

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

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**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  
January 7, 2018  
*The First Sunday After Epiphany*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All*

*In the Spirit of Christ*

Prelude

*Prelude on 'O Morning Star'  
O Morning Star*

Balcombe  
Ritter

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 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 guests. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.*

Musical Introit

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

Duck

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to the season of Epiphany, a season that lifts up some of the highlights of Christ's life and ministry. From Christ's baptism to his transfiguration, from the miracles performed to his great teachings: Jesus still offers us a way of life that yields great rewards.

**People: Jesus and his teachings give us the clearest example of the God we know. We listen and follow his Way so that our lives might be more meaningful, joyful and full of peace.**

Leader: Come, let us worship our God, listen to Jesus' story and try to discern the warmth of the Spirit in our lives.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

**#351**

A Time of Confession

A Call to Confession

Leader: It is an ancient tradition of the church to seek forgiveness and try to amend all broken relationships before receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion.

**People: On this first Sunday of the new year, let us confess as a community of faith and as individuals our shortcomings, hoping that Christ's continued entrance into our lives might create healthier and more joyful people.**

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Fairest Lord Jesus, we are grateful that you came to us from humble beginnings for we all fall short of our potential. Wonderful Counselor, we are humbled that you lived among us for a life time and understand us as only a fellow companion could. As we begin this new year, forgive us for our past shortcomings and ways we failed to show kindness and compassion. As we look to the future, help us to use our past mistakes to improve our way of being in your world.**

### **The Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Jesus says to come for his yoke is easy and his burden is light. Come and welcome God's light into your heart for all your shortcomings are forgiven. Come and feel the peace that comes from abundant love. Go and live more abundantly.

**People: I will try to live a healthier, more peaceful and forgiving life in 2018, so help me God.**

### **Children's Message**

*After the Children's Message for second service, preschool and kindergarteners are invited to follow Laurie out for a time of Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends and all will return for Communion. During both services, 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.**

Anthem

*Let Your Light Shine*

soloists: Judy Larrabee & Doug Olufsen

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer**

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

Rosetti/Whitney

**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.**

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*Who Would Send a Baby?*

Beall

**\*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.**

New Testament Readings

Historical Acts 19:1-10 [page 106]

Gospel Mark 1:1-11 [page 27]

Communion Meditation

*Baptism*

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Anthem

*Claire de Lune* [soloist Abigail Evans]

Debussey

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*Today, at the First Service, 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. This symbolizes both the individual and corporate nature of the faith.*

*At the Second Service, we will invite people to come forward to receive the elements. This emphasizes both our response to Christ's invitation and the sense of belonging to a community.*

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

*Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!*

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:

*Rejoice*

Mason

\*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: Gary Smith

Ushers & Greeters: Donald & Suzanne Foss

*The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of our members who passed away in 2017;  
 Ernest Wilfred Drost Jr., Rachel Ellen Herbig Jarvis, William F. Meyer,  
 Daniel Kevin McMaster, Hazel Ruth Billheimer, and Doris Farnsworth*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Carol Mauger

*We have 'reset' our Prayer Ministry for 2018, please let the office  
 know if you would like a name added back on, you can write it on the Friendship Pad,  
 call or email the office or send us a note, welcome@fcej.org*

\* \* \* **TODAY** \* \* \*



**TODAY, Capital Campaign Informational Meetings**

In the Marvin Lounge, after each service.

**Hannaford Cards & Reloads are on Sale TODAY!**



## **2018 Flower Chart is UP TODAY!**

In the hallway out of Fellowship Hall, choose a date to remember loved ones or honor a special date in your family! \$34 for the flowers and you can take them or leave them for us to find someone who needs some love!



### **TODAY ~Pick up Your Pledge Envelopes**

If you ordered envelopes with your pledge to FCCEJ they are in the Fellowship Hall on one of the tables.

**Contribution Reports have been emailed and mailed from Pat Seaver, if you have any questions about yours, call or email her at 879-4445 vtri2@aol.com.**

### **Early Bird Calcutta Tickets On Sale**

Early Bird Tickets for the Cabin Fever Calcutta on March 10, 2018 are on sale until January 15th. By purchasing an Early Bird ticket, you are entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize, to be awarded the night of the Calcutta. Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall and get yours today.



### **Moving Help Needed**

Want to earn \$20 an hour? On January 15th, we're helping move the current occupant from the parsonage. We'll start at 10am and probably end at 3pm. ONLY TWO more slots, ages 16 and up.

