

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

**Website: [www.fcej.org](http://www.fcej.org)**

**Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC**





**Pulpit Side: With God, we are able to transform even the smallest effort into incredible outcomes.**

**Lectern Side: With God, we are able to prioritize our lives and free the divine treasure within us all.**

**Pulpit Side: With God, we are able to discern the good from the bad and move forward with hope.**

**Lectern Side: With God, we are able to claim treasures beyond measure from all times and places.**

Leader: Come, let us worship our God.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

#277

### **Unison Prayer of Confession & Lord's Prayer**

**Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still. In your presence our limits lie stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One. We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given. We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods. We have used each other. We have loved power more than people. Forgive us, O Holy One. Cleanse from us the illusion of innocence. Come into our hearts, and make us new again. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**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.**

### **The Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

**People: Alleluia and Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

*During the worship service our summer staff person is in the Nursery for those under 3 years. The Nursery has a speaker to hear the worship service and the service is streamed to our Fellowship Hall. Summer worship is intergenerational. There are items in the Narthex to help busy hands during worship. Our summer self-led Kids Activity Bin is in Fellowship Hall by the Nursery door. Children are encouraged to take an older youth or adult with them.*

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer  
Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other  
Musical Response

**\*Congregational Hymn of Choice**

New Testament Scripture Reading.....Mark 7:1-23 [page 32]

Meditation                                    *“What Comes Out of Your Mouth”*                                    Rev. Mendes

Musical Anthem                                    *Wayfaring Stranger*                                    Traditional

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*We will share Communion through intinction. All are welcome to come forward and receive a piece of the Bread of Heaven and dip it into the Cup of Blessing. The Deacons will assist with the flow of traffic. All are welcome to come to the table, a blessing will be offered in place of communion if requested. If you are not comfortable coming forward, a Deacon will serve you in your seat. All are welcome at Christ’s table.*

*Special note: All bread and crackers are gluten free. The cups are filled with juice and contain no alcohol.*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem                                    *The Least of These*                                    Whittaker

**\*The Doxology #778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

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, [holding you in love.]  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love**

*For a number of years, there has been quite a bit of conversation about changing our church's favorite congregational benediction to more clearly reflect our theological beliefs. Most of our members [especially our younger families teaching their kids about God] no longer see God as a physical being looking down from somewhere up there, but rather as a steady presence that is with us all the time. Changing "watching from above" to "holding you in love" is a change that fits our theology and reinforces our belief that God is not a set of beliefs but rather a presence that walks with us through the ups and downs of our lives.*

\*Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by  
Cathie Goodheart & Tim Carney in memory of loved ones.*

Deacon: Clint Russell

*Please join us for refreshments & fellowship time  
after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny

Kathy Murray

Karla

Duke Ehler

Gabrielle

Eric & Shannon

Carol Janwich

Richard Ansell

Joe Phenix

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mark McKenzie & Family

Jenna

Mike Heston

Fletch Coolidge

Frank Polanshek

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

\* \* \* **TODAY** \* \* \*

**Hannaford Cards & Reloads are on sale TODAY!**



\* \* \* **THIS WEEK** \* \* \*

**Yoga @ First !**

Jonah is now offering **ONE** class on **Tuesdays** at 5:30-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. 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 even through the Summer from 8:30-10am for coffee, baked goods and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) that was delivered on Sunday. Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!



**Coffee Clatter Fridays 8am**

Pastors Mark & Josh are still meeting people for discussion and breakfast on Fridays @ Martone's. Join them for fellowship & great discussion!



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

**Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

**Preschool – 8th grade**

***Today, September 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Summer Faith Formation***

*Self- led Activity Bin in Fellowship Hall available outside Nursery door.*

***September 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Welcome Back Sunday~ Fall Faith Formation Program Begins***

*Picnic sponsored by the CE Committee after 2<sup>nd</sup> service ~ finger Dessert Potluck table*

***September 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Music & Peer Group time***

**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018**

*Total for 2018 \$545.58*

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

*Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.*



Remember to bring your offering each week, \$1 a week can go a long way! Please use the envelopes in the pew holders so your \$ goes to the right place.

### **High School Youth @ FCCEJ**

*Call Out Sunday is September 16<sup>th</sup> , 5-7pm*

### **Junior Youth @ FCCEJ**

5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders meet TWICE a month

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ 11:30am – 12:15pm ~ JY Call Out

Parents meet in the Youth Lounge on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ~ sign up for snack or meal

5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders gather on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

### **Bottle/Can Drive To Benefit Youth!**

We're going to continue it year round. Bring your bottles/cans to the church and place them in the receptacles in the foyers.

All proceeds will go towards youth ministry. Thanks!



### **Our Nursery**

Our Nursery is one of the first places that our little ones and their parents feel the love of God and learn that the church is a safe place to be. Parents ~ please be mindful of our Safe Conduct Guidelines and help us keep to our child ratio (2 children to 1 adult). Volunteer to stay in the Nursery with your child if you see that extra hands will be needed. Thank you for your help. We are looking to fill our staff position for the Nursery starting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested or know someone who might be please be in touch with Laurie or Pastor Mark.

