

*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**

**Phone: 802-878-5745**

**Fax: 802-872-8236**

**E-mail: [welcome@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org)**

**Website: [www.fcej.org](http://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 23, 2017  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All,*

*In the Spirit of Christ.*

*Order of Worship*

Prelude

*Solemn Processional  
Fantasia*

Handel  
Pachelbel

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: Welcome to one of God's houses in Essex, a place that reminds us of Christ's Kingdom of Heaven, a place that strengthens us for life and love.

**Pulpit Side: With God, we can transform even the smallest effort into incredible outcomes.**

**Lectern Side: With God, we can prioritize our lives and free the divine treasure within us all.**

**Pulpit Side: With God, we can discern the good from the bad and move forward with hope.**

**Lectern Side: With God, we can claim treasures beyond measure from all times and places.**

Leader: Come, let us worship our God.

Deacon's 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.**

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

*Meditation from "Thais"*

Massenet

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

*The Rose*

\*Congregational Hymn of Choice

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*His Eye Is On The Sparrow*

**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 Readings

Old Testament Torah: Genesis 28:10-19a [pg. 19]

New Testament Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 [pg. 11]

**\*Congregational Hymn of Choice**

Sermon:

*Jamaican Musings*

Rev. Mendes

**Closing Hymn**

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**#547**

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:

*Postlude*

Tours

\*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Norma Edwards in honor of the unrecognized, unsung, hard working volunteers of our church.*

Deacon: Betsy Weischedel

Greeters:

Ushers: Abigail & Maureen Evans

*Thank you for the beautiful summer music by Abigail Evans, Stephanie Field and John Mauger.*

**Summer Worship Schedule**

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	Acacia Harris & her family
Ralph Abeling	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Mickey McKenzie
Campbell Miller	George Jackson	Cathleen & Lilianna
Mike Heston	Judy Janwich	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](mailto: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 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>, they met at the Burlington Airport at 4:30 am to begin their adventure. An 8-hour layover in Atlanta provided lots of time for plans and bonding! After a long bumpy ride on rough roads, they arrived at Golden Shores hotel around 10:30 pm. The next morning, they visited the project site, gathered supplies, and met with the local members of the project team.

There are pictures and posts on the church Facebook page. If you would like to see it and are not on Facebook, come visit Jen in the office and she can show you. 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 \$714.59*

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 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!  
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  
16 Campers, 4 Counselors, 2 Deans, 2 Horton Ctr. Staff  
and 3 Daytime Volunteers. To register for this camp  
and others 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!

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:**

Campers!

- \*\*\*Small glass jars with lids (1/4-1/2 pt size/pimento/baby food/etc 10 total)
- 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 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 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 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> and then on medical leave August 2nd-4th. Laurie Chipman (802-881-3691) will be on vacation from August 27-September 1. 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 23rd - 29th**

- 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  
**1:30 - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym**  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Ladies Night Out / Marvin Lounge**
- 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  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Trustees / Marvin Lounge**
- 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 Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** **\*\*Office Closed\*\***  
9:00 - 6:30 pm Heavenly Food Pantry / FH & Kitchen (Hours 2-6pm)  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**  
**7:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY:**     **\*\*Office Closed\*\***  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building  
9:30 - 12:00 pm Card Making Class-Andrea Sharp / Marvin Lounge  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

## MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fceej.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

July 23, 2017

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a

Place of Blessing

The words in that great gospel hymn, “Jacob’s Ladder” are just a bit misleading. We sing that great refrain, “We are climbing Jacob’s Ladder.” We probably imagine a ladder into the sky and ourselves hanging on and climbing higher and higher as the ladder disappears before us into the night sky. However, if you re-read chapter 28 from Genesis you’ll discover a very different narrative. In Jacob’s dream, he’s not the climber. Indeed, no human person is. It’s the angels that do the climbing. Climbing up and down it says, as if they have business on the earth and scurry between worlds doing their angel chores. When Jacob wakes he names the place a place of blessing, a place where he saw the gate to heaven. The ladder, then, is a metaphor for a gate between worlds. On one end is the earth, and flesh and people, and on the other is something we can’t even imagine. A ladder separates what is holy from everything else. Those angels moving up and down the easy, ordinary ladder route show that the two worlds are not so far apart. In Clemson, South Carolina, Peace Church UCC has a worship schedule and an approach to ministry that is itself a kind of Jacob’s ladder joining worlds. They worship at 5 p.m. on and people dress casually. Each Sunday in the month has its own form, its own expression. The second Sunday usually has a short film and the fourth Sunday is all music. On Second Sundays they create an outdoor experience that the congregation shares together. This description from their web site says it all! *To date, Second Sundays have seen us sitting at the foot of waterfalls, floating in kayaks on Lake Jocassee, riding bikes on the Doodle Trail, and experiencing a Japanese Tea Ceremony in the SC Botanical Gardens. Spiritual components have included silence, quiet walking, doodling with chalk, writing haiku, being saged. We have included Native American Spirituality, Celtic Spirituality, and a Zen experience. We are not sure where future ones will lead, but always there is the integrating of the spiritual with God’s creation. (thepeacechurch.org)*