

*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
October 8, 2017
First Service ~ Peace Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Pavan
Solemn Processional

Rowley
Handel

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

Lift Up Your Hearts

Greatorex

Call to Worship: A Reading by Etty Hillesum

Leader: Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will also be in our troubled world.

People: Come, let us seek the peace that flows from our soul, to our neighbor and to our world. Come, let us enter into a relationship with our God.

***Opening Hymn**

Let Us With a Joyful Mind

#16

Children's Message

After the Children's Message, children & youth are welcome to go to their Sunday school class for our Faith Formation program. Parents/Grandparents are welcome to accompany their children to their class, help get them settled and stay in class or return to worship. Children in Preschool up through 2nd grade class will need to be signed out by an authorized person at 11:30am when class time ends. Kathryn is in the Nursery, with audio and the service is streamed to 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.**

Offering Our Gifts to God

A Stewardship Moment

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

The Whisper of My Heart

Farrar/Beck

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.**

Seeking God's Peace Within [Rev. Mark Mendes]

Let us use the sound of our singing drum

as a transition to focus on God's desire for our personal peace.

A Call for Personal Peace

Leader: St. Augustine said, " Lord, you made us for yourself and we can find no rest until we find rest in you."

People: Dante said, "In your will is our peace."

Leader: From the garden to the valley of the shadow of death, from stressful turmoil to nature's beauty.....God wants us to have peace of heart and mind.

People: Being one with God is the beginning of peace's journey.

Leader: Come, let us open our heart to our God.....

A Scripture for Personal Peace.....John 16:29-33 [pg. 85]

A Message for Personal Peace

A Prayer for Personal Peace

Hymn of Peace

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

#485

*As we sing our hymn for peace,
We will light a candle for our desire for peace in our lives.
Everyone is invited forward to light your own candle for your own personal peace*

Seeking God's Peace with Our Neighbors

[Mr. Devon Thomas]

*Let us use the sound of our singing drum
as a transition to focus on God's peace in relationship.*

A Call for Communal Peace

Leader: Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. [John F. Kennedy]

People: Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. [Martin L. King, Jr.]

Leader: It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance. [R. F. Kennedy]

People: Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are. [Hafsat Abiola]

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts to each other.....

A Scripture for Communal Peace.....John 20:19-23 [pg. 88]

A Message for Communal Peace

On the day of resurrection, Jesus offers peace to his disciples and urges them to forgive others. The early church tradition that embodies Christ's call to forgive had followers seek out the people between which enmity existed and make peace with them before receiving communion.

In light of Christ's demand for forgiveness and the early Church's ritualizing that act of peacemaking, today, we are providing a blank note card and envelope so that you can make peace with someone in your life. As the choir sings their anthem, write a note, forgive, make peace.

Anthem

Walkin' to Jordan

Althouse

A Prayer for Communal Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*The minister will first offer the peace of Christ to the congregation
and then invite all of you to pass the peace of Christ among each other.*

Hymn of Peace

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#539

*As we sing our hymn for peace,
We will light a candle for our desire to live in peace with our neighbors.*

Seeking God's Worldly Peace [Pastor Dan Raut]

*Let us use the sound of our singing drum
as a transition to focus on God's desire for world peace.*

A Call for World Peace

Leader: War is an instrument entirely inefficient toward redressing wrong; and multiplies, instead of indemnifying losses. [T. Jefferson]

People: If the human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another. [Winston Churchill]

Leader: We seek peace, knowing that peace is the climate of freedom.
[Dwight D. Eisenhower]

People: Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways. [Dalai Lama]

A Scripture for World Peace.....Isaiah 9:1-7 [pg. 494]

A Message for World Peace by Pastor Dan Raut

A Nepali Anthem from the New Vine Fellowship [Nepali Church] Choir

A Prayer for World Peace

The minister will pray for world peace and then we will be surrounded by the Lord's Prayer in many languages. Then we will all unite to say the Lord's Prayer in English.

French.....read by Mary-Ellen Grove

Nepali.....read by Dan Raut

Spanish.....read by Terri Livak

Arabic.....read by Jessica Basmadjian

Dutch.....read by Erna Deutsch

English.....in unison by congregation

As we sing our last hymn, we will light the a candle for world peace and then everyone is invited to follow Rev. Mark, Devon and Pastor Dan outside to the PEACE POLE for the concluding remarks and prayer.

Gathering at the Peace Pole

Final Reading..... Martin Luther King’s Nobel Peace Prize Speech
Final Prayer and Benediction

Sung Benediction

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let me walk with my fellow in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev’ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

*Postlude:

Allegro

Boellman

*Please stand if you are able.