### **'NEW' College Addresses**

When you are sending those shiny new college addresses around to grandparents, aunts, uncles & friends, make sure to include Pastor Josh in that list. We want to be able to update our records and also prepare for a surprise package from FCCEJ later this school year.

Email the address to [jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org)



### **Craft Tables Available**

For crafters here at First Church in the 5 Corners Craft Fest, Saturday, November 10. Contact Ann Gray if interested 878-4088 or [grayann8@aol.com](mailto:grayann8@aol.com)

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



**Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!**

We are in need of volunteers for September 26<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 in the hallway entering Fellowship Hall.



**Next Food Pantry days are Monday,  
September 10th, 5:30 - 7:30pm and  
Thursday, September 27th, 2-6pm**

We are in need of the sample size toothpaste tubes. They are perfect to give out with a toothbrush. Please ask your dentist the next time you have your teeth cleaned if they would donate a case. *Thank you!*



**Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop**

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

Open Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm

Spring and Summer Items still available!

**2018-19 Faith Formation Volunteers**

**Many ways to support First Church kids and youth:**

***Nursery*** – join our staff person and be a friendly face to the parents and the littlest ones among us during first service or second. We strive for a two to one ratio in the Nursery.

***Spiritual Friends*** – join Laurie on the First Sundays of the month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and we'll have great conversations with the kids. Read a story, have snack, Godly play dough time and return for communion.

***Peer Group Leaders & Helpers*** – support one of our groups from preschool up through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Laurie sends out a weekly email with lesson plans for Sunday. All items are gathered for you.

***Hands On Mission Sundays Helpers*** – preschool up through youth are together for a time of fellowship across the ages for on these days with a mission focus and group building activities.

***Youth Group Helpers*** – come be present with the youth! Still a youth at heart? Want to get reconnected with youth today? Join a group and or help with food. Every time youth gather we are always looking for adults to help.



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

**September 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Vermont Pride Parade**

Join other United Church of Christ churches to walk in the Vermont Pride Parade, Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll carpool over to the parade line up. Meet at FCCEJ parking lot at 10:45am. We will be handing out rainbow crosses and free hugs!



**September 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Welcome Back Sunday ~ two services resume, 8:30 & 10:15**

*Picnic sponsored by the CE Committee after 2<sup>nd</sup> service ~ finger Dessert Potluck table*



**DIRECTORY**

**Welcome Back Sunday Directory Pictures**

See Jessica Moos today to update your Directory Picture! We are working on updating & accumulating all our people's pics, some are SUPER outdated! If you have a family pic you would like to send in instead, please send to [welcom@fcej.org](mailto:welcom@fcej.org) and we will upload them to PowerChurch.

**September 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Voter Forum for VT House Seat**

Hear the candidates for the CHI 8-1 district answer questions about some issues, such as economic dignity, affordable housing/homelessness, criminal justice reform, and education. The goal is to help you follow your heart and vote your values in November. Here at First Church, 6:30-8pm More info: [www.viavt.org](http://www.viavt.org) or [office@viavt.org](mailto:office@viavt.org).



**October 6<sup>th</sup> ~ New Worship Service!**

Once a month on the first Saturday of the month, 4:30 pm



**October 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Blessing of the Animals**

**THIS WEEK: September 2nd - 8th**

- SUNDAY:** 9:00am One Worship Service / Sanctuary  
10:30 - 11:30 am Music Committee / Choir Loft  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** \*\*OFFICE CLOSED-Labor Day\*\*  
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
- 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  
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts / Youth Lounge  
6:00 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge  
7:00 - 9:00 pm Church Council / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary  
6:00 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts PLC / Youth Lounge  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Jamaica Bound 2019 Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 8:30 - 11:30 am Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 - 2:00 pm JOY / Marvin Lounge  
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 630 Meeting (Pelaia) / Fellowship Hall  
6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / FH & Kitchen
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / 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](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***

Capital Campaign Projects are UNDERWAY!

Over the summer months, two roofing companies have replaced all the asphalt shingles on our buildings and repaired the slate roofs. New gutters have been installed to help better manage water run-off. It is anticipated that organ work will begin in October with cleaning, maintenance and other repairs. We also hope to complete the replacement of old windows on the parsonage side of the building this fall.



The other big project we had hoped to begin this summer/fall was the parking lot overhaul and construction of the new vestibule entrance and ADA bathroom near Fellowship Hall.

Unfortunately, the contractor for that work backed out because another project in their pipeline moved forward more quickly than expected. While it may have been possible to secure another contractor this fall, it would mean delaying the project by several months. Rather than tear apart that entrance to the church during our busy Holiday Craft Fair and Advent season, the Trustees have decided to schedule the parking lot work for late spring/early summer 2019. This will also allow time for the Trustees to hire a General Contractor to oversee this complex and multi-faceted project.

## **Reminder!**

***If you haven't made your first Capital Campaign pledge payment, please do so at your earliest convenience. Please be sure to note "capital campaign" in the memo line. Many of you have already sent your first payments (and some have even paid in full!)- thank you! If you have questions about your payment schedule, please refer to your Pledge Acknowledgment Letter or the duplicate copy of your pledge form, or contact Campaign Treasurer Dan Petherbridge [dpetherbridge@comcast.net](mailto:dpetherbridge@comcast.net).***