge
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 - 11:30pm Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 2:00 am JOY / Marvin Lounge
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
6:30 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** **9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building**
9:00 - 11:00 am CPEC Spring Carnival / Gym
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]
Music Director: please direct questions to Judy Larrabee [236-0604]
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: Marie Johnson [mdjkiln@juno.com]
Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir Director: Marie Johnson [mdjkiln@juno.com]

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 [324-9206]
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

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

Food and churches are a universal combination. Breaking bread together is something we all do, no matter who we are as a congregation and where we are on our journeys. Eating something made for us, something that comes from a person's background, is a way of sharing ourselves. Recipes and foods represent history and tradition and experiences. A pot luck is a kind of revelation: just as breaking bread with Jesus revealed the risen Lord to the disciples, so does bringing a covered dish to a church event reveal something about us to each other.

Many of our UCC congregations represent the cultural and ethnic geographies in which they exist. You can tell where you are by what they serve you after church. If you are served lots of vegetarian dishes and fish tacos then you are probably in California. Pork and oysters? In 1871 the Christian Church in Carversville, Pennsylvania, held its first Oyster Pork Supper. Today, the Carversville Christian Church UCC still hosts those dinners, and every October they fry over 1,800 oysters and cook at least 23 delectable pork roasts for a community feast and fundraiser. Elsewhere in Pennsylvania, traditional Welsh churches still fry Welsh cookies on electric griddles, and Pennsylvania Dutch churches still make shoe fly pie and apple dumplings. Just south of Minneapolis, in Faribault, you can get yourself a great ham supper, complete with home made potato salad and baked beans.

In all this eating and stirring and washing up, the ordinary work of the church is often accomplished. It is the work of being together in genuine love and recognition of the worth of all people, no matter who we are—especially when it includes dessert!