

***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
September 30, 2018
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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 some 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.

A Musical Introit

Awesome God

Mullins

Call to Worship

Leader: God created the world and partnered with humanity to care for the natural world, its creatures and human society.

People: Humanity thrives when we remain in covenant with our Maker.

Leader: God offered us commandments to help organize society, strengthen relationships and bring us order amidst of the chaos of life.

People: Society thrives when people follow God's rules of life.

Leader: God sent Jesus to remind us of our partnership to care for creation and our responsibility to live in peace with all God's children.

People: We thrive when we follow Christ's law of love.

Leader: Come, let us re-commit ourselves to stand with God as partners in making this world a holy refuge of beauty, abundance and meaning. Come, let us worship our God.

Prayer of Invocation [composed and led by the Deacon on Duty]

***Opening Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#1

Children's Message

During both services, Jennifer, 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. Second Service after the Children's Message, 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.

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 and Unison Lord's Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

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.

Musical Response

Give Thanks

Smith

***Hymn**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#539

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic Micah 6:6-8 [page 672]

New Testament Epistle Philippians 2:1-11 [page 152]

Gospel Mark 9:38-50 [page 35]

Anthem

Get On Board

Althouse

Sermon

The Heart of Christ

Rev. Mendes

A Stewardship Moment.....Kathy Finnie

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

***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.**

***Hymn**

Amazing Grace

#547

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 Heather & Terry Stein in loving memory of family.

Deacons: Clint Russell & Lauren Starkey

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Please remember the family of Diana Higgins as they mourn her loss

Lilly & Donny

Kathy Murray

Holton Family

Angie

Judy Janwich

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

* * * **TODAY** * * *

Update Your Directory Picture!

We are working on updating & accumulating all our people's pics, some are SUPER outdated! We have taken pics after service for the past two weeks and updated 80+ families pictures. If you have a family pic you would like to send in now, please send to welcome@fccej.org and we will upload them to PowerChurch.



Left Over Containers from Funerals/Meals

Please stop by the Fellowship Hall Kitchen and pickup your containers/cooler that you brought goodies in for funerals/meals-we are running out of storage space! Thank you!

Fellowship Hall ~ Green Table ~ Family Resources

Stop by the green table in Fellowship Hall and take some of the free resources home with you. Take Out Church boxes are also there. Feel free to share them with others.



TODAY! Please Join Us For Fellowship Time After Worship!

Your Hospitality Hosts are working hard to encourage a time of fellowship after each worship service. Please see signup sheets on the tables by the food if you would like to help out by baking/cooking/bringing something to share one week. We would like to give a shout out to the Quality Bake Shop who has been donating each week some 'day old's' and to Rose Drost who has been diligently picking them up! Thank you! Please show QBS some love the next time you go in by thanking them and giving them your business!

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

Yoga & Meditation @ First !



Jonah is now offering **ONE** class on **Tuesdays** at 5:30-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. All levels from beginner to experienced welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Classes are free but donations are gratefully accepted for FCCEJ. A half hour meditation session is also offered following Yoga @ 7pm.



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!



Wednesday Night Searchers



Each Wednesday night for the last ten years, we have had a group that has met and discussed many topics. We have read books, gone on field trips, watched movies, exchanged ideas and questions with our Jewish and Muslim neighbors, researched issues of social justice and even studied the bible.

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 30th ~ Hands on Mission Sunday
Acolyte Orientation, today, Sept 30th, after second service*

October 7th ~ 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends with preschool & kindergarteners

World Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$595.58

*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

October 7th, 5-7pm Pizza will be provided!

October 19th -20th, lock-in at the church that starts at Sam Mazza's Corn Maze

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders meet TWICE a month

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

October 7th ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm ~ art project

October 21st ~ 3pm – 4:30pm ~ making cookies for Halloween

'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



Faith Formation Volunteers for 2018-19

Preschool - Erna Deutsch & ____; **Kindergarten** - Jenny Bourn & ____

First & Second Grade - Barb Smith & Allison VanSteensburg

Third & Fourth Grade – Lisa Clark & Sue Conti; **Fifth - Eight Grade** –

Laurie & Pastor Josh; **High School Youth are invited to help in a peer group. Peer Helpers** - Kaki McGeary, Amanda Palmer, Laura Marthaler,

Sara Spaulding & ____; **Cherub Music** – Jenny Bourn; **Joyful Noise Music**– Jessica Moos;

1st Sunday Spiritual Friends - Gail Babinger, Donna Burnett, Elaine Raymond, Judy Roy, ____;

Hands-On Mission - Joanne Irwin, Andrea Sharp, Sandy Tallman, ____

There are many ways to support First Church kids and youth:

Nursery – join our staff person and be a friendly face during first service or second.

