

*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
United Church of Christ
June 11, 2017
Scout Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Sonata in F Minor
Sonata in C Minor
Prelude in D Major

Beethoven
Beethoven
Scriabin

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 then highlight 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.

*Special Welcome to our Boy and Girl Scouts present
Recognizing our Eagle and Gold Scouts*

Call to Worship Benjamin Lewis

Leader: Today, we come to worship our God: our Creator, Teacher and Friend. We also come to lift up our partnership with the scouts in this church and beyond.

Pulpit Side: Both Scouts and Christians love nature and the world and are dedicated to caring for all creation.

Lectern Side: Both Christians and Scouts live by Christ's golden rule as we try to help others and live by the highest ideals within humanity.

Everyone: Both Scouts and Christians lift up a mysterious and divine presence that inspires both of our organizations to do good.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the gifts God has given us and work together to make our corner of the world a better place in which to live.

Opening Song.....The Birdie Song [repeat after me]

Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer.....Kayley Tullgren

**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.**

Children's Message.....Rev. Mark and Craig Bouffard

**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.**

The Foundations to the Scouting Way

The Boy Scout Promise and Law [said in unison by all Boy Scouts / males]

**On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep
myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. A Scout
is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient,
Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and reverent.**

The Girl Scout Promise and Law [said in unison by all Girl Scouts / females]

**On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people
at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law. I will do my best to be
honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to
respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.**

Everything was (*clap once*) fine and dandy, dandy.

Children of the Lord.

Now that is the end, the end of my story, story.

That is the end, the end of my story, story.

Everything is (*clap once*) hunky dory, dory.

Children of the Lord.

New Testament Scripture Readings

Matthew 7:12-13.....Read by Ethan Carnasale

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it.

Matthew 28:16-20.....Read by Seb Jacob

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Scouting Reflections

Girl: Gold Scout.....Shannon McCullen

Boy: Eagle Scout.....Josh Sharp

The Reception of New Members

Jim Glatz

Janice Jordan

Mally Powell

Ed Steele and Bill Harris

Natalie and Amani Whitfield [daughter Hope]

Closing Song

Father Abraham

Father Abraham had seven Scouts

Seven Scouts had Father Abraham

I am one and so are you

So let's all praise the Lord!

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction
Cub and Boy Scout Vespers

As the night comes to this land, On my promise, I will stand
 I will help the pack to go, As the pack helps me to grow
Yes I will always give good will, I'll follow my Akela still
 And before I stop to rest I will do my very best
Softly falls the light of day, As our campfire fades away.
Silently each scout should ask, Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright? Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared, Everything to be prepared.

*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:

Etude in F-sharp Major

Chopin

*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Judy & Mary Jane Allen
in loving memory of their mother, father and brother.*

Worship Participants

Deacon: Josh Sharp & Myrna Doney

Greeters: Boy Scouts

Ushers: Boy Scouts

Welcome and many thanks to Henry Wu for providing our music today. Henry is a 9th grader at Essex High School. He has played piano for nine years and is currently studying with Paul Orge. Henry also plays the cello, loves soccer, running, mathematics and science.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Coby Miller	Jack Lucas	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Dan McMaster	Bruce Parker
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	Diana Higgins
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, welcome@fccej.org

Summer Worship Schedule

June 18 & 25, Rev. Mark; July 2, Guest preacher; July 9 & 16, Devon Thomas
July 23, Rev. Mark; July 30 - August 20, Devon Thomas
August 27 - September 3, Rev. Mark

* * * TODAY * * *



Altar Flowers ~ A Few Spots Available for 2017

Please check the chart and sign up for a Sunday to honor or remember a loved one or event in your life. Dates available are 9/17, 10/22, 11/5, 12/17

2017 Jamaica Bound Mission Team

The team is currently collecting the following items to deliver to the school:
Children's toothbrushes, Travel size toothpaste tubes

Pencils , 4x4 Bandages, Medical tape

Your gifts will be greatly appreciated!! Look for the large green bucket in the Fellowship Hall to deposit your donations. Thank-you!



* * * THIS WEEK * * *



LAST CLASS ~ Yoga @ First will be on Hiatus for the Summer

Jonah & his family will be traveling this summer so Yoga will be on hiatus from June 19th through August 21st and they will start again on August 28th.

Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback

Join us on Tuesdays from 8:30-10am for coffee, baked goods and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) that was delivered the previous Sunday. Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!



Wednesday Night Searchers

We are currently on our summer program, watching movies with discussion. If there are movies you would like to watch, bring your ideas!

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$677.04

Remember to bring your Sunday School offering. Use an envelope in the pews to distinguish it from the regular offering.



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 6th grade

June 11th – September 3rd ~ Summer Faith Formation

Self-led Activity Bin in Fellowship Hall available most weeks

Kids bring a parent to FH and watch the service while you spend time being creative.

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!

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



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 register 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, June 12th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thurs, June 22nd, 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 still all set for egg cartons ~ storage is limited.



Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs, 9am-12pm first Sat/month
We are gladly accepting all gently used spring and summer clothing donations at this time.



Vacation Bible Camp Wish List:

Small glass jars with lids (pimento/baby food/etc..55 total); Battery tea lights (#30); liquid water colors or food coloring; 5 large raw baking potato; Baby carrots (5lbs); Strawberries (4 quarts); Pretzel sticks (2/20oz packages); Grapes (3 lbs) Cheese cubes (mild) (6/16oz); 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 Yogurt (2 large containers); Veggie Sticks (2 lg bags); Banana Bread – no nuts (6 loaves)



Looking for 2017-18 Faith Formation Volunteers

At First Church we believe it's important to follow Jesus' example of taking time to get to know each other and build community...

whether it's in class time or a large group activity, across the generations or in each of our classes. Faith if not taught, Faith is caught! Join the fun and help the children and youth catch the Spirit!

Nursery: Lend a hand and help us strive to meet our two to one ratio

Spiritual Friends: Enjoy great conversations with the kids on 1st Sundays of the month and all return for Holy Communion

Faith Formation Class Leaders & Helpers: Be a class leader or helper for kids preschool age and up – weekly emails from Laurie – all items gathered for you

Multi-Age Activity Helpers: Extra hands when all ages are together - preschool up through senior high for group building activities

Youth Group Helpers: Join the group and help or bring a meal for JH & SH

THIS WEEK: June 11th - 17th

- TODAY: **9:00am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY: 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:30 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Food Pantry (open 5:30-7:30) / FH & Kitchen
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah (last one for summer break) / 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
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
- WEDNESDAY: **10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 5:00 pm Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge
6:30 - 7:00 pm Graduates Line up for Baccalaureate / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 8:00 pm Baccalaureate / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY: 12:00 - 3:30 pm CPEC Graduation / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 1:30 pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
- FRIDAY: ****Electric Panel Work-Office Wing/Office Closed****
****Newsletter Articles Due ~ July/August Issue****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:30 pm AgeWell (CVAA) Staff Meeting / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
6:00 - 9:30 pm Stamping Event-Andrea Sharp / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm 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]

Interim Music Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@juno.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: 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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 11, 2017

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1: 1-2:4a

This is Good

How good is the world? In the opening of Genesis the first thing to appear by God's command was light, a light shining through fog and chaos. It says that God saw it was good. Any artist, a painter, for example, might step back to see her work in progress and see that it is good. Imagine God is the artist seeing what is good in that harmony between creative action and result, paint and brush, and canvas. Clearly, in the beginning, according to the storytellers in Genesis, God was creating and stepping back, pleased with what was happening. Think of that opening chapter of Genesis as full of many "aha" moments and the creative pleasure of God.

Some mystics tell us is that what we experience when we feel the beauty of the natural world is a glimpse of the divine, "aha." Somewhere in that moment of making art there is a piece of the creator, of the artist, left behind in the work reaching out to us.

If this world we see is good and the touch of the divine is in it, then our responsibility, as people of faith, to every mountain and fresh water stream and bird in the air becomes more than that of a caretaker. We are witnesses to that divine force in all of it. How can we keep quiet when we see the goodness of this precious earth polluted by plastic islands in the ocean and coal dust running through our streams? Creation is a gift from the ONE who saw it as good from the very beginning. The United Church of Christ knows this and champions God's good world in its environmental justice ministries. All of us in local churches are urged to gather in small groups and educate ourselves about climate change. One way to do this is to watch the film, "This Changes Everything," by Naomi Klein. There are faith based resources and questions to help guide any discussion. You can find out how to see the film and download resources at

www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries