

*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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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
August 20, 2017
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

*Prelude
Pastorale*

Frank
Zipoli

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.

Introit

I'm Gonna Sing

Besig

Call to Worship

Leader: God, Our nation has a problem!

People: When we are divided by hate and bigotry. When we allow power and greed to keep the first among us first and pay no attention to those who are poor and suffering. God, our nation is full of problems!

Leader: God, our community has a problem!

People: When we grow so comfortable with the way things are that we cannot see those who are suffering around us. When we forget that our world is not the world that you envisioned for us. God, our communities are full of problems!

Leader: God, I've got some problems!

People: When I forget that you are always there for me, when I forget that your love ties me to the love of others around me and that I never need to go it alone. God, our lives are full of problems!

Leader: May God's will and God's love help us all with our problems.

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.

***Opening Hymn**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#506

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 self serve today, for infants and toddlers up to age 3. 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 Wanna Thank You, Lord

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

Three Fold Amen

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

The Angel Rolled the Stone Away

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

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 56:6-8 [pg. 532]

Gospel Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 [pg. 122]

Sermon

Problem Child

Devon Thomas

***Closing Hymn**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

#495

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:

Allegro

Handel

*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Sylvia Nyhagen
in loving memory of Ed Nyhagen.*

Deacon: Peter Schmalz

Greeters:

Ushers: Tom James & Julie Leach

Many thanks to the Men at First for the beautiful summer music.

Summer Worship Schedule

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 Moore & 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, welcom@fccej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Hannaford Cards and Reloads on Sale TODAY!

Church Office Hours are back to Fall/Winter Schedule

Monday - Friday 9am-2pm



Donate Stocks

Stock Donated

If you have recently donated stock to the church, please contact Pat Seaver, Financial Secretary at vttri2@aol.com or 879-4445

* * * **THIS WEEK** * * *



Yoga @ First is BACK next week with TWO CLASSES!

Jonah is back from his summer adventures and Monday class will start again on August 28th PLUS he is adding a Thursday class starting on August 31st. Both classes will meet in the gym from 5:30-6:45. All levels from beginner to experienced are absolutely welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Classes are free but donations are gratefully accepted for FCCEJ. Welcome Back Jonah!

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 \$735.59

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.





Vacation Bible Camp

Many, many thanks to ALL THE VOLUNTEERS who made our 2017 Hero Central Camp a HUGE success!!!

'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!



Outdoor Ministry Camps

To register for camps, visit the Horton Center website. 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 Thursday, August 24th, 2-6pm and
Monday, September 11th, 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.



IMPORTANT-NURSERY COVERAGE NEEDED!

Volunteers needed to cover the Nursery, today, Aug 20th and Sept 3rd.
Kathryn will return after that for the school year!

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 back from vacation on August 22nd. 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 until August 20th. She will be on medical leave August 16th –20th and then taking Alex to St Anselm August 23-24. 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: August 20th - 26th

- TODAY:** **9:00am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 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
- 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
7:00 - 9:00 pm Stewardship Committee / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Trustees / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **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
6:30 - 8:00 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Gym
- THURSDAY:** **8:30 - 6:30 pm Heavenly Food Pantry (open 2-6pm) / FH & Kitchen**
10 - 11:30 am Art Class / Third Floor / Gym
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building
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

August 20, 2017

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15

Bold Moves

Joseph was bound and tied, sold into slavery and abandoned to whatever fate might befall him. His brothers did that. One might imagine a fair amount of resentment could hang heavily on one's heart as a result of such treatment. Today's Bible passage tells us of the meeting between Joseph and his brothers many years later. They are in Egypt, refugees from a famine in their homeland, come to ask for food. Joseph is now an advisor to the Pharaoh and his brothers do not recognize him. When he comes face to face with his brothers he cannot contain his feeling. He sends everyone from the room and he weeps. Their meeting is emotional and full of the vulnerability of those who have experienced antipathy and now, in their fragility and need, find each other. Something like that kind of coming together in the midst of pain and a shared threat has happened around the country as a result of increased attacks on places of worship. In Chicago, Jews, Muslims and members of the black community gathered last winter to support each other. One Saturday in February, the windows of a Chicago synagogue were smashed; swastikas were drawn on the building. The next day, leaders from the Muslim community came with flowers and hope. By Wednesday the building was cleaned and windows repaired, and a thousand people attended an interfaith gathering against hate. One of the speakers was Reverend Otis Moss III, pastor at the Trinity United Church of Christ. He told how his father had marched with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel to Selma. Reverend Moss said, "Blacks and Jews are connected because we know your pain, the broken windows, the broken lives, branded by people with their eyes glazed by hatred." When people who have a history of disregard discover that they have a shared enemy and that enemy is racism and bigotry, then there may also rise a hunger for community and support. Sometime reconciliation comes in recognizing our need for each other and our shared vulnerability.