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.

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Essex Junction, VT 05452

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ONA
OPEN & AFFIRMING

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
May 13, 2018
First Service ~ Mother's Day Sunday

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

Order of Worship

Prelude

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 or introduce yourself & guests. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.

Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Our God is a wonderful parent to us all: full of unconditional love, a gentle yet firm guide for healthy and joyful living.

People: God is a presence in our lives, just like our mothers and our fathers. Today, we honor those who mother us and celebrate them as precious children of God.

Leader: Thank you God for our moms and those who have mothered us and taught us about God and life. Thank you God for mothering types that offer us nourishing food, hugs of welcome, kisses that warm and love that empowers.

People: Come, let us worship and praise our God, the best Mom anyone could want!

Opening Hymn** ***I Sing the Mighty Power of God **#12**

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

During both services, Adrienne, our staff person, is in the Nursery where there is a speaker to hear the worship service and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall. All ages are remaining in worship today to celebrate our mothers. There is an activity in Fellowship Hall. Today is Adrienne's last day in the Nursery, feel free to stop by and wish her well as she graduates from UVM next week and leaves for new adventures in Montana after that!

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

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response # 245 ***The Day of Resurrection***

Our hearts be pure of evil, that we may see aright
The Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
For we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

New Testament Scripture Reading…….John 17:6-19 [page 85]

Hymn of Preparation** ***Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us **#583**

Sermon *That They May Be One* Rev. Mendes

Capital Campaign Moment

Offering Our Gifts to God
Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication
Anthem
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** ***I Would Be True **#492**

Benediction
Pastoral Benediction
***Sung Community Benediction**

<u>Let There Be Peace on Earth</u>

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 us walk with each other 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:

*Please stand if you are able.

The flowers on the altar are given by Anita & Ed Guild
in loving memory of their mothers and grandmothers.

Deacons: 1st: Josh Sharp; 2nd: Carolyn Rushford

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

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Please remember Erica Garvey & Bruce Bottamini's families in remembering their loved ones.

Winslow Ladue	Kathy Murray	Bill Bogardus
Mike Heston	Marion Schneider	Eric & Shannon
Carol Janwich		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 * * *

Foster Grandparents

TODAY, May 13th, after both services ~ Foster Grandparent and RSVP Programs at United Way of Northwest VT Are you 55+? We're always looking for older adult volunteers for our RSVP and Foster Grandparent Programs! Danielle Williams will be joining us to talk about these programs and answer any questions you have!

Signups For Fellowship Time Are on the White Board!

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! 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.

our TALK BACK

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, May 17th ~ Third Thursday Pot Luck 5:45-7pm

Friday, May 18th ~ Confirmation Dinner at Olive Garden,
Meet @ FCCEJ @ 6pm, Confirmands only

Saturday, May 19th ~ Boy Scout Fundraiser Yard Sale
Boy Scout Troop 624 is having a garage sale to help fund their scouting program, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm here at FCCEJ.
Stop by and see what the scouts are selling, there may be a treasure waiting for you.

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 $487.79
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
May 13th ~ All in worship to celebrate Mothers
Activity in Fellowship Hall for young ones
May 20th ~ Pentecost ~ Confirmation Sunday ~ Jazz Sunday
Peer class time PreK – 2nd grade ~ older ages in worship~ Confirmands lead worship
May 27th ~ 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

Next Meeting ~ May 20th ~ Join the fun, make decorations & set pieces for VB Camp!

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

Next Meeting ~ June 3rd

* * * Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate * * *

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are all set with volunteers for May 23rd but are looking for volunteers for June 27th. Please contact Ed Steele at 871-5897 edwardmsteele@msn.com if interested or with any questions. There is also a sign-up in the hallway entering Fellowship Hall.

Next Food Pantry days are Monday, May 14th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, May 24th, 2-6pm

We are in need of baked beans, toothpaste, canned ravioli and canned corn to restock our cabinets.

We are all set with Egg Cartons - Thank you!

Extended Time! ~ 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, email Zac, znsvt2011@comcast.net for pick up. Thank you for donating your returnables so that we can help the church reach its campaign goal.

Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Open Saturday June 2nd 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 still takes the lids off your containers before you recycle them? If they are 2" or smaller we can use them for our art project. We are really looking for juice and milk cap sizes. Bring them to church by Sunday, August 6th and we will put them to use. Watch for the colored VB Camp bin in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help!

