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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E-mail: welcome@fccej.org
Website: www.fccej.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
November 5, 2017 ~ 1st Service
Celebrating Our 150th Anniversary

A Welcoming Community,
Accepting and Serving All
In the Spirit of Christ

Prelude *Prelude & Fugue in B^b Major* Bach
Prelude & Fugue in F Major Bach

A Pastoral Invitation *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 highlight events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will 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.

Special welcome to Rev. John Dorhauer: President United Church of Christ
Rev. Lynn Bujnak: Vermont Conference Minister
Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer: Director of Silver Lake Conference Center

Introit *10,000 Reasons* Myrin & Redman

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to this sacred space, a place where people have gathered for 150 years to pray to God, discern the movement of the divine in our world and to work together to create a healthy, kind and peaceful society.

Pulpit Side: We join those who have gone before and seek peace.

Lectern Side: We join those who come after and work for peace.

All: God wants peace for all of us in all times and in all places.

Leader: We come to this sacred space to pray to God, discern the movement of the divine in our world and to work together to create a healthy, kind and peaceful society in the future. Come, let us worship our God.

Opening Hymn ***For All the Saints*** **#299**

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: From the fallen Adam and Eve to the murmuring Israelites, from the disciples to the saints of God, from the beginning of time until now, everyone falls short of the glory of God, all people fail to live up to the full potential of their being, all sin before God.

People: We are not as good as we could be, both as individuals but also as a faith community. Come, let us confess our shortcomings before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Wonderful God of Forgiveness, thank you for staying with humanity through our murmurings, wonderings, tempestuous fits, moody silences and outright rebellions. Thank you for being the light in our darkness. We lay our many shortcomings before your throne of mercy and seek your forgiveness for not living up to our potential. We seek your warmth in the midst of the world's coldness. Allow our faith to create healthier lives. Teach us to love ourselves, our neighbors and You. We pray this in Christ's name, amen

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Like a parent, God always loves us and welcomes us home. Come, soak in the power and presence of the very Spirit of God and know that you are forgiven. Come, let us welcome God's grace by singing.

Spirit of the Living God # 283

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Children's Message "The President"

Kathryn & Manu are in the nursery. There is audio in there and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall. Adults are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship.

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.

Pastoral Prayer 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.

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community
A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer
Musical Response *Sevenfold Amen* Lutkin

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory Anthem *The Blessing Riddle* Choplin

Invitation

Leader: We are blessed with Vermont's natural beauty, good food, warm accommodations, friends and family and a place to worship freely. We have been given blessings in abundance. Come, let us show our gratitude.

People: We welcome the opportunity to share our belongings so that Christ's work of love and justice might continue. I am thrilled to be a part of God's community of peace here at First Church. Come, receive my gift.

Leader: Will the ushers please come forward.

***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.

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us pray. Creator and Creating God, thank you for the gifts you have so freely given to all of us. Use this offering, our church and all of us to spread a word of hope, peace, joy and love. In Christ's name, amen.

Anthem *Order My Steps* Burleigh

New Testament Scripture Reading Luke 10:25-28 [page 54]

Sermon *My Little Toil of Love* Rev. Dorhauer

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will celebrate communion by passing out the bread and cup to the congregation where we will eat the bread together and then drink the cup separately.

Special note: All the bread offered today is gluten free.. All juice used is non-alcoholic.

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!

Closing Hymn ***Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*** **#539**

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: *Grand Chorus in F* Franck

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: 1st Service Rick Dooley; 2nd Service Marie Johnson
Ushers & Greeters: 1st Service Arlene Bickford, Bart & Paulette Frisbie
Ushers & Greeters:2nd Service Linda Jackson, Andrea & Carley Goedken, Lauren Starkey

The flowers on the altar are given by Carolyn Toof in loving memory of Dick Toof.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Carol Mauger	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
Donna	Ruth Legendre	Emily Schueren & family
Sharon Kennedy	Mickey McKenzie	Ann Mudgett-Learned
Campbell Miller	Les	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

* * * TODAY * * *

Thank You For The 2018 Pledge Cards That Have Come In!

If you haven't, please return your card asap and mark either "yes" or "no" whether or not you are able to make a pledge. You may also email your pledge to Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com. Your Stewardship Committee will be calling everyone who hasn't returned their pledge card in the next several weeks. The Church is constructing the 2018 budget and needs to know how much funding we will receive from pledges. 80% of our income comes from YOU, and we depend heavily on these funds for our operations and programs.

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

The Jamaica Committee will be taking orders for handcrafted centerpieces and gift certificates from Victory Gardens in Jericho. Wreaths that have been ordered will be delivered 11/26. Centerpiece ordering will be until 11/19, with delivery 12/10 & 17.

* * * THIS WEEK * * *

Yoga @ First !

Monday and Thursday evening classes! This week, Mon will be in the gym and Thurs will be in Fellowship Hall 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 , 7-9pm

We are starting our new book, "Grounded" by Diana Butler Bass. The office has copies of the book, stop in and pick one up.

Thursday, 7:30 - 9pm ~ Confirmation

Confirmation has begun and meetings are most Thursdays throughout the year. If you are in grades 9-12 and haven't been confirmed yet, reach out to Pastor Mark, there is still time to join this year's class!

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to $905.71

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, Nov 5th ~ Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship~ Spiritual Friends

November 12th & 19th ~ Faith Formation Class Time

Bible Partners ~ Sign up TODAY!

Our 3rd–6th graders will team up with an adult or Sr High youth to read from the Bible together.

Today, November 5th …Meet your partner in Fellowship Hall following 2nd service.

November 12th - December 10th – read together on Sundays

December 17th – celebrate our time together at a Family Dish Share after 2nd service worship.