Email Josh at [jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org)

**\* \* \* THIS WEEK \* \* \***



### **“Our Home, Our Future, Our Time”**

#### **Capital Campaign Information Meetings**

Wed, Jan. 10 @ 6pm, Sun, Jan. 14th @ 9:45 & 11:30 (after both services)

All info sessions in the Marvin Lounge

Learn all about the proposed capital projects and budget! Childcare will be available. A preliminary list of proposed projects was developed by our Trustees, with input from Church Council, committees, and the congregation during a feasibility study last fall. We have been working with John Alden/Scott & Partners to develop more detailed plans and cost estimates. We look forward to sharing this information at the January meetings, and hearing your feedback! Be sure to mark your calendars for **Annual Meeting on January 28**, when we will vote to move forward with the campaign!

For the latest info on the campaign, check out the Capital Campaign tab at the top of our website, [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)

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

**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017**

***The Final 2017 Total \$1184.12***

*Humane Society of Chittenden County* relies completely on outside donations to stay open and helps give pets a home while waiting for their new

homes. ***TODAY starts the 2018 offering. On January 21<sup>st</sup> you will be voting for your 2018 Offering Choice on our Hands On Mission Sunday! Join us!***

Keep remembering to bring your offering

\$1 a week can go a long way!

Bring your Faith Formation Sunday School offering each week and use the envelopes in the pews. It is really important to use them so we know where you want your \$ to go.



**Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

**Preschool – 6th grade**

*January 7th ~ Holy Communion Sunday ~ Spiritual Friends ~ Intergenerational Worship*

*January 14th ~ Faith Formation Class time*

**Junior Youth Group @ FCCEJ**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> graders meet twice a month from 11:30-1:30pm

Faith & Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

***January 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Junior Youth Group ~ 11:30-1:30pm***

Sign up sheets & Calendars are posted on the Bulletin Board outside Laurie's Office

**Sr. High Youth Group**

Our FIRST BIG High School Youth Group event is January 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. This will be a High School Youth Group Lock-in Kick-off with Pastor Josh. All high school youth, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, are invited to attend. Arrive to the church at 7pm on Friday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and leave 9am on Saturday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Please, wear clothes comfortable for painting.

For part of our time, we will paint the Youth Lounge.

**Parsonage Painting Party**

January 19, 20, and 21st. The parsonage needs to be painted before much needed new carpet is installed. We are going to paint and eat snacks, so we need painters and/or snack providers. Sign-up sheet next to Josh's office (blue office).



\* \* \* **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, January 24th.



**Next Food Pantry days are Monday, January 8th, 5:30-7:30pm  
and Thursday, January 25th, 2-6pm**

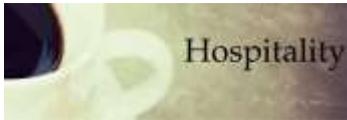
We are in need of baked beans, tuna fish, cereal, jam & jelly and  
canned fruit to restock our cabinets.

**In Need of Long Red Toboggan Sleds to Borrow**

For our clients to bring their Food Pantry bags home  
in the winter-the shopping carts don't work well!



**Hospitality Needs YOU!**



The Hospitality Committee is extremely low on members and  
helpers. Unfortunately, this has and will result in coffee hour  
not taking place after each Sunday service on a consistent  
basis. If you are willing to volunteer your time to support the  
hospitality work, please contact Jackie Parks, Hospitality Chair at 324-9206. Thank you.

**Thanks From The Giving Tree!**

Again this Christmas season, the many families who received gifts for  
their children through the Giving Tree program have expressed so often  
how very grateful they are for the generosity of our congregation. One  
mother stated that our gifts mean that her children would wake up on  
Christmas morning with their voices filled with excitement and  
joy. Another stated that our gifts would be the only ones that her child would  
receive. It can be difficult for us to imagine what it must be like to struggle to celebrate  
the spirit of giving at Christmas. Thank you to each of you for bringing joy to so many  
during this season of Christ's birth.



**Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop**

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs  
First Saturday, February 3rd 9am-12pm

Winter Donations can be dropped off at the Shop anytime.  
*Winter Potluck, January 15th, 6pm, Marvin Lounge*

**\* \* \* SAVE THE DATES \* \* \***



**January 21st ~ Summer Mission Trip Meeting**

After First Service, all 7th-12th grade youth interested in NYC Summer Mission Trip, meet in the Marvin Lounge

**January 21st ~ New Member Class**

After Second Service, come join us and learn more about FCCEJ and the United Church of Christ.