May 26th ~ Memorial Day Parade!

Walk in the Memorial Day Parade with FCCEJ! 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.

* * * SAVE THE DATES * * *

May 20th ~ New Member's Class

May 20th ~ Sally May's Installation, 3pm
@ Mallett's Bay Congregational Church

May 27th ~ Graduation Sunday
All graduating high school, undergrad and grad students are encouraged to **send Pastor Josh their baby picture, their graduation/most recent photo & their post grad plans**. Slide show will be shown during both worship services.

June 3rd ~ Save the Date!
Ice Cream Social & Campaign Celebration
Sunday, June 3rd

One Service ~ 9am!

Please join us to celebrate our Faith Formation year, our wonderful Faith Formation volunteers, Campaign volunteers & all the Campaign gifts we have received so far. And, of course, join us for Ice Cream, sprinkles & hot fudge! Stay tuned for more details.

July 29 – August 3 ~ Our VT OM Camp Week at Rock Point
HORTON CENTER GOES TO VT - MIDDLER
Entering Grades 5-8 in the Fall
$420 www.hortoncenter.org

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!*

VB Camp Wish List

40 ~ 2 Liter Clear Soda Bottles with labels removed, 3 rolls of Blue & 3 rolls of Yellow Duck Tape, 2 Concrete pillar tubes 24" long, 1 light weight Yellow tarp

Looking to borrow: 8 Artificial Christmas Trees (different sizes), Collapsible camping chairs, Plastic canoe/raft paddles, Small Inflatable Raft

Snack Station**:** 2 -16oz bags of Large Pretzel Rods, 1 small bag of Large Pretzel Rods Gluten Free, 1 - 14oz pkg of pull apart Twizzlers (Red), 2 bags or boxes of Fish Shaped Pretzel Crackers, 1 large box of Rainbow Goldfish, 7 boxes of Graham crackers, 1 box gluten free Graham crackers, 1 - 12oz package of Chocolate Chips, 1 - 16 oz bag of Small Pretzel Sticks, 200 sturdy party Toothpicks, 12 to 15 - 12oz Chocolate bars, 50 BBQ Skewers, 400 - 10oz recyclable plastic cups, 150 small paper dinner plates, Snack size Ziploc baggies (3 boxes), Small snack size paper plates (200)

THIS WEEK: May 13th - 19th

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
3:30 - 8:30pm Food Pantry (open 5:30-7:30pm) / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting - Judy McC / Marvin Lounge

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 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge

WEDNESDAY:
8:00 - 11:30 am Food Shelf 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
12:00 - 1:30 pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 7:00 pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin 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
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
5:45 - 7:00 pm Third Thursday Potluck / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary

FRIDAY:
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge

SATURDAY:
8:30am - 2:00pm Boy Scout Lawn Sale / Front Lawn
9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
9:30 - 11:30am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:30 - 6:30 pm Boy Scout Chess Tournament-Bouffard / Fellowship Hall

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]
Music & Choir Director: *Carol Spradling* [cspradling@fccej.org]
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]
Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Carl Wermer [879-7650]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Maureen Evans [879-7517]
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 getting closer to our goal!! If you haven't yet made a pledge, now is your chance to help us reach the top. Please return pledges by May 15th if possible (unless you are still waiting on a visit)!

Every single pledge, of every size, will be valued and celebrated. This is OUR HOME and OUR FUTURE…we are truly in this together! We hope everyone will participate in some way in this important time in the life of our church.
Thank you to everyone who has made a Campaign pledge so far!

Stop by our Campaign table in Fellowship Hall to drop off pledge forms, pick up extra forms, ask questions, schedule a visit, or just say hi.

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Save the Date!

Ice Cream Social & Campaign Celebration

Sunday, June 3rd
(one service at 9am)

Please join us to celebrate our Faith Formation year, our wonderful Faith Formation volunteers, Campaign volunteers & all the Campaign gifts we have received so far.
And, of course, join us for Ice Cream, sprinkles & hot fudge!
Stay tuned for more details.

Above is a look at our fundraising progress to date… For the latest numbers, go to the Capital Campaign tab on our church website at www.fccej.org