

***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 25, 2018
First Service ~ Palm & Passion Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

Les Rameaux

Faure

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

Antiphonal Hosanna

Smith/arr. Schrader

Call to Worship

Leader: Today we near the end of our Lenten journey. All week we will journey with Jesus during his last week of life. That solemn week begins today with a parade of palms and shouts of hosanna.

People: We love the palms but know what's coming. We are caught betwixt and between joy and pain, celebration and tragedy, hope and fear. Our lives are caught in the balance and we hold both for much of our lives.

Leader: Today, we will take the journey. We will start with children singing, but we will end with a mother's wailing. Let us begin the journey of life.....

***Opening Hymn**

All Glory Laud and Honor

#216

Lighting the Lenten Candles

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Children's Message

After the Children's Message second service, children & youth 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 & Manu are 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

Blessed is He Who Comes

Choplin

A Journey through the Passion of Christ

The Betrayal Planned and the Passover Observed.....Mark 14:10-25

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on the times when you refuse to follow the hard truths that Jesus teaches.

Peter's Denial Foretold and Committed.....Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on the way our behaviors and thoughts betray Jesus.

***Hymn of Passion**

O God, How We Have Wandered

#202

The Two Faced Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.....Mark 14:32-42

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on how the difficult times in our lives draw us away from our God.

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

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Unison Lord's 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.

***Hymn of Passion** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* #290

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus.....Mark 14:43-51

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on the ways we betray our faith by not living up to God's principles for our lives.

Christ's Trial and Proclamation Before the Council.....Mark 14:53-65

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on the ways we find Christ's proclamation of divinity difficult to believe.

***Hymn of Sorrow** *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land* #572

Christ's Silence and Pilate's Appeasement.....Mark 15:1-15

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on the times our silence reflects our culpability or times when we shout for things or people over God.

The Mocking and Crucifixion of Jesus.....Mark 15:16-32

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, everyone is asked to reflect on the times when our beliefs and behaviors mock God's ways.

***Hymn of Passion** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* #190

The Death and Burial of Jesus, the Christ.....Mark 15:33-47

A Moment of Silence

During this reading and time of silence, let us reflect on the ways that our actions and or inactions kill Christ's divine Spirit of love and forgiveness.

A Brief Reflection *The First Reality Show* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Hosanna to the Living Lord

Helvey

***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.

***Closing Hymn**

We Would Be Building

#607

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:**

Triumphant March

Gounod

**Please stand if you are able.*

Deacon: Myrna Doney

1st Service: Sylvia Nyhagen, Carolyn Toof, Betty & Bill Adams

Deacon: Lauren Starkey

2nd Service: Linda Bogardus & Carolyn Toof

*The flowers on the altar are given by David, Susan & Alison Knox
in loving memory of Robert Knox.*

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

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Please remember the families of Joyce Daniels, Norm Faunce, & Harriet Burnham

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@fcej.org*

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Order Your Easter Flowers TODAY!

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@fccej.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 26th.

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!

Prayer Shawls Needed!

Calling all our Knitters! We could use some prayer shawls to bump up our stores of them. Jen has a pattern in the office that she can email or print out for you if needed. Thanks!



* * * **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 a 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.



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

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$197.36

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

Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.

Remember 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 25th ~ Palm Sunday ~ Peer class time

April 1st ~ Easter Sunday ~ all in worship

Craft Activity in Fellowship Hall ~ Easter Breakfast served from 7-10:15am

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
TODAY, March 25th ~ Fun Game Time*

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

Sunday, April 15th ~ 5pm and Sunday, April 29th ~ 5pm

*** * * 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, 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.



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



April 8th-May 6th ~ Claussen's Gift Card Fundraiser on Sale in Fellowship Hall on Sundays

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



April 20th, 6-8pm ~ Faith On Tap @ McGillicuddy's

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? Danielle Williams will be

joining us on 4/29 to talk about these programs and answer any questions you have!



Foster Grandparents



May 20th ~ New Member's Class

July 29 – August 3 ~ Our VT OM Camp Week at Rock Point

HORTON CENTER GOES TO VT - MIDDLEL

Entering Grades 5-8 in the Fall

\$420 www.hortoncenter.org

Come be a part of a great community of friends at Rock Point, Horton Center style, while we explore along the shores of Lake Champlain. God's beauty will be all around us as we swim, paddle board, hike through the many nature trails, have evening campfires and s'mores, sing, worship, play games and enjoy the amazing sunsets. Rock Point is located in Burlington and is on the site of the Episcopal Conference Center. Scholarships available ...See Laurie



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 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 Station Leader: Bible Drama ~ Games

Helpers: Youth (entering sixth grade & up), College Students/ Adults of all ages! See Laurie for more information and to sign up!

THIS WEEK: March 25th - 31st

- TODAY:** 8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary
10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:30 - 1:30 pm Junior Youth Group / Third Floor/YL/Gym
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
4:00 pm St. Mike's/St. Lawrence College Concert / Sanctuary & FH (reception)
- 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 - 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 Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00pm Trustees / 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
2:00 - 4:00 pm Ladies Night Out / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:00 pm Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 8:30 - 10:00 am Food Pantry Field Trip (Ginny) / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
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
7:00 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm to 6:00 am Easter Sunday –Prayer Vigil in Sanctuary
- SATURDAY:** All Day & Night - Prayer Vigil in Sanctuary
9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
9:30 - 12:30 pm Card Making Class-Andrea Sharp / Marvin Lounge
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 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.