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

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

Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

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

Jr & Sr High Youth Ministry

November 17th & 18th Pie Baking Overnight

November 26th Christmas Pageant Practice Begins, 6-8pm

* * * Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate * * *

Visits & Calls Needed

Marion Ferris would love some visitors and/or phone calls. She is currently at the Green Mountain Nursing Home in the Fort. Her phone is 735-3674 (corrected number)

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, Nov 22nd.

Next Food Pantry days are Monday November 13th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, November 16th, 2-6pm

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
November 4th, 11th & 24th, 9am-12pm
Fall/Winter Donations can be dropped off at the Shop anytime.

LAST DAY FOR SIGNUPS ~ Craft Fest, Sat, Nov. 11, 9am-3pm See November Newsletter for more details!

Nearly New - Still accepting items through this week in the Marvin Lounge!

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 - TODAY! 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.

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. More info in the Nov. News. Questions, contact cynthiak222@gmail.com

Winter Clothing Drive

Donations by November 12th for Nov. Food Pantry

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 sueconti@comcast.net if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your support of this program and helping our neighbors in need.

* * * SAVE THE DATES * * *

November 10th ~ Faith on Tap, 6:30pm @ McGillicuddy's

November 12th , Sunday ~ Leftovers Sale!

Leftover items from Sweet Shoppe and Heavenly Spirit Café will be on sale from 8:30-11:30. Nearly New items in the Gym will be $1 a bag from 9:30-11:30 am. You can pick up Silent Auction Items 8:30-12 in Marvin Lounge.

November 19th ~ Third *Sunday* Dish Share & Advent Event/Decorating

We are combining our Third Thursday potluck supper for November with our Advent Decorating Event. Two great fun events all together! All are asked to bring a dish to share on Sunday the 19th and join CE and the Deacons for a time of fellowship and lunch following the 2nd service in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our time together decorating the Sanctuary and make three pieces of a nativity set. Sign ups for Nativity pieces start **TODAY** in Fellowship Hall!

November 23rd ~ Thanksgiving Confirmation Service Project

Don't want to cook Thanksgiving dinner? Not interested in the mess or clean up? Walker Stapleton, as a Confirmation Service Project, will deliver a free home cooked turkey dinner with all the fixings to any First Church member who would like a yummy treat on Thanksgiving Day. He and his family are looking forward to coming to your door with a meal for you to enjoy. Call 881-6824 to signup by 11/19/17. Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26th ~ Hands-On Mission Project Sunday

December 8th ~ EJRP Train Hop

THIS WEEK: November 5th - 11th

TODAY:
8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary
10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:30 - 12:30 pm Music Committee / Choir Loft
11:30 - 1:30 pm Junior Youth Group / 3rd Floor/Gym
11:30 - 1:00 pm Craft Fest Meeting & Decorating / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 6:00 pm Parker Service (Erica Eastham) / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge

MONDAY:
9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
5:30 - 7:30 pm Girl Scout Troop / Third Floor
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall

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
6:00 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm Church Council / 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
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 8:00 pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge

THURSDAY:
10 - 11:30 am Art Class / Third Floor / Gym
12:00 - 1:30 pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 9:00 pm Craft Fest Set Up / Gym
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
5:00 - 6:30 pm Jamaica Bound Committee / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Fellowship Hall
6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge

FRIDAY:
****DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
2:00 - 7:00 pm Craft Fest Setup / FH , Marvin Lounge, Gym

SATURDAY:
9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship / Sanctuary
9:00 am - 3:00 pm 5 Corners Craft Fest / FH, ML, Gym

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / OFF SITE
1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary

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] Sue Wood suewood@myfairpoint.net or Linda Bogardus at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net
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 MOMENTS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 5,2017
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Partners in Service
Matthew 23: 1-12

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi

There is nothing clearer about the Gospel of Jesus Christ than that it calls us to service. We all weigh our service to our families and our own well-being against the call of a world full of need. Work and church and community all vie for a place on our calendar. However, after years of working, you might find yourself moving into a part-time job or retiring. Or, you might be a recent college graduate with a summer to volunteer. Do you ever think that volunteering away from home in an unfamiliar setting could also be a kind of adventure? Do you have time in your life to have an adventure and be of service to others?

Partners in Service is a program of the United Church of Christ that offers opportunities for volunteer placement around the country. The placements can be as short as a summer and as long as twelve months. You could be rehabbing houses in Fresno, California, supporting humane borders in Tucson, Arizona, or working with LGBTQ youth in Atlanta, Georgia. How about volunteering at Heifer International Farm? Working with addicts and health services? Want an international volunteer placement? If you are an adult of any age, and have the time, you can have an adventure in service. Go to ucc.org and search for the application to Partners in Service.

Betzi Yungclas is a member of the First Community United Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas, and a serial volunteer for Partners in Service. She saw a brochure for Partners at a Conference-wide meeting and knew that it was something she could do. She had spent thirty years working for AT&T where she was the first woman in the country to climb telephone poles. Now, volunteering is her work. She has been placed in a variety of disaster relief settings from Katrina to her more recent work helping the recovery effort after Hurricane Matthew. She has also spent a long-term opportunity working with Humane Borders in Arizona.

One of Betzi's co-volunteers is Jon Wallace, a member of Park Hill Congregational United Church of Christ, Denver, Colorado. Of his experience Jon says, "Bringing communities together, teaching, and companioning them towards recovery and resilience, brings joy and gratefulness as I see God at work through the hands of the church and others."

What about you, or someone you know? Is there time on your hands? Do you wonder what it would be like to work for peace with others of a like mind, to help embody justice, to create hope in hopeless situations, advocate for clean and affordable housing, build new homes after a disaster? Betzi says that picking up that brochure long ago changed her life. Do you want a change in your life? Remember Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant." Is there service in your future?