

***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**

Phone: 802-878-5745

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
March 18, 2018
Second Service ~ The Fifth Sunday of Lent

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

*Lenten Meditation
Peace to My Soul
Adagio*

Blake
Barnett
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 then highlight some significant 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.

Musical Introit

Return to God

Haugen

Call to Worship

Leader: Friends, gather around before we make the final journey to Jerusalem. We have gathered from near and far to pause today, to worship God, and to be challenged by Jesus.

People: Jesus will challenge us?

Leader: Yes. He does so with love.

People: Let us worship God together.

***Opening Hymn**

I Hear Them All (song sheet)

Guthrie

Lighting the Lenten Candles: Jesus and his followers on their way to Jerusalem

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

Adrienne is in the nursery with audio of the service and video streamed to Fellowship Hall. After the Children's Message, children in preschool up through Senior High are welcome to join us for our Hands-On Mission Project. Adults are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. Children will return to worship during the final hymn.

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.**

Rite of Ordination for the Diaconate

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

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 by F @ F

Your Grace is Enough

Maher

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.

Scripture Unpacked

Mark: 10:17-34

Reader: Myrna Doney; Preacher: Rev. Josh Simon

***Hymn**

My Song is Love Unknown

#222

Closing Song

Our House

music Madness, adapted F @ F

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 is 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.
God now in peace, in faith and in love**

*Postlude:

Awake, Thou Wintry Earth

arr. Birchwood

**Please stand if you are able.*

Deacon: Myrna Doney

1st Service: Greeter - Clint Russell; Ushers - Betsy Weischedel & Lori Giannuzzi

Deacon: Lauren Starkey

2nd Service: Greeters - Trista Acebo & Josh Sharp; Ushers - Jonah Moos & Amy Trimble

The flowers on the altar are given by Myrna Doney in loving memory of her parents.

*Please join us downstairs for coffee/tea/cold drinks/snacks &
great conversation after each Service!*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Winslow Ladue

Dustin Keelty

Bill Bogardus

Mike Heston

Marion Schneider

Eric & Shannon

Carol Janwich

Sue Pariseau

Joe Phenix

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@fccej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *

Easter Flowers



It's that time again, here are the flower offerings this year from Maplehurst Florist. Please put it in the offering, mail to the office or email Jen at welcome@fcej.org to order and let her know who you would like to remember/honor in the Easter Bulletins. Also, please remember to take your plants with you after Easter to enjoy, plant or give to someone who would enjoy the cheer! Please order by March 23rd.

Palm Buds - \$3.95

Single Easter Lily - \$15.00, Double Easter Lily (2 bulbs) - \$30.00

Large Easter Lily (3 bulbs) - \$35.00

Hydrangea or Large Azalea - \$25.00

Tulips, Hyacinths, or Daffodils 7" Container - \$15.00 , 8" Container - \$20.00

6" Rieger Begonia or 8" Bulb Garden - \$20.00

TODAY!~Sign Up for Easter Breakfast Donations & Cooks/Servers

Lists are down in Fellowship Hall for donations-we could use help with all aspects of the breakfast. All proceeds go to the Youth NYC Mission Trip!



Do You Think YOUR Pumpkin Bread is THE BEST?



Prove it! We know we have a bunch of AMAZING cooks here at First Church and we want to give you a chance to highlight your talents by signing up to bring something to our weekly Coffee Hour/Fellowship Time. If you have wanted to participate in the hospitality of First Church but didn't know how, this is a PERFECT opportunity for you! Signups are on the rolling white board by the kitchen entrance. We will highlight recipes as well if we can convince you to share it! Also, if you would like to make something out of our FCCEJ cookbook, let us know, you can pick one and we'll copy it for you!

TONIGHT, Healing Service, 7pm

A quiet, meaningful service with candlelight, music and hope.

All are invited.



TODAY, Hannaford Cards and Reloads on SALE!

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

THIS WEDNESDAY, 7-8:30pm ~ Sermon Talkback TWO!

There is now a second evening Sermon Talkback group led by either Rev. Mark or Rev. Josh. There is always pot of decaf ready to go and snacks if we are lucky. Come by yourself or bring a friend and together we will unpack the sermon and explore other topics.



SATURDAY, March for Our Lives

Montpelier, Saturday, March 24th, 12-2pm. Youth and adults are welcome. We'll carpool to Montpelier, leaving at 9:30am from the church. We'll gather with other UCC youth and adults at Bethany UCC. At 11:30am, we'll walk together to the capitol. We'll arrive back to Essex Junction by 3:30pm. If you are planning on attending, signup- or talk to Pastor Josh.

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$191.36

*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 – 8th grade

March 18th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ Church World Service Kits

March 25th ~ Palm Sunday ~ Peer class time



Our NYC Mission Trip Team!

