

***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



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

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

**One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fcej.org

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
February 11, 2018
Transfiguration Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Prelude

Andante
Consolation
Hear My Prayer

Schumann
Mendelssohn
Mendelssohn

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

Open Wide the Doors

Angotti

Call to Worship

Leader: God draws us upward; the Divine draws us to the mountaintop to view the immensity of creation and commune with the very presence of the Lord.

People: For thousands of years, the faithful have travelled to the top of their own world to meet, talk and pray to their Maker.

Leader: From Abraham to Moses, from Elijah to Isaiah, prophets, priests and kings have found direction and guidance from the top of mountains.

People: Jesus offered the beatitudes, showed his transfiguration self, expressed sacrificial power and founded the church all on top of mountains.

Leader: We Vermonters seek refuge, power and divinity on top of our Green Mountains. We are better able to envision a better world when looking upon it. Come, let us worship God and thank the Lord for meeting us up there.

***Opening Hymn**

Blessed Be Your Name (song sheet)

Redman

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 second service, preschool-8th grade are welcome to go to their Sunday school class for our Faith Formation program. Adults 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. For first & second services, Adrienne 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.

Anthem

Old Church Choir

Williams

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Medema

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Spirit in the Sky

Greenbaum

***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 Prophetic Isaiah 2:1-4 [page 489]

New Testament Gospel Mark 9:2-9 [page 34]

***Hymn of Preparation**

We Would Be Building

#607

Sermon

Mountaintop Visions

Rev. Mendes

New Members

Frank & Katie Grenon (and daughter Nova)

Closing Hymn

We Shall Overcome

#570

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Our Home, Our Future, Our Time

Sung to the tune of Go Tell It on The Mountain

Refrain

Come, let us work together
To fix the roof and parking lot
Yes, we can have an impact
on our community.

Verse 1

While our Trustees were planning
The project list so long
We tried to light a fire
With this our campaign song

Verse 2

The congregation wondered
Is the goal too high
To raise the needed money
We must reach for the sky

Verse 3

Our Home, Our Future, Our Time
Our love can see us through
For God sent down his blessing
So we know what to do.

*Postlude:

Allegro Maestoso

Newell

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: Josh Sharp
Greeters & Ushers: Erna Deutsch & Andrea Sharp

*The flowers on the altar are given by Cindy Longwell
in honor of her mom, Norma, for all her loving support.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Carol Mauger
Mike Heston
Carol Janwich

Iris
Marion Schneider

Bill Bogardus
Eric & Shannon

Please let the office 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@fcej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *

PURCHASE TODAY! Jamaica Bound Calcutta Tickets!

Saturday, March 10th! Mark your calendars to save the date! Cocktails at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. Jamie Polli will begin the Calcutta at 7:30 PM. Tickets cost \$125 each and include dinner for two and the chance to win the grand prize of \$1000 and many other tremendous prizes awarded throughout the evening. Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall today!



TODAY, After Both Services ~ Renew Your Wedding Vows

After each service on February 11th, the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day, we will offer anyone who would like to renew your commitment to your partner to stay in the sanctuary after church and renew your vows. The service is no more than five minutes but you re-state your promises, hear an appropriate scripture, accept a prayer on behalf of your love, and seal the renewal with a kiss. Each couple will also receive a gift to remember the special day. Come as you are or dress up a bit, get your hair done and wear a corsage. All proceedings are of course free!

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



Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$42.41

*Your 2018 Offering Choice is **Jamaica School Children***

Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.

Vote totals were: Jamaica Children ...114; OMCS ...56; JUMP ...54

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 – 8th grade

February 11th & 18th ~ Faith Formation Class time

February 25th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday



Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders meet TWICE a month from 11:30-1:30pm

Faith & Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

Parents sign up for meals and to volunteer is on the JY board

February 18th ~ Fun Youth Time

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

February 11th ~ Meet at Church, 5-7pm

February 18th ~ Laser Tag, 5-7pm



Youth Mission Trip to New York City

June 17th-22nd: We're going to NYC for a Mission Trip to work on various projects throughout the city. Any youth 7th grade and up is welcome to attend. \$150 per participant. 50% due by February 28th. Interested? Talk to Pastor Josh

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

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for volunteers for February 28th & March 28th . Please contact Ed Steele at 871-5897

edwardmsteele@msn.com if interested or with any questions.

There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway entering Fellowship Hall. We need four (4) people to volunteer for each date. Our FCCEJ group will decide the menu to feed 12-16 people (which includes the FCCEJ cooks), and then purchase and prepare the food (typically includes the main course as well as vegetables or salad – dessert is optional). The Dismas House provides beverages, condiments, set-up and clean-up. There is no age on who can volunteer, great for retired folks on down and you can donate part of the meal even if you are not able to attend. Many people from our community have volunteered and it is a rewarding mission!



Next Food Pantry days are Monday, February 12th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, February 22nd, 2-6pm

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

We need egg cartons again, please!

Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs

February 17th, 9am-1pm

First Saturday, March 3rd 9am-1pm

Doing your winter closet cleanout? Don't forget Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop, for your donations! We welcome women's , men's, and children's clothing in clean and sellable condition. We also accept clean dishes that are not chipped, glasses and decorative items, picture frames and clean towels and blankets. Thanks to all who currently make donations. as your giving is appreciated by many in our community. For holiday giving, proceeds from sales were distributed to local non profits including Essex Meals on Wheels, VT Respite House, Steps to End Domestic Violence, JUMP, Katie Currier Memorial Fund, VNA, HOPE Lodge, COTS and the Jamaican Trip. There's a donation box on shop porch. Contact Sue Wood, Linda Bogardus with any questions.



