

***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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
October 7, 2018
World Communion 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 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

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Come, let us learn about our God and the ways God calls us to live. Let us identify and see through unhealthy human constructs and instead seek to follow healthy and divine ways of understanding our God. Come, let us worship Jesus, who shows us the way.

***Opening Hymn**

Forward Through the Ages

#377

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: No one is perfect, no not one. All people fall short of the glory of God. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are in need of the love and grace of a merciful and forgiving God.

People: We come humbly before our Lord, recognizing that we are the creature not the creator. We long for union, wholeness, unity, meaning and love. We fall short of God's expectations but seek grace enough to move ever closer to our God and each other.

Leader: Come, let us approach our Maker and Friend.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, we come before you as the center of our own universe. We are too private, partisan, persuasive and persnickety. Help us to give up our self-indulgent ways and widen our perspective to include others in your kingdom of grace and truth. Remind us to walk humbly though this world as we move ever closer to your light. We need your help; come and transform our lives. We pray this in the name of our suffering servant, Jesus Christ.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God saw everyone in the world and declared that they were all good, very good. We all have the divine light within us: we are all saints. Resurrected and reigning Lover of Humanity, as we accept your forgiveness, empower us to spread your good news to all people.

Leader: God forgives you all, go and be more loving.

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 preschool and kindergarteners are invited to follow Laurie out for a time of Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends and all will return for Communion. Parents/Grandparents and older siblings are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship.

**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

A Stewardship Moment

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.**

Musical Anthem

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Job [narrative] [page 353]

New Testament Luke 13:1-5 [page 58]

Communion Meditation

*“Old Easy Lesson About God
that We Just Don’t Accept”*

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Today, we will celebrate communion to honor World Communion Sunday. **At both Services,** the elements will be passed out to the congregation where we will eat the bread together and then drink the cup separately.*

Special note: All the bread offered today is gluten free. All juice used is non-alcoholic. Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ’s table!

***Hymn**

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

#583

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**

*Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Dennis & Sue Conti
in loving memory of Elenor Colburn.*

Deacons: Jonah Moos & Betsy Weischedel

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny

Angie

Carol Janwich

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mike Heston

Kathy Murray

Judy Janwich

Richard Ansell

Mark McKenzie & Family

Fletch Coolidge

Holton Family

Eric & Shannon

Joe Phenix

Jenna

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@fcej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Hannaford Cards & Reloads ON SALE TODAY!

150th Quilt Progress

The Quilters have made beautiful progress and would love to show their handiwork to anyone who would like to see it! The front of the quilt is hanging in the Marvin Lounge, go check it out on your way out today!



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!

* * * **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



In October, we are reading Moral Man and Immoral Society: A Study in Ethics and Politics by Reinhold Niebuhr. Niebuhr writes cogently on the morality of individuals and the moral ethics of society or the lack thereof. He illuminates why moral individuals are unable to think outside of their own self-interest, and how that impacts society at large, and how to address this for the betterment of all.

We'll have a healthy conversation on ethics, politics, religion, morality, and more. The book is available online via e-books or pdf and there are a few print copies around to borrow. Join us at any point in the month.

Second Thursday of the Month ~ Bereavement Support Group

Many if not all of us have been touched by the loss of someone we hold near and dear. That loss stays with us and shapes us our entire lives and reminds us of the love we had for that person. Sharon Dettenrieder has led Bereavement Support Groups for decades and will be working with our ordained staff to create a support group where people can share their grief journey and draw support from others who are travelling down the same road. Meetings in the Marvin Lounge , 7-8:30 p.m. Oct 11th, Nov 8th & Dec 13th for the rest of 2018. Everyone, church and community members are welcome, bring a friend!

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

World Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$601.58

*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

Today, 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

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

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



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.

Hands On Mission Helpers – all ages together for a time of fellowship on these days with a mission focus and group building activities.

Youth Group Helpers – Every time youth gather we are always looking for adult 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



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 20th & Nov 3rd 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!



VT Foodbank Volunteer Trip

December 1st, 8am-12pm, group activity bagging meals @ the Barre location See Oct. Newsletter or contact cynthiak222@gmail.com for more details

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@fcej.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, TODAY, 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 14th ~ Blessing of the Animals After Each Service

October 16th ~ Essex Community Justice Center showing of Coming Home New documentary film focused on five people returning to their Vermont communities from prison. The film focuses on the innovative COSA program (Circle of Support and Accountability) that helps reintegrate folks back into their daily lives. The film takes an intimate and powerful look at this COSA process, the struggles and challenges of folks coming out of prison and the successes of the restorative justice model.

Essex Community Justice Center (21 Essex Way, Essex Junction) October 16th at 7pm.

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.

November 3rd ~ New Worship Service!

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



THIS WEEK: October 7th - 13th

- SUNDAY:** 8:30am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
10:15am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
11:30 - 12:30 pm **Music Committee / Choir Loft**
11:30 - 1:00 pm **Craft Fest Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
11:30 - 1:30 pm **Junior Youth Group / YL & Third Floor**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
5:00 - 7:00 pm **High School Youth Group / Marvin Lounge**
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Youth Lounge**
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 10:30 am **Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
3:30 - 8:00 pm **Food Pantry (open 5:30-7:30)/ FH & Gym**
5:30 - 6:30 pm **Group Victory / Youth Lounge**
6:00 - 7:30 pm **Boy Scout Alumni Association / Third Floor**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Venture Crew / 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**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 7:30 pm **Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery**
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Cub Scouts / Youth Lounge**
6:30 - 8:00 pm **VIA Sponsored Candidate Forum District 8-2 / Sanctuary**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Deacons / 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**
3:30 - 5:30 pm **Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finally @ First / Sanctuary**
5:30 - 8:00 pm **Budget Development Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge**
- THURSDAY:** 8:00 - 9:00 am **Jamaica Bound Calcutta Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
5:00 - 7:30 pm **CPEC Harvest Dinner / Fellowship Hall**
6:15 - 7:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Bereavement Support Group / Marvin Lounge**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
6:30 - 10:30 pm **Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge**
7:30 - 10:30 pm **Grange / Fellowship Hall**
- 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:

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]



The 2019 Stewardship Campaign is in full swing! We hope you have been reflecting on what the Church means to you and will pledge as generously as you can to support the work of our Church. We will be distributing the pledge letters at 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 vttri2@aol.com before October 21.

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