First Church’s Prayer Ministry

Coby Miller	Jack Lucas	Marion Ferris
David Tibbetts	Judy Janwich	Mike Heston
Emily Carroll & family	Lilly and Donald	Jaime Real
Michael Flynn	Frank & Earl	Don Mable
Shirley Boucher	Roger Kalar	Acacia Moore & family
Hazel Billheimer	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Mickey McKenzie
Campbell Miller	Ann Mudgett-Learned	Cathleen & Lilianna

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

*The flowers on the altar are given by Carl & Alison Wermer
in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary*

Deacon: Myrna Doney
Ushers: 1st Service Barb & Frank Smith
Ushers: 2nd Service Betty & Bill Adams

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Collection Through October 15th ~ How To Support Hurricane Relief

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief

If you do not feel comfortable giving online, make a check out to FCCEJ with Hurricane Relief in the memo line and we will send it in as a group check.

We will have TWO matching donations, the first \$500 will be matched from Missions and the second \$500 will be matched from an anonymous donor! Also, Fleet Feet in Essex (Rite-Aid Plaza) is accepting donations of reusable decent condition shoes that they are sending to areas that need them.



LAST SUNDAY ~ Tickets for the 150th Anniversary Dinner on Sale TODAY in Fellowship Hall



TODAY ~ Christmas Wreaths ON SALE to Benefit the Jamaica Trip 2019

The Jamaica Committee will be taking orders for handcrafted balsam wreaths, centerpieces and gift certificates from Victory Gardens in Jericho. Wreaths are \$25 with \$8 going to the Jamaica Trip 2019. Wreaths will be delivered 11/26. Centerpiece ordering will be until 11/19, with delivery 12/10 & 17.

TODAY~ 38th Annual Burlington CROP Walk

Help raise funds to support hunger relief & heighten awareness about global hunger.

20%:Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, 5%:JUMP, 75% :Church World Service
Carpool leaves at 12:50pm @ FCCEJ

Registration opens at 1:30pm at First Congregational Church of Burlington
'Walk route' is less than 3 miles and includes the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf.



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

Yoga @ First !

Monday class has started again PLUS Jonah has added a Thursday evening class! 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.



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 back to our regular time of 7-9pm. Join us as we embark on our first book, the 2017 Vermont Reads, "Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson. We will read the book and then Ms Woodson will be speaking at Burlington High School on October 23rd 6-8 pm and we will attend that presentation. We have copies of the book in the office, stop by and get one!

THIS Friday, October 13th, 6:30pm ~ Faith on Tap @ McGillicuddy's



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



Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$793.67

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

TODAY, October 8th ~ Music & Class (Sr High helpers)

October 15th ~ Music & Class time

October 22nd ~ Mission Sunday ~ all ages together working on a project



Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

Our 5th & 6th graders meet ONCE a month from 11:30-1:30pm

Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

November 5th ~ Junior Youth Group ~ 11:30-1:30pm

Youth Ministry

~Find ways to volunteer in the community & here at church – many things await you!

~Bring your offering and support the Humane Society of Chittenden County

~Find ways and places to connect with your God & have Spirit time

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

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

Looking for volunteers to provide dinner for 10-15 residents & staff. Great opportunity to grab a couple friends and serve on Wed, Oct 25th.

Interested in Helping With the Faith Formation Program? Contact Laurie

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 during second service. Faith is not taught, Faith is caught! Join the fun and help the children and youth catch the Spirit!

Next Food Pantry days are Thursday, October 26th, 2-6pm and Monday November 13th, 5:30-7:30pm

We are in need of baked beans, tuna fish, cereal and canned fruit to restock our cabinets.



Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs,
9am-12pm first Sat/month

Fall/Winter Donations can be dropped off at the Shop anytime.

We Need Your Help ~ First Church Craft Fest, Saturday, Nov. 11, 9am-3pm See October Newsletter for more details! Volunteer Signups 10/15-11/5 in FH

Nearly New - Accepting items NOW in Marvin Lounge. Suggestions include books, linens, kitchen items, frames, toys, craft items, decorations, pillows, pictures, etc.

Sweet Shoppe and Bakery – Please package items individually and identify whether or not they contain nuts and if they are gluten free.

Silent Auction – Hosting a dinner, a day of golf, homemade pies, stay at a summer cottage, professional photographs, theatre/sporting event tickets. All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off in the Office.

Heavenly Spirit Café - We are in need of soups, macaroni and cheese, chili and drinks.

Greeters - We especially need volunteers to help direct our shoppers in 2 hour shifts. Greeters will have the opportunity to purchase their own Church Apron at a discount!

Decorators - Sunday Nov 6th 12-2pm to decorate Marvin Lounge and Friday Nov 11th 1:30 to 3 pm to decorate Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Bogardus at 872-8972 or lbogardus@myfairpoint.net.

Wish List

Canvas Bags for shoppers, Christmas wrapping paper and greenery for decorating, Person to take pictures, People to call Silent Auction Winners 11/11 @ 3pm

Winter Clothing Drive – Donations by November 12th for Nov. Food Pantry

Got Coats?



