

*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

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Website: www.fcej.org

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 9, 2017

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Prayer
Chromatic Fugue

LeMaigre
Pachebel

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: Oh, Lord we are broken, but through you we seek to be made whole.

**People: We are fractured in our nation, in our cities, towns and in our homes.
Help us Lord to be made whole.**

Leader: Bless our bodies, minds and souls and make them one. Help us to reel in the distant and segmented parts of our lives so that we may be a sturdy foundation for a more loving world and be made whole.

People: Help us to see past the moments of our lives that are filled with pain. Help us to see past fear that keeps us from understanding. Help us to see past political and religious differences, sexual identities and body identities. Help us see that together there is no one who is disabled but all who are differently abled. Lord, help us to see the gift of love you have given to us and to others, so that we may all be made whole.

Leader: God, you are our loving parent and you made us all of one spiritual body. We pray that together we can be made whole.

***Opening Hymn**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

#403

Children's Message

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

I've Got Peace Like A River

African Spiritual

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

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Gabriel

The 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.**

Scripture Reading

Hebrew Bible Reading: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 [pg. 483]

New Testament Reading: Romans 7:15-25a [pg. 120]

Sermon:

JENGA!!!!

Devon Thomas

Closing Hymn

Be Now My Vision #451

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:

Psalm 20

Marcello

*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Irving Bartlett
and family in loving memory of Carol Bartlett.*

Deacon: Gary Smith

Thank you to the Currier Bell Choir for the beautiful summer music today.

Summer Worship Schedule

July 16, Devon Thomas

July 23, Rev. Mark; July 30 - August 20, Devon Thomas

August 27 - September 3, Rev. Mark

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@fccej.org

Summer Church Office Hours-now until August 13th

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-2pm



Jamaica Mission Trip Update

The Jamaica Team was commissioned by the congregation on Sunday June 18th to represent FCCEJ as we travel to build a garden for the White Horses Infant and Primary School in St. Thomas, Jamaica. On July 11th, 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

Time Change for Summer, 6:30-8:30pm. 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 \$706.59

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

Now until September 3th ~ 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!
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) for this
camp! Flyers on table in Fellowship Hall.

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

**Next Food Pantry days are Thurs, July 27th, 2-6pm
and Monday, August 14th, 5:30-7:30pm**

We are in need of boxes of cereal, 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 (1/4-1/2 pt size/pimento/baby food/etc 35 total)
- 5 large raw baking potato;
- Baby carrots (5lbs);
- Strawberries (4 quarts);
- Pretzel sticks (2/20oz packages);
- Grapes (3 lbs)
- Cheese cubes-mild/6/16oz.
- 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)



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
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 10th ~ Rally Day
Back to Two Worship Services, 8:30 & 10:15am

150th 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 20th and on vacation again from July 25th through August 20th. 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 19th through August 14th. She will be on vacation July 10th – 12th and July 26th to August 2nd. Laurie Chipman (802-881-3691) will be away at the Horton Center in NH for July 9th – 15th. 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 9th - 15th

- TODAY:** **9:00am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** ****Office Closed****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
4:00 - 8:00pm Heavenly Food Pantry (open 5:30-7:30)/FH & Kitchen
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor
- TUESDAY:** ****Office Closed****
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
- WEDNESDAY:** ****Office Closed****
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
6:30 - 8:30 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** ****Office Open 9-3****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
7:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Essex Eats Out Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** ****Office Open 9-3****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge
- 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@fcej.org]
Interim Music Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@juno.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: *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 9, 2017

Fifth Sunday in Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38

Chosen Journeys

If you could hover in the sky over Baltimore as all the delegates to General Synod left for their homes, and if all those delegates were all wearing the same solid color – let’s say, blue – and you could watch all the blue-colored people from your vantage point in the sky what would you see? You would see blue trails that spread out and clumped together at airports and scattered again by cars and trains. It would probably look like a kaleidoscope moving and swirling and changing patterns as all the bodies moved then stopped for lunch, changed direction or decided on new routes, until finally everyone was somewhere. The next day, without their blue outfits, they would blend back into the everyday journeys we all take; to work, or groceries, the post office, visiting friends.

What if we always left a wake, or a trail, behind ourselves in the molecules of every place we ever went? Suppose we could shine a black light that would capture all those molecules and highlight them? What would we see? What patterns or light rails do we leave behind between friends, changed jobs, relationships, life choices? Could we look back in time and see the exact spot where we made a choice that changed our life? Would we see from our vantage point in time the other permutations of every choice?

All journeys create patterns and lay new paths. The United Church of Christ turns 60, and in those years it has hit many crossroads, made resolutions and pronouncements. We have restructured and reorganized. We have supported causes of justice and created an ever-widening welcome. We have become more inclusive and more ready each year to be the church. All along the way our molecules have swirled with our travels and stopped at every turning point poised and waiting for the nudge of the spirit or a whisper, or a kick to move us to the next stop and the next turn. As people of faith, we believe that all these stops and turns matter, and from the vantage point of distance – either high in the sky or from years hence – we see an open possibility of all the future journeys and choices ahead of us.