

***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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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
April 22, 2018
First Service ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

Rhosymedre
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Edwards
Bach

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 events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome and invite everyone to raise celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or guests. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.

Musical Introit

Ashokan Farewell (Amy Jackman, flute)

Hayes

Call to Worship

Leader: In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives the disciples a new commandment, that we love one another.

People: We hope that our love for each other is a sign of our commitment to the life of love Jesus lived.

Leader: Through our love for each other, let those who have not yet found a church home feel welcomed into ours.

People: May our love pour from our hearts and invite others to join us.

Leader: Come, let us worship together and let our hearts fill with love.

*Opening Hymn

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

#89

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, children in preschool up through Senior High are welcome to join us for our Hands-On Mission Project. Parents/Grandparents and older siblings 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. 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 by Sanctuary Choir *The Greatest Gift Is Love (Amy Jackman, flute)* Hayes

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response # 236

Halleluja

Halleluja 236

Traditional

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

Scripture Readings

John 10:11-18 [pg. 79]

1 John 3:16-24 [pg. 188]

***Hymn of Preparation**

Jesus Loves Me

#327

Sermon

Love

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem by Sanctuary Choir (Beth Volker, soloist) *No Greater Love* Choplin

***Doxology # 245** *The Day of Resurrection*

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
The whole world keep high triumph and all that is there in,
Let all things seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ again has risen, our joy that knows no end.**

***Closing Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let me walk with my fellow in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

Postlude

Fanfare

Lemmens

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: Trista Acebo

Greeters & Ushers: Mary Ellen Grove, Sylvia Nyhagen; MJ Allen, Muriel Nutting
2nd Service Greeters & Ushers: Carolyn Rushford; Linda Bogardus

Please join us for Fellowship Time after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Winslow Ladue
Mike Heston
Carol Janwich

Kathy Murray
Marion Schneider
Sue Pariseau

Bill Bogardus
Eric & Shannon
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** * * *

Claussen's Gift Cards on SALE, TODAY!



Signups For Fellowship Time Are on the White Board!

*Calling All
Bakers!*

Share your favorite recipe with your friends here at First Church! Make a batch and if you want to put the recipe out we can make copies for you! We know we have some AMAZING cooks here at First Church!

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

Yoga @ First !

Monday and Thursday evening classes in the Gym on the second floor! This week, Mon will be in the Fellowship Hall and Thurs will be in the Gym from 5:30-6:45. All levels from beginner to experienced are absolutely welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Classes are free but donations are gratefully accepted for FCCEJ.



Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback

Join us on Tuesdays from 8:30-10am for coffee, baked goods and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) that was delivered the previous Sunday. Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!



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.



Thursday, 7:30 - 9pm ~ Confirmation

April 15th - May 6th ~ Bottle Drive for the Capital Campaign

This year as a confirmation class we have become a lot more connected to our church. We would like to do our part to contribute to the Capital Campaign. There are bins at the church where your cans and bottles can be donated. If you are unable to bring in your cans & bottles, there is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall to have us come pick them up. Thank you for donating your returnables so that we can help the church reach its campaign goal.



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



Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$378.17

*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

April 22nd ~ Hands On Mission Sunday

April 29th ~ 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-Lisa Clark, Jonah Moos & 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

May 6th

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

Sunday, April 29th ~ 5pm

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

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are all set with volunteers for April 25th but are looking for volunteers for May 23rd. 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, April 26th, 2-6pm and Monday, May 14th, 5:30-7:30pm

We are in need of baked beans, toothpaste, jam & jelly and canned fruit to restock our cabinets.
We could use some Egg Cartons again!



Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Open Saturday May 5th 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 ebraymond@gmail.com.

Shop is now accepting Spring/Summer clothing and Nearly New Items.



Vacation Bible Camp Art Project

During the week of VBC we will be doing an art project using recyclable caps that will connect with our Rolling River Rampage theme. Are you one who thinks that the caps from your milk jug, juice container and other small caps are recyclable? Think again. No cap smaller than 2 inches in diameter can be recycled in our area. So if you leave it on the container when you put it in the recycling bin, the container will be rejected when it goes through the sorting process. Let's put these caps to good use! Start now and collect your caps for VB Camp. You'll be surprised how many of these you can collect by July. Bring them to church by Sunday, August 6th and we'll use them for a cool art project. Watch for the colored VB Camp bin in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help!



