

*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  
July 2, 2017  
*Communion Sunday*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All,*

*In the Spirit of Christ.*

*Order of Worship*

Prelude

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.*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: During the final stages of creation, God united with humanity to ease the deep well of divine isolation and loneliness. The result was a marriage between humanity and the divine.

**People: Knowing the danger and destruction of loneliness, God created a model of partnership between two people, a union grounded on equality and mutual need.**

Leader: Prophets and mystics, sinners and saints, kings and paupers, scientists and philosophers: most all seek to fill their lives with others in the primordial pull toward partnership, perpetuity and participation.

**People: Prayer unites us with God and each other. Coming to church draws us together with both the divine and human elements of life. Music makes us dance and our spirits soar. Our intellect is simple gray matter that reaches throughout the universe and beyond.**

Leader: Complete and utter union is at the heart of creation and everything written in the bible. Jesus bridges the gap and calls us to intimacy with God that is full of passion and unrivaled in power and depth.

**People: Come, let us enter into relationship with God.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*I Love To Tell the Story*

#522

### A Time of Confession

#### Call to Confession

Leader: Kings and false prophets, people and priests, from the beginning of time to our present age: people have taken the power, presence and prestige of God and used them for their own means.

**People: The biblical warrant attests to this fact. History proclaims this to be true. We know it to be true in our own time and place. Every people, every politician, every nation, every person falls short of the glory of God.**

Leader: Come, let us fall on our knees with kings and prophets, priests and people as we seek forgiveness and a fresh start. Come, let us confess our sins before our God.

#### Unison Prayer of Confession

**Loving Creator of this beautiful land, filled with purple, majestic mountains and grain fields that sway in the breeze, come to us today and assure us of your forgiveness and love. When we move toward false idols and lesser gods, help us to recognize the futility of finite, frivolous frills and replace them with the infinite and infallible presence of the divine. Align our senses to the places where the Great I Am speaks and moves and has being. Allow us to see you in the beauty of creation, the blessing of Christ's extravagant love and the ongoing empowerment of the Spirit of God. Forgive us and help us to better ourselves each day as we move toward the very kingdom of God.**

#### The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: On behalf of the Living God made known in Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven.

**People: We accept God's abundant love and will earnestly try to live healthier and more productive lives.**

**Everyone: Amen and Alleluia.**

Children's Message.....Anne Harris

*After the Children's Message all are encouraged to stay with us in worship. Worship items are in the Narthex. If you are feel like moving around, take an adult or older youth with you to the Fellowship Hall where you will find our Summer Faith Formation Activity Bin by the Nursery door. The Nursery Room is available with Kathryn, our staff person, for infants and toddlers up to age 3. Please be aware of and respect the ratio of one adult to two infants/toddlers and stay and help as needed. Our worship is streamed live to the Fellowship Hall.*

**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

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

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

**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.**

Musical Response

A Deacon Shares his Spiritual Journey.....Pete Schmalz

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Scripture Reading.....I Timothy 3:8-13, 4:6-16 [page 163]

A Deacon Shares her Spiritual Journey.....Betsy Weischedel

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*We eat the bread together as a sign of our unity in Christ. We drink the cup as the Spirit moves each person to do so, as a sign of the unique gifts we bring to our ministry.*

Special note: *Our bread and crackers are all gluten free and all the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice. **All are welcome at Christ's table.***

## Closing Hymn

*My Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

#610

## 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:

\*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Jean Tucker  
in loving memory of Ray Tucker and loved ones.*

### First Church's Prayer Ministry

Coby Miller	Jack Lucas	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Dan McMaster	Mark Holden
Emily Carroll & family	Lilly and Donald	Jaime Real
Michael Flynn	Carol	Don Mable
Tim Frazier	Roger Kalar	Dustin Keelty
Ralph Abeling	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Diana Higgins
Campbell Miller	George Jackson	Cathleen & Lilianna
Mike Heston		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@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org)*

## Summer Worship Schedule

July 9 & 16, Devon Thomas  
July 23, Rev. Mark; July 30 - August 20, Devon Thomas  
August 27 - September 3, Rev. Mark



## Summer Church Office Hours-now until August 13th

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-2pm

## Altar Flowers ~ ONLY ONE Spot left for 2017

Please check the chart and sign up to honor or remember a loved one or event in your life. Only one more date available: 12/17



## Hannaford Cards and Reloads on Sale TODAY!

## Jamaica Mission Trip Update

The Jamaica Team was commissioned by the congregation on Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> to represent FCCEJ as we travel to build a garden for the White Horses Infant and Primary School in St. Thomas, Jamaica. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the Burlington Airport at 4:30 am to begin our adventure. An 8-hour layover in Atlanta will provide lots of time for plans and bonding! After a long bumpy ride on rough roads, we will arrive at Golden Shores hotel around 10:30 pm. The next morning, we will visit the project site, gather supplies, and meet with the local members of our project team.



We hope to keep the congregation up to date through postings on the church Facebook page and possibly a blog. However, internet can be inconsistent in that area. We'll get word to the church if we lose service.