Spiritual Friends – First Sundays of the month on the 2nd floor have great conversations, read a story, have snack, Godly playdoh time & return for communion.

Peer Group Leaders & Helpers – support a group from preschool - 8th grade. Laurie sends out a weekly email with lesson plans for Sunday. All items are gathered for you.

Hands On Mission Sundays Helpers – all ages are together for a time of fellowship 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.

Contact Laurie or Josh for more information and to volunteer!



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



December Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of two volunteers for December 26th, one entrée & one dessert. 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,
October 8th, 5:30 - 7:30pm and Thursday,
October 25th, 2-6pm and**



We are in need of mac n' cheese and 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!



Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Open Saturdays Oct 6th & 20th from 9 am to 1 pm

Sunday, Oct 14th Open House w/refreshments 9:30am-12:30pm

Fall & Winter Merchandise is ON THE RACKS! Donations gratefully accepted!

Bottle/Can Drive

Thank you for all your donations! Please make sure that you only put in the cans & bottles that are **redeemable**, not just **recyclable** - thank you!



Vacation Bible Camp 2019

Which dates work better for you?

August 5-9 **or** August 12-16

Monday – Friday from 9am – 11:45am

Have you attended in the past? Have you volunteered in the past? Do you plan to be attend in 2019? Please let Laurie know your preference for when to hold our VB Camp in 2019 lchipman@fceej.org

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



10th Anniversary 5 Corners Craft Fest
November 10th is right around the corner!

*All are welcome to join us for a planning meeting,
10/7, 11:30am*

Nearly New –Cleaning out your attic, garage or basement? Consider donating to the Craft Fest! We will be accepting items in Marvin Lounge beginning **Sunday October 7th** We would love: books, jewelry, purses, scarfs, housewares, pictures, frames, holiday items, craft supplies, nick knacks, puzzles, linens and toys.

Silent Auction: Start thinking of an item or services you could donate. We are looking for such items as: hosting a dinner, a day of golf, homemade pies, stay at a summer cottage, professional photographs, theatre tickets or sporting event tickets. We especially like to have services provided by our church members.

October 2nd ~ Essex Community Historical Society, 7pm

The Men at First will be providing musical entertainment for the annual meeting of the Essex Community Historical Society in Fellowship Hall and all are welcome.

October 6th ~ New Worship Service!

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



October 14th ~ Blessing of the Animals After Each Service

October 18th ~ Third Thursday Potluck, 5:45-7pm

Join us this month for Tom Shearer leading us in a discussion on EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE for teens. Our discussion will be centered on how to work with the young people in your life and how our young people can express themselves.

December 1st ~ VT Foodbank Volunteer Trip

8am-12pm, group activity bagging meals @ the Barre location See Oct. Newsletter or contact cynthiak222@gmail.com for more details



THIS WEEK: September 30th - October 6th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
 10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
 11:00 am Diana Higgins Memorial Service / Sanctuary
 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 / Gym
 6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts / Youth Lounge
 6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
 6:30 - 9:30 pm Essex Community Historical Society / Fellowship Hall
 6:00 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Church Council / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
 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 Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
 7:00 - 8:30 pm Jamaica Bound Team Meeting / Marvin Lounge
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge
- 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
 6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
 6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 630 Meeting / Fellowship Hall
 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 / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 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:

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]



Today, September 30th marks the kick-off of the 2019 Stewardship Campaign! We look forward to talking with you about the importance of making a pledge to support the work of our Church. Your contribution to the Stewardship Campaign is an expression of your deep commitment to the Church and the ways we serve God through our programs and the people they touch. We hope you will respond in as generous a way as possible to honor that commitment. We will be distributing the pledge letters after today's services. You can bring your pledge card to Church on Sunday, October 21 for Stewardship Sunday, drop it off at the Church or email your confidential pledge to Financial Secretary Pat Seaver at ytri2@aol.com before Oct 21.

Help us stay on track by making a pledge to the 2019 Stewardship Campaign! Thank you!!!!