

***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](mailto:welcome@fcej.org)**

**Website: [www.fcej.org](http://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  
March 4, 2018  
*The Third Sunday of Lent*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All*

*In the Spirit of Christ*

Prelude *Sun of My Soul* Hursley  
*Largo* 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 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 *Blessed* Herbolsheimer

Call to Worship

Leader: We are busy, distracted, apathetic and focused on the details of life. And yet, we come here as individuals seeking the living presence of the eternal God.

**People: Spirit of the Living God, come and meet us here in this place AND give us eyes to see you in the details of life.**

Leader: We are caught up in work and play, in family and friends and in the affairs of the nation and world. And yet, we come here seeking to be part of a community of faith that with your help can change the world for the better.

**People: Spirit of the Living God, come and enliven our corporate lives with your presence, call to love and challenge for justice.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, come and join us now as we sing of your glory!

**\*Opening Hymn *Sing Praise To God, Our Highest Good* #6 (vs. 1-3)**

## Lighting the Lenten Candles: Jesus Entering the Temple

### A Time of Confession

#### Call to Confession

**Leader:** It is easy to give up chocolate or caffeine for 40 days, but taking a look deep within one's self can be painful, scary, and exhausting. And yet we are called in this season of Lent to be different, to be intentional, to be reflective, to be penitent. So let us open ourselves to God's saving forgiveness.

**People:** Let us fear no more. God calls us to seek forgiveness, not because our Loving Creator revels in punishment, but because the Divine Presence longs to love us earnestly and openly. We pause before you Mighty One and seek your transforming grace.

#### Unison Prayer of Confession

**Holy One** it is easy to want to forgo Lent. It is no fun. It is not easy. Slow our minds, break free our burdened hearts, and heal our aching wounds. Help us to look within that we might begin to experience you in all your creation. Forgive us for not forgiving ourselves and recognizing you within our lives. Help us in letting go of old hurts and enliven us to begin to know you differently. Let this time of reflection be one of profound transformation: one in which we find ourselves within you in ways that dazzle and delight. Hear our silent confession as we seek to be more Christlike.

#### The Assurance of Pardon

**Everyone:** Majestic Spirit, we know in you there is no darkness. We celebrate that you bring light to the darkest of places. Thank you for loving us unconditionally and forever seeking to be in relationship with us. Amen!

### Children's Message

*During both services, Adrienne is in the Nursery where there is a speaker to hear the worship service and the service is streamed in our Fellowship Hall. Second Service after the Children's Message, preschool & kindergarteners are invited to follow Laurie out for a time of music & Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends and all will return for communion. 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 by Sanctuary Choir

*Take Now My Voice*

Nolan

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

**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.**

**Congregational Sung Response #193.....*In the Cross of Christ I Glory***

**When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me: Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified:  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*This is Our Gift*

Sibelius

**\*Doxology #565.....*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

**Treasure too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred**

**Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.**

**Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.**

**Born with talents, make us servants, fit to answer at your throne.**

New Testament Scripture Readings

Epistle I Corinthians 1:18-31 [page 127]

Gospel Mark 11:15-19 [page 37]

Communion Meditation

*God's Foolishness*

Rev. Mendes

**\*Hymn of Approach**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

**#493**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Both services will observe communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person. Please wait for the minister to direct you to eat the bread together as one body: you are welcome to drink the cup as the Spirit moves each person; this symbolizes both the corporate and the individual nature of our relationship to our God.*

*Special note: ALL the bread used today is GLUTEN FREE BREAD and all the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

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

**\*Closing Hymn**

***Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory***

**#610**

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:**

*Aurelia*

Wesley

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

*Thank you to Judy & Shannon McCullen for the beautiful flute music.*

Deacon: Lauren Starkey

Ushers & Greeters:

1st Service: Mary Jane Allen, Mary Ann Warren; Betty & Bill Adams

2nd Service: Eva Cunningham Firkey & Peter Firkey

*The flowers on the altar are given by Sharon Dettenrieder  
in loving memory of her son, Eric Dettenrieder.*

*The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of McKenna Violet Paquette. With  
congratulations to Grandmother, Cindy Longwell & Great Grandmother, Norma Edwards*



Discussion Topic: What are our diverse thoughts/beliefs about God, and how do they speak to tragedies such as the Parkland shooting?



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

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

Sign Up in Fellowship Hall-Donations Needed  
HS Youth /Adult volunteers ~ 4 different shifts



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

**New Nursery Staff**



Please help us welcome our new staff person to our Nursery, Adrienne Hurst. Adrienne is currently a senior at the University of Vermont in the Early Childhood Special Education Program. She grew up in Milton, VT and currently lives in Burlington. She enjoys snowboarding, swimming and spending time with her family. She is looking forward to meeting everyone and being a part of our faith community!

**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018**

*Total for 2018 \$163.36*

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

Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.

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 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Communion Sunday ~ Spiritual Friends ~ Intergenerational Worship

*Children & youth are encouraged to sign up to be a reader in worship. Connect with Pastor Mark, Pastor Josh or Laurie on the Sunday before or during the week leading up to the 1st Sunday of the month.*

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pretzel Sunday ~ Peer class time

**Junior Youth @ FCCEJ**

*5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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*

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Called to Care Easter basket craft & More

## High School Youth @ FCCEJ

TONIGHT, *March 4th ~ 5pm* Youth Group meets at Spare Time  
in Colchester for Bowling Fun!

*March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 5pm* ~ Meet at church, wear clothes to get dirty, we will  
start to grow vegetables for our new church garden



## Youth Mission Trip to New York City

June 17<sup>th</sup>-22nd: We're going to NYC for a Mission Trip to work  
on various projects throughout the city. Any youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade and  
up is welcome to attend. \$150 per participant. 50% down as  
soon as possible. Interested? For more details ask Josh!

