

***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)**

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
October 14, 2018  
*First Service*

*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.*

Introit

*Come Rejoice In God*

Berthier

Call to Worship

Leader: Where do we go for help? Where do we turn for clues to help us?  
Where are ancient stories told?

**People: From the stories of creation to the story of the new heaven and the new earth, from the kings to the prophets, from the land of Egypt to the land of Israel, from the hope for a savior to the teachings of Jesus, the Bible is filled with stories of old—stories that offer a path forward.**

Leader: People were inspired to write these stories, to write the poetry for their times, and prayers for their people. They were so inspired by these stories and poems they bound them together, passing them on for future generations.

**People: The stories, poems, and prayers, still, today inspire us. Movies, modern stories and songs often reflect the stories, poems, and prayers in the Bible. Through our reading and listening, the Bible lifts our hearts, challenges us, and moves us forward.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God who continues to speak through ancient and modern songs, poems, and prayers.

### Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### \*Opening Hymn

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

#30

### Children's Message

*During both services, Jennifer, our staff person, is in the Nursery where there is a speaker to hear the service and it is streamed into Fellowship Hall. After the Children's Message second service, Preschool - 8th grade will follow Laurie for Faith Formation, music & peer groups. High School youth are welcome to join as peer helpers. When peer groups end at 11:30am, children in Preschool - 2nd grade will need to be signed out by an authorized person.*

**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 *Gospel Amen*

### A Stewardship Moment

### Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication  
Anthem *Sing To The Lord*

Governor

### \*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.**

Anthem

*For The Beauty of The Earth*

Rutter

Scripture Readings

Prophetic Reading 2 Samuel 24: 1-2, 10-13 [pg. 234]  
Historical Reading 1 Chronicles 21: 1-2, 7-8 [pg. 296]  
Gospel Reading Mark 10: 17-31 [pg. 35]

Sermon

*Reading the Bible Today*

Rev. Simon

**\*Hymn**

***Deep in the Shadows of the Past***

**#320**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

**\*Sung Community Benediction Let There Be Peace**

**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 Alison & Carl Wermer in honor of their 36th wedding anniversary.*

*And also in loving memory of Janice Hill from her sister, Jean Tucker*

Deacon: Jonah Moos

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny

Kathy Murray

Holton Family

Eric Lindholm

Judy Janwich

Eric & Shannon

Carol Janwich

Richard Ansell

Joe Phenix

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mark McKenzie & Family

Jenna

Mike Heston

Zeh

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, [welcom@fccej.org](mailto:welcom@fccej.org)*

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



**Today, October 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Blessing of the Animals After Each Service**

**Today, October 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open House**  
w/refreshments 9:30am-12:30pm



**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!**

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

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 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. Nov 8<sup>th</sup> & Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>* ~ Music & Peer Group time

*October 21<sup>st</sup>* ~ Hands-On Mission Sunday

*October 28<sup>th</sup>* ~ Music & Peer Group time

### Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

*Total for 2018 \$607.83*

*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 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, lock-in at the church that starts at Sam Mazza's Corn Maze

## Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

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

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

October 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 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; **1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor have great conversations, read a story, have snack, Godly playdoh time & return for communion.

**Peer Group Leaders & Helpers** – support a group from preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

As of October 7<sup>th</sup>, we have all slots filled for the last three months of this year with one exception. We need someone to prepare an entry for Wednesday, December 26, the day after Christmas. If you are preparing a Holiday meal for Christmas, please consider cooking some extra turkey (or other kind of entry) for Dismas House residents on the 26th. Two church members have already agreed to prepare a salad and a dessert for the 26th. Thanks for your help. Questions? Please contact Ed Steele at (802) 871-5897 or [edwardmsteele@msn.com](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com)

## 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!



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

**Next Food Pantry days are Thursday, October 25th, 2-6pm and Monday, November 12th, 5:30 - 7:30pm**



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 20<sup>th</sup> & Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm

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

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

**VT Foodbank Volunteer Trip**

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8am-12pm, group activity bagging meals @ the Barre location See Oct. Newsletter or contact [cynthiak222@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiak222@gmail.com) for more details



**Got Coats?**



**Winter Coat Drive 2018**

Box is out in the Administrative Wing, we are accepting new and gently used winter coats, snowpants, hats, scarves & mittens. Please return by November 11th as we will be distributing them on the Thursday, November 15th Food Pantry.

**Choir Voices!**

WELCOME! As we begin a new season of prayer, praise, and other uplifting music, our Sanctuary Choirs (both our SATB mixed group, and our A Capella groups) we are seeking new voices and new faces to be among us and sing our prayers and praises through music. All that is required is a love of singing - we will help you in every way possible. Our choir, like our worship environment, is one of...

Extravagant Welcome! Soli Deo Gloria!





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

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ 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 Cinemas, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ 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.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Faith on Tap

McGillicuddy's Five Corners, 6-8pm, Midterm Election Forecast and What it Means for the Church



**October 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ New Member Class

Join us after second service in the Marvin Lounge to find out more about what membership at First Church is all about!



**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ New Worship Service!

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



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

**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 7<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**THIS WEEK: October 14th - 20th**

- SUNDAY: **8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
**9:30 - 12:30 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open House**  
**10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY: 9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall  
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  
4:00 - 6:00 pm, 7:00 - 9:00 pm St Andrews Pipers / Sanctuary  
**5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts / Youth Lounge  
6:00 - 7:30 pm Cub Scouts—Robin Law/ Third Floor  
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor  
**7:00 - 7:30 pm Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm CE / Fellowship Hall**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions Committee / Marvin Lounge**
- WEDNESDAY: **8:00 - 11:30 am Food Shelf Delivery**  
9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Gym  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm 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 / Sanctuary**  
6:30 - 7:30 pm Pack 630-Lion Den Nick Dennis Meeting / Third Floor  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge**
- THURSDAY: 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
**5:30 - 7:00 pm Communications Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
**5:45 - 7:00 pm Third Thursday Potluck / FH & Kitchen**  
**6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Third Floor  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY: **\*\* November Newsletter Deadline \*\***  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge**
- SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
**9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge**  
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](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)]



*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. 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 [vtri2@aol.com](mailto:vtri2@aol.com) before October 21. If you need a pledge card, you can find it online at [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org) or contact the Church office.*

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