**Congregational Meeting**



**January 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Ask the Pastor Sunday Worship/Annual Meeting** ~ 10am worship/11:15am meeting

**February 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Praise-a-Palooza : Soup and Songs of Praise**

FCCEJ and Finally @ First are thrilled to again be hosting this fun evening for all ages! Mark your calendars for Saturday night, February 10<sup>th</sup> and join us at 5:30pm for a Soup Dinner followed at 6:30pm by an evening of praise music by local worship bands. Join us in welcoming bands from area churches and our very own

Finally @ First. A free will offering will be taken. Bring a friend!



***March 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Jamaica Bound Calcutta***

***March 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Pretzel Sunday***

***April 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Easter Sunday***

***May 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Mother's Day & Jazz Sunday***

**THIS WEEK: January 7th - 13th**

- TODAY:** 8:30am **Worship Service- / Sanctuary**  
9:15am **Capital Campaign Informational Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
10:15am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
11:15am **Capital Campaign Informational Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
11:30am - 1:30 pm **Junior Youth Group / FH/Third Floor/YL**  
11:30 - 12:30 pm **Music Committee / Choir Loft**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / 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 / Marvin Lounge**  
3:30 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly 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**
- TUESDAY:** 8:30 - 10:00 am **Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge**  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
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 Open**  
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall**  
6:00 - 7:00 pm **Capital Campaign Informational Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
6:30 - 7:30 pm **Carrier Bells / Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall**
- THURSDAY:** 10:00 - 11:30 am **Art Class / Gym / Third Floor**  
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
5:00 - 6:30 pm **Jamaica Bound Calcutta Committee / Marvin Lounge**  
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Gym**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Pack 630 Meeting / Fellowship Hall**  
6:15 - 7:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**  
6:30 - 8:30 pm **Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Essex Eats Out Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Confirmation Class / Youth Lounge**
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
3:30 - 7:00 pm **Goff Memorial Service & Reception / Sanctuary & FH**  
6:30 - 10:30 pm **Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge**  
7:30 - 10:30 pm **Grange / Fellowship Hall**
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm **Nepali Community Worship / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
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@gmail.com]  
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fccej.org]  
Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fccej.org]  
Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fccej.org]

### Music Ministry

Cherub Music: *Jenny Bourn* [jennybourn4@gmail.com]  
Currier Bell Choir Director: *Carolyn Harris* [899-6759]  
Finally @ First Director: *Rick Dooley* [rickdooley5@gmail.com]  
Heavenly Harmony Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.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@gmail.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](mailto:suewood@myfairpoint.net) or  
*Linda Bogardus* at [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net](mailto: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](mailto:lbogardus@myfairpoint.net)]

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

Sunday, January 7, 2018  
The Baptism of Christ  
Mark 1:4-11

Defining Moments

After John Dorhauer became UCC General Minister and President he went on a journey to listen to the people of this denomination. He and the Board of Directors of the UCC were looking for a way to broadly name our core values.

*"We were hoping to find a phrase that would pop, that really captured our essence," Dorhauer said. When we asked you what you would see if we were successful at our mission, these words appeared: 'A just world for all.' The second I saw those words in print, my heart leapt. This vision calls upon all of us — no matter what our political or theological commitments are; no matter whether we identify as an urban, rural or town setting; no matter whether we are a large, small, pastor-sized or family-sized congregation; whether we are a CHHSM [Council for Health and Human Service Ministries] agency or a conference board of directors — all of us covenantally bear now the same responsibility. We must faithfully answer the question: how do we embody or incarnate a commitment to build a just world for all?"*

In the Gospel of Mark the story of Jesus does not begin in the Temple or the stable, it begins at the Jordan with John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus. Jesus, newly baptized and blessed by God, moves out from this moment into his world, calling disciples and bringing the good news that God is announcing a new world—a just world.

How, then, do we as members of local churches and disciples of that same Jesus embody that commitment to A Just World For All? What Reverend Dorhauer found on his trip crisscrossing this country was that local churches were already doing this. We were embodying that mission every day through our love of children, our love of neighbor and our love of this creation. What's different is not that we will all line up to do something but that our denominational infrastructure will become our megaphone, our social media platform, and our storyteller about what it is we do to further this just world for all.

Think about your church and how you express your love for this world. Tell that story so that we all know what we're doing and how much we mean to our communities and one another. The world is cracked and broken but we are purveyors of hope and how—the-world—might—look one day. This is our call to imagine together what the things we do mean for the all of us. This is our defining moment as the church of Jesus Christ.