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

## Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for volunteers for March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please  
contact Ed Steele at 871-5897 [edwardmsteele@msn.com](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com) if interested  
or with any questions. There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway  
entering Fellowship Hall.



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

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

*We are again ALL set with Egg Cartons-thank you SO much!*

## Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Open Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm

Last Day for Bag Sale. Fill a Hannaford grocery bag for only \$2 –  
lots of winter items available

Open Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm

Spring and Summer Items on Sale

Start your new Wardrobe

Volunteers Needed for Thursday evening Shift from 6 pm to 8 pm. If you have a  
friend or relative who might be interested, Please contact Elaine Raymond at  
[ebraymond@gmail.com](mailto:ebraymond@gmail.com). The shop provides training.

Don't Forget The Thrift Shop is looking for nearly new items.





## **March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Hands On Mission Sunday-Church World Service Hygiene Kits**



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

It's time to gather more items and complete our hygiene kits that we started in the fall. The CWS drop off location closed for the winter and will open back up in April. On the next page are the items that we need donated to finish the kits. Please sign up and help give to complete the kits and lend a hand this Lenten season. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sundays at the purple table or email Laurie. On March 18<sup>th</sup> the kids will put these remaining hygiene kits together. If you would like to help on this day with the kids, please let Laurie know.

- 45 wide tooth combs**
- 44 individually wrapped bath size bars of soap**
- 34 fingernail/toenail clippers**
- 31 toothbrushes individually wrapped**

### **Volunteer and be a Counselor at Camp**

Are you 18yrs or older by July? Do you like working with junior youth? Looking for community service or something really good to put on your resumè? Graduating High School, in college or out, you too could have a fun week with free room and board counseling campers during the 2018 summer! Think of it... no cooking or laundry for a week, just great fun in God's outdoors! Especially recruiting for Rock Point week. See Laurie for more information.



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

***Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>*** ~ Third Thursday Potluck Dish Share 5:45 to 7pm

***March 18<sup>th</sup>*** ~ Healing Service 7pm



***March 25<sup>th</sup>*** ~ Palm Sunday  
Sleepless Knights (from St. Mike's)  
& Laurentian Singers (from SLU)  
4pm Concert, Free Will, All Welcome!



***March 29<sup>th</sup>*** ~ Maundy Thursday 6pm

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

***April 8<sup>th</sup>, after one 10:15 service*** ~ Capital Campaign Kickoff Celebration

***April 15<sup>th</sup>, 3-5pm*** ~ Joe's Big Band Concert

**THIS WEEK: March 4th - 10th**

- TODAY:** **8:30am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
**9:30-10:15am** 150th Quilt Committee/Marvin Lounge  
**10:15am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
**11:30-12:30am** Music Committee / Choir Loft  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm** High School Youth Group / offsite-Sparetime in Colchester  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Youth Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**1:30 - 4:00 pm** 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 / Fellowship Hall
- 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  
**6:00 - 7:00 pm** Finance Committee Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor  
**7:00 - 9:00pm** Church Council 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 / Fellowship Hall  
**5:30 - 7:00 pm** Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall  
**6:00 - 7:30 pm** Capital Campaign Committee / Marvin Lounge  
6:00 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts-PLC / Youth Lounge  
**6:30 - 7:30 pm** Currier Bells / Sanctuary  
**7:00 - 8:00 pm** Sermon Talk Back II / Youth Lounge  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 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 / Fellowship Hall  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Pack 630 Meeting / Third Floor  
**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:** 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 Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
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]  
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: *Denise Keating* [j\_keating7@comcast.net]

### Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]  
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations until 5/18: *Brenda Crocket* [881-5253]  
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* [777-9446]  
Deacons: *Betsy Weischedel* [922-2094], *Peter Schmalz* [202-297-3625]  
Hospitality: *Mary Jane Allen* [557-1335], *Jim Glatz* [503-5076]  
Missions: *Sandy Tallman* [879-0665]  
Music: *Judy Larrabee* [236-0604]  
Nominating: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]  
Stewardship: *Kathy Finnie* [734-9688]  
Trustees: *Kevin Meilleur* [238-4041]  
Ushering: *Ann Marie 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)]



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

**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 Ambassadors” 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. **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.**

The visits are fun, as reported by both the Visitors and people being visited. In the course a not-all-that-long conversation, the person that may have been a friendly face who sits in the pew in front of you on Sundays turns out to have so many interesting stories, has hobbies that you never imagined, and got you thinking in a new direction. Who would have imagined that the gentleman’s email address was derived from his passion for racing go-karts in the years gone by? Or that someone else’s meeting took longer because the 4 people (2 Visitors and 2 people being visited) were having so much fun?

So be open to the visits..... things that you never imagined may just turn out to be a fun part of your meeting. Be ready for good things to happen.

Many of these visits will take place after our big Kick-Off on April 8<sup>th</sup> (see below). We hope you will say YES to a visit when asked! We are also looking for a few more volunteers to serve as Campaign Ambassadors. We provide all the training and materials you need, and this can be a wonderful way to get involved and get to know some of the people in our church a little better. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Co-Chairs Kaki McGeary or Dave Johnson.

**Save the Date!**

**Sunday, April 8 (after a single 10:15 a.m. service)**

**All-Church Campaign Kick-Off Celebration**

Mark your calendars for what is sure to be an exciting and fun event where we will have yummy food, activities for all ages, and a special announcement to update everyone about the Campaign’s progress. You won’t want to miss this. Stay tuned for more details. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Kick-Off, please contact our Campaign Events & FUN Chair Cathy Shearer!