Our Winter Clothing Drive is currently underway including clean nearly new coats, snowsuits, snowpants, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for adults and kids. We will be distributing the clothing at the Food Pantry on November 16th. We need your donations by Nov 12th, so that we have time to organize them. Please drop donations in the box in the hallway of the administrative offices marked ‘Winter Clothing Drive’. Please

contact Sue Conti at sue.conti@myfairpoint.net if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your support of this program and helping our neighbors in need.

Saturday, December 2nd ~ Vermont Food Bank Volunteer for the Holidays!

FCCEJ Sort-a-thon to be held on Saturday, December 2, 8-12:00 at Vermont Food Bank in Barre. Look for more info in the Oct. News.



Thursday, October 19th, 5:45-7pm ~ Third Thursday Family Dish Share

Join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month for a great family dish share supper, fellowship and a chance to meet others here at First Church that you may not know and reconnect with old friends. Everyone at First Church is welcome! Bring a dish to share...anything really. Come be a part of this wonderful faith community and connect with God through Christian fellowship and a meal!

Friday, October 20th ~ 150TH Anniversary Celebration Dinner

@ the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds

5:30 p.m. Social Hour, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:30 p.m. Program

Cost: \$45 per person **Tickets can be purchased until Fri, Oct 13th.** You can mail a check, payable to FCCEJ with the notation “150th Tickets” in the memo line, to FCCEJ, Attn: 150th Anniversary Committee, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452. Tickets purchased by mail will be held for pick up unless you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



Sunday, October 22nd ~ RiteAid Flu Shot Clinic

Rite Aid Pharmacy will be on hand from 8 am to 12 pm giving flu shots. Bring your Insurance and/or Medicaid card and they can handle your billing, flu shot and get you on your way!

Saturday, October 28th ~ Paul Vasile Community Concert

Paul Vasile is a freelance church musician, consultant, and composer based in New York City. A multitalented musician and dynamic worship leader, he is committed

to building, renewing, and re-shaping faith communities through music and liturgy. Paul will offer a community event open to the public on Saturday night from 7-8:30 p.m. The concert will be free and we will take a free will offering to offset Paul's trip expenses.

THIS WEEK: October 8th - 14th

- TODAY:** **8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
 10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 3:30 - 8:00pm Food Pantry [open 5:30 - 7:30pm / FH & Kitchen
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
 6:30 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Parent Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- 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 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
 6:30 - 8:30 pm Capital Campaign Committee / Youth Lounge
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Deacons / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
 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
 5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
 6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
 6:30 - 7:30 pm Currier Bells / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
 7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 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
 5:00 - 6:00 pm Calcutta Meeting / Marvin Lounge
 5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
 6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Essex Eats Out Meeting / Marvin Lounge
 7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Youth Lounge
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge
 7:30 - 10:30 pm Grange / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary

mission
M O M E N T S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 8, 2017

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Wisdom for the Way

Just like the Constitution of the United States, lots of people swear by the Ten Commandments but few have read and studied it or them deeply or paid them much mindful attention. And just because they were written on a stone doesn't mean they should feel like a stone around your neck. Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for us and we were not created for the Sabbath. This tablet, this list of "do not's" is a gift so we might be better humans and treat each other with compassion. Instead, they often get treated as if they were written as hand, feet and heart cuffs intended to restrict and adjure. Perhaps they are more about a way for us to love together & not a rule book to use as a hammer.

The idea that things are made for us and not we for them is a way to think of our buildings. Today is Access Sunday. Winston Churchill once said, "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us."

That's an interesting notion, the idea that buildings create us. If they are not welcoming then we inhabit that inhospitality and bring its philosophy into our own beings. Our interactions get shaped by the flow & levels and decoration of our buildings, and our buildings learn from us what our needs are. Buildings may become their best when we are willing to refine them and teach them what we have learned.

Our church buildings are gifts from the past and they are often made of stone, which makes them difficult to adapt. But they were made for us and intended to be tools for mission, as the church was built for mission. The United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund (CB&LF) is an affiliated ministry of our denomination, and it is the oldest church building and loan fund in the U.S., going back to 1853. It is their mission to lend financial & advisory support for how we interact with our buildings. Through their loan programs, congregations can get low-cost loans to make their buildings accessible. CB&LF is also available to help churches think through a vision for how to use & adapt their properties.

Rev. Jamesetta Ferguson, pastor at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, in Louisville, Kentucky, reached out to the Building and Loan Fund for help. Her church needed extensive rehabilitation and it sat across from a 760-unit public housing complex. In conversation with the Fund, the congregation discerned a larger plan, a greater vision for its ministry and missional use for its property. In addition to rehabilitating their building, St. Peter's built a two-story retail and office building. This property will provide the church with rental income and space to offer ministries and social services to the community. 70% of this 7,000,000 dollar project was funded by the CB&LF. Our property and buildings are gifts to us. We are not owned by them. Our buildings can learn from us.