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

February 14th, 7pm ~ Ash Wednesday

Lent starts early this year and it always starts with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is when we acknowledge that we are a creature like all others, created by God and precious, perhaps unique, but still a creature. God created us. This year, the Ash Wednesday service will be a little different so come and draw on this ancient ritual to bring depth and meaning to your life.



February 16, 6:30pm ~ Faith on Tap!

Mark your calendars for this discussion Topic: Faith, Wealth and Poverty: Can Christianity feel at home within nations where capital determines one's importance, and is there such a thing as a Christian-based economy?

February 18th ~ Outdoor Ministry Special Offering

Help support our VT Outdoor Ministry and our UCC Camp programs. Half will go to scholarships for VT campers to attend the week at Rock Point and the other half will help children and youth from this church attend that week or another week at a

UCC camp. Help children & youth spend a week in God's creation ... connecting, making friends, learning and growing in faith. By giving, the UCCOM can continue to be a vibrant ministry that provides many an introduction to a life-long spiritual journey resulting in a relationship that lasts a lifetime. The VT UCC week at Rock Point camp in Burlington is July 29th – August 3rd for youth going into 5th to 8th grade. For more info, see the Outdoor Ministry board in the downstairs Narthex by the glass doors.



February 21st, 7-8:30pm ~ Sermon Talkback TWO!

Starting on February 21st, from 7-8:30, there will be a second evening Sermon Talkback group led by either Rev. Mark or Rev. Josh. Once people come, we will determine if folks want a snack or not. There will be a pot of decaf ready to go. Come by yourself or bring a friend and together we will unpack the sermon and explore other topics.



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

March 10th ~ Jamaica Bound Calcutta

March 11th ~ Pretzel Sunday Sign Up in Fellowship Hall
HS Youth /Adult volunteers ~ 4 different shifts
Donations for materials needed

Thursday, March 15th ~ Third Thursday Potluck Dish Share 5:45 to 7pm

March 25th ~ Palm Sunday, Laurentian Singers (from SLU) afternoon concert

April 1st ~ Easter Sunday

April 15th, 3-5pm ~ Joe's Big Band Concert

May 14th ~ Mother's Day & Jazz Sunday

May 20th ~ Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday

May 26th ~ Bob Hullstrung's Memorial Service,
W. Swanton United Methodist, 2:30pm

June 3rd ~ ONE 9:30am service ~ Ice Cream Social

July 29th –August 3rd ~ UCC Camp week 'HC goes to VT' at Rock Point



August 6th -10th ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2018

Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

Monday – Friday from 9am to 11:45am

VB Camp is a week of energy and excitement of seeing God's Love in Action! All are encouraged to join up and be a part of this fun week!

Calling all KIDS ~~ Registration is now OPEN!

Groups: You & Me (toddler & parent/grandparent)

Preschool (three & fours - potty trained) up through those entering 5th grade in the fall.

Now Recruiting for ...

Station Leader: Bible Drama ~ Crafts ~ Discovery ~ Games ~ Music ~ Snack

Helpers: Youth (entering sixth grade & up), College Students/ Adults of all ages!

See Laurie for more information and to sign up!

September 9th ~ Welcome Back Sunday ~ two services begin

THIS WEEK: February 11th-17th

- TODAY:** 8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary
10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
1:00pm George Dunbar Service & Reception / YL/Sanctuary/FH & Kitchen
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
5:00 - 7:00pm High School Youth Group / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
3:30 - 8:00 pm Food Pantry (HFP open 5:30-7:30)/FH & Gym
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 - 9:00pm Deacons Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - 3:00pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
3:00 - 5:00pm HFPantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
6:30 - 7:30 pm Currier Bells / Gym
7:00 - 8:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Marvin Lounge
- THURSDAY:** 12:00 - 1:30 pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge
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
5:45 - 7:00 pm Third Thursday Potluck / FH & Kitchen
6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** ****MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship / Sanctuary
9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary
4:00 pm- 7:00 am Boy Scout Overnight / all church

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]
Interim Music Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.com]
Interim Choir Director: *Denise Keating* [j_keating7@comcast.net]
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 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]



Our Home, Our Future, Our Time – NEWS & NOTES

About “Campaign Visits” & Making a Pledge...

One of the most important goals for this Campaign is to help people feel even more connected to our church and one another...after all, this is **Our Home!**

Everyone in the church will have an opportunity for a group or individual visit with one of our trained “Campaign Visitors,” people who have volunteered to meet with folks to talk about the Church, listen to stories about what it means to our members, and answer any questions about the Campaign before confidential pledges are made.

The visit can be in your home, your office, the church, a café...wherever is most comfortable for you. *We want you to know that the home visit is NOT about asking for specific amounts of money – that is for you to decide and your pledge is completely confidential.* We believe you will enjoy getting to know someone better (or making a new friend), while you learn more about this important step we are taking together in the life of our Church.

Your Campaign visitor will bring a pledge card for you to fill out. At the end of your visit, you can place your confidential pledge in a sealed envelope and give it to your visitor, or if you need more time, you can return it to the church office. Your sealed envelope will only be opened by Campaign Treasurer (Dan Petherbridge). The Campaign Treasurer and FCCEJ’s Financial Secretary (Pat Seaver) are the only ones who will know pledge/gift amounts.

When will I be contacted about a visit?

The first phase of Campaign, known as a “quiet phase,” involves reaching out to an initial group of church leaders. During this time, we will also be gearing up for an **All-Church Campaign Kick-Off Celebration on Sunday, April 8 after the second service.** After the Kick-Off, we will reach out to the full congregation. We hope you will say YES to a visit when a volunteer contacts you!

Questions? Want to get involved?

Contact Co-Chairs Dave Johnson or Kaki McGeary

Check out our new blog on our website (under Capital Campaign/Campaign News)...and follow us on Facebook—First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC—for more pictures and information.