Applications for Jamaica Mission Trip 2019 are due May 1st

While the summer of 2019 seems a long way off, planning has already begun for our 3rd international, intergenerational mission trip. The next step is to assemble our team. Applications are due May 1st and must be notarized. Jen, in the office, is a notary and could assist you during her working hours. Passports:



Check the expiration date of your passport. All travelers must have a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond our trip dates. We anticipate traveling in mid-July 2019, so your passport will need to be valid until February 1, 2020. If you have questions about this trip or about filling out the application, contact Carolyn Rushford (cjrushford@comcast.net) or Sharon Dettenrieder (dettenriedeS@hartwick.edu).

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



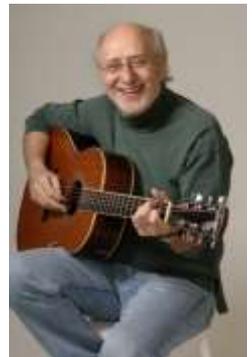
Foster
Grandparents

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? Danielle Williams will be joining us on 4/29 to talk about these programs and answer any questions you have!

May 12th ~ Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary fame) Benefit Concert at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington at 8:30 pm.

Peter's songs will mostly be drawn from of the trio's iconic repertoire including *Puff, the Magic Dragon*, *If I Had a Hammer*, *Blowing in the Wind* and *Light One Candle* as well as some of Peter's recently written songs. Peter promises that almost all the songs will be sing-alongs, assuring us a joyous evening of family togetherness and fun. The concert will also be a tribute to Vermont's beloved and greatly-missed Robert De Cormier, who was Peter, Paul and Mary's Musical Director for over 25 years. Peter will be singing a portion of the evenings songs with Counterpoint. The evening will also include some shared information about an exciting project that Peter is associated with, the creation of Peace University, centered in Vermont and focusing on reconciliation and healing around the globe.





May 20th ~ New Member's Class

May 26th ~ Memorial Day Parade!

Walk in the Memorial Day Parade with First Congregational members. Again, this year we'll walk with our church float. If you are interested in walking with us, email Pastor Josh, jsimon@fccej.org or sign-up in the narthex.



May 27th ~ Graduation Sunday

All graduating high school, undergrad and grad students are encouraged to send Pastor Josh their baby picture and their graduation/most recent photo. Pictures will be projected during both services.

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!

Mon – Fri 9am to 11:45am ; A full week of energy & excitement seeing God's Love in Action! 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: April 22nd - 28th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Fellowship Hall
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:** ***Office Closed-Jen in FL***
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 - 4:00pm Ladies 'Night Out' / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** ***Office Closed-Jen in FL* NO NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS**
9:00am - 6:30pm Heavenly Food Pantry (open 2-6pm) / FH & 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 / 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 / Youth Lounge
- FRIDAY:** ***Office Closed-Jen in FL & Mark/Josh/Laurie @ Annual Meeting***
8:30am Life Safety Systems Annual Test / All Building
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
9:30 am - 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: *Barb Smith* [878-6866]
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

We are thrilled to share the news that the Hoehl Family Foundation awarded our church a \$20,000 grant...\$10,000 designated for the Capital Campaign and \$10,000 designated for our Food Pantry mission! This grant was a wonderful affirmation of the incredible Food Pantry ministry, and is just one more



demonstration of how the Capital Campaign is helping our church in ways we never could have imagined. The Food Pantry will use the \$10,000 to replace two aging and inefficient freezers, improve storage in the gym, and add a small window air conditioning unit for the storage room in the hottest weather to prevent the freezers/refrigerators from overheating.

The Capital Campaign Steering Committee is pursuing other grant opportunities, although they are limited because many local foundations and businesses will not make grants to religious institutions. We are currently working on a grant application to the Vermont Arts Council, which has an interest in funding accessibility-related projects in cultural facilities.

Here's a look at our fundraising progress...our Campaign Treasurer was out of town, so we will have new numbers for you next week. We will be updating the numbers on our website even sooner—go to the Capital Campaign tab on our church website at www.fccej.org!