Ashley & Ryan Clark, Caitlin & Charlie McGeary, Katie Bruyns, Eva Cunningham-Firkey, Walker Stapleton, Emma Parker, Makayla Moos, Nicholas Mendes, Courtney Frank, and Aliyah Watt. Chaperones are Lisa Clark, Jonah Moos and Pastor Josh.

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
March 25th Fun Game Time*

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

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



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

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are all set with volunteers for March 28th but are looking for volunteers for April 25th. 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.



Next Food Pantry days are Thursday, March 22nd, 2-6pm and Monday, April 9th, 5:30-7:30pm

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 April 7th from 9 am to 1 pm

Spring and Summer Items on Sale-Start your new Wardrobe
Volunteers Needed for Thursday afternoon shift from 4 to 6 pm. If

interested, please contact Elaine at ebaymond@gmail.com.

Shop is now accepting Spring/Summer clothing and Nearly New Items. Please use our new drop box for donations.



Campaign Kick Off Event Looking for Donations

Can't imagine going to a party without bringing something? This message is for you! The Special Events Committee for the Capital Campaign is looking for donations for the April 8 kick off. We are asking for:

- 3-5 Finger food cold appetizers
- 6 dozen Cookies
- 5 dozen brownies

Want to help? Please contact Cathy at ShearerCF@gmail.com.



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** * * *



Next Sunday, March 25th, 4pm ~ College Singer's Concert; Sleepless Knights (from St. Mike's-Nate Dooley) & Laurentian Singers (from SLU-Ian Brennan) Free Will Offering for our Music Program, Snacks &



Meet/Greet the Singers following the Concert. All Are Welcome!

March 29th ~ Maundy Thursday 6pm



March 30th, 3pm - April 1st, sunrise ~ Good Friday Prayer Vigil

March 30th ~ Good Friday Service 7pm





April 1st ~ Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service 6:30am @ Holy Family

Easter Breakfast 7:00-10:15am @ FCCEJ

FCCEJ First Service 8:30am; Second Service 10:15am



Capital Campaign Kick-Off

Sunday, April 8th

Fellowship Hall

11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(after single service at 10:15 a.m.)

A Celebration for All Ages!

Food • Scavenger Hunt • Photo Booth
Kid's Entertainment by Big Blue Trunk
"Hard Hat" Tours • Fellowship • Fun!

Our Home, Our Future Our Time

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



**Foster
Grandparents**

April 29th, after both services ~ Foster Grandparent and RSVP

Programs at United Way of Northwest Vermont

Are you 55+?

We're always looking for older adult volunteers for our RSVP and Foster Grandparent Programs! We connect individuals with various volunteer opportunities at schools and non-profit organizations throughout Northwest Vermont. Foster Grandparents work in early education settings helping children who need extra support with early literacy and math. Interested in learning more about RSVP or Foster Grandparents? Danielle Williams will be joining us on April 29th to talk with us about these programs and answer any questions you have!

THIS WEEK: March 18th - 24th

- TODAY:** 8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary
10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:30 - 12:30 pm Jamaica Bound Information Session / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
5:00 - 7:00 pm High School Youth Group / Fellowship Hall (wear clothes for planting)
- 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 / 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 Missions / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 8:00 - 11:30 am Food Bank Delivery / Fellowship Hall
9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Gym
10:00 am - 3:00pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 7:00 pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge
6:30 - 7:30 pm Currier Bells / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:00 pm Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 9:00 am Newsletter Volunteers / Marvin Lounge
9:00am - 6:30pm Food Pantry (open 2-6pm) / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
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 Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** 9:30 - 10:30 am Preschool Food Pantry Tour / Fellowship Hall
10:00am Piano Tuning to Organ / Sanctuary
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
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 / Marvin Lounge
2:00 - 5:00 pm Joyce Daniels' Memorial Service/Reception / Sanctuary & FH
5:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts (Judy McC) / Fellowship Hall

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 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

Get ready for a party! You're invited to the all-church April 8th Campaign Kick-Off Celebration. We will make an exciting announcement about how much money the Campaign has raised to date and unveil our special Campaign "thermometer." PLUS we will have food, a scavenger hunt and children's entertainment by the **Big Blue Trunk**. One of the most important goals of the

Campaign is building an even stronger church community, so we hope that **ALL AGES** will come to celebrate this important milestone in the life of our church...together!



Capital Campaign Kick-Off

Sunday, April 8th

Fellowship Hall
11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(after single service at 10:15 a.m.)

A Celebration for All Ages!
Food • Scavenger Hunt • Photo Booth
Kid's Entertainment by Big Blue Trunk
"Hard Hat" Tours • Fellowship • Fun!

Our Home, Our Future Our Time

Want to help??

Can't imagine going to a party without bringing something? This message is for you! The Campaign Special Events Committee is looking for donations for the April 8th Kick Off. We are asking for:

- 3-5 appetizers (cold, finger food)
- 6 dozen Cookies
- 5 dozen Brownies

If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Cathy Shearer at ShearerCF@gmail.com.