The team is very excited about this trip and working with the White Horses school community. We are also happy to be bringing the school and medical supplies you donated. They will be much appreciated. The team and our project partners in Jamaica are so very grateful for the support of our FCCEJ congregation in this project!! Without you, it would not be possible!

\* \* \* **THIS WEEK** \* \* \*



**Yoga @ First is on Hiatus for the Summer**

Jonah & his family are traveling this summer so Yoga will be on hiatus from 6/19-8/21 so class 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 \$704.59*

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 11<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>th</sup>* ~ 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

**‘Take Out Church’ Boxes**

These ‘pizza’ size boxes can travel around with you wherever  
you go and the items inside can help the whole family stay  
connected to God and help everyone continue to grow in their  
faith. ‘Flat Jesus’ is inside! Color and cut it out, take him with  
you and take some pictures of you and ‘Flat Jesus’ and post them on our Facebook page  
as a reminder to us all the Jesus is with us wherever we go. Enjoy the M&M and Skittle  
prayers, Beach Ball Thanksgiving reflection, a CD of music, Serve Your Neighbor  
game, Graces to say or sing before a meal and scripture pages to color. See Laurie to  
collect yours or if you are needing additional resources for your ‘Take Out Church’ box!



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

To register for this camp go to Horton Center  
website. [www.hortoncenter.org](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> for those going into 7th - 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Next Food Pantry days are Monday, July 10th, 5:30-7:30pm and  
Thurs, July 27th, 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 ~ our storage is limited.





### Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs,  
9am-12pm first Sat/month  
Donations can be dropped off at the Shop anytime.

### Vacation Bible Camp Wish List:

\*\*\*Small glass jars with lids (pimento/baby food/etc 55 total)  
Battery tea lights (#30); 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); 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month

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 - PreK-Sr. High

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

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



### September 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Rally Day

Back to Two Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:15am

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations ~ NOTE New Dates

The 150th anniversary year-end celebration has changed from what was  
originally announced. There will be two events – John Dorhauer,  
President of the United Church of Christ, will still be here to preach on  
Sunday, Nov. 5 with receptions after each service. Also our dinner celebration has been  
moved to the Champlain Valley Exposition on Friday, October 20. They have room to  
accommodate all who wish to attend. Catering details are still being worked out so stay  
tuned for cost and information on purchase of tickets.



## Vacation Dates

Rev. Mark will be on vacation or on the Jamaican trip from June 28 through July 20<sup>th</sup> and on vacation again from July 25<sup>th</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup>. While he is away, Devon Thomas (802-310-6517) will be on call for any and all pastoral emergencies. Jen Dooley (802-578-0230) will be on her summer hours, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 10-2 from June 19<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>. She will be on vacation July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Laurie Chipman (802-881-3691) will be away at the Horton Center in NH for July 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. If there is an emergency and Devon, Jen or Laurie cannot be reached, then the following people should be contacted. Any church concerns should be directed to our Church President, Brenda Crocket (802-881-5253) and any building emergencies to Trustee Chair, Kevin Meilleur (802-238-4041). Any pastoral issues should be directed to our Deacon chairs, Rick Dooley (802-578-0229) or Mike Bottamini (879-0763). As always, messages can be left for staff by calling the church at 878-5745.



### THIS WEEK: July 2nd - 8th

**TODAY:** 9:00am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
11:30 - 12:30 pm **Music Committee / Choir Loft**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge

**MONDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
1:30 - 4:00 pm **Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym**  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor

**TUESDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
6:30 - 7:30 pm Boy Scouts-PLC / Youth Lounge  
6:30 - 8:30 pm **Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall

**THURSDAY:** 8:30 - 11:30 am Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 - 2:00 pm **JOY / Marvin Lounge**  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Communications Committee / Marvin Lounge**

**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 - 4:30 pm Hayes Family Event / 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**  
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

July 2, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome

It isn't all dancing and shouting and singing and greeting old friends at General Synod. The delegates in Baltimore will also be going into the community to perform acts of service for the people of Baltimore, as well as attending eye-opening first hand encounters with the faces of homelessness.

Delegates will participate in what is being called an "Injustice Walk." At the end of such a walk, UCCers from around the country will understand better the reality of being homeless in a big city like Baltimore. They will hear from representatives of Earl's Place, United Ministries, a UCC Council for Health and Human Services Ministries member, and 20-year provider of supportive housing to the homeless. In addition, the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC has asked attendees of General Synod to bring hats, gloves, scarves, socks, blankets and small pillows for distribution to the over 26,000 estimated homeless people in the geography covered by that Conference. All those items collected will be distributed during winter months.

Another project, that should inspire the delegates and create goodwill will include some urban forestry and volunteer gardening in the city with a program called "Blue Water Baltimore." In addition, people will be able to donate toys and supplies to a no kill animal shelter.

Giving and receiving a holy extravagant welcome is what the United Church of Christ is all about.

In addition, our spirit of mission and service undergirds everything we do – even a rollicking convention hall filled with many thousands of church folks is going to spread that welcome throughout the city. Attendees will bring back to their churches stories of effort and hope and a deeper sense of the ties of service and faith that bind us together.