

***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**

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**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 21, 2018  
*Stewardship 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.*

Introit

*Honor And Praise*

Paris

Call to Worship

Leader: About five hundred years ago, many church leaders and people felt the winds of God's presence blowing over the face of the world and moving them to protest and reform the church they knew and loved.

**Pulpit Side: Luther posted the 95 thesis and the Protestant Reformation began. The faith was transformed and become a place where everyone could read the bible and participate more fully in the life of the church.**

**Lectern Side: In England the Separatists set off on a journey toward religious freedom that brought them to found our country. They are our forebears and we thank them for their witness of courage and faith.**

Leader: God continues to call us to grow and change as the world changes around us. Grant us the faith and courage to step out boldly for love and freedom Christ offers to us all.

**Everyone: Come, let us worship our God of protest and transformation.**

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

**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 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

*Danish Amen*

**#590**

**\*Hymn**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**#439**

**Scripture Readings**

New Testament

Epistle Philippians 4:10-20 [page 154]

Gospel Matthew 22:15-22 [page 19]

Musical Anthem

*Shut De Do*

Stonehill

A Stewardship Meditation

*What the Reformation  
Says About Stewardship*

Rev. Mendes

## A Stewardship Witness

### Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

*We respond to gifts of divine abundance and the opportunity to participate in a vibrant and vital ministry at First Church **by bringing our yearly pledge cards AND our weekly gifts forward and placing both on the altar.** This symbolizes not only our gratitude to God, but our dedication to Christ's community of faith in Essex Junction. If you have already sent in your pledge card, there will be an "I've Already Given" card in the Narthex for you to bring forward.*

Invitation, Offering, Anthem and Prayer of Dedication

**\*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**

***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

**#565**

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 Merrill & Zhina Cate  
in loving memory of their fathers.*

Deacon: Betsy Weischedel

Ushers: 1st Service: Bart & Paulette Frisbie; 2nd Service:

Greeters: 1st Service: Mary Jane Allen; 2nd Service: Steve & Marilyn Mitchell

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

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny  
Eric Lindholm  
Carol Janwich  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
Mike Heston

Mario Martinez  
Judy Janwich  
Richard Ansell  
Mark McKenzie & Family  
Gabrielle

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@fccej.org*



**Hannaford Cards & Reloads on Sale 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.

### 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!



### Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Faith on Tap

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

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

### Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

**Preschool – 8th grade**

*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 \$626.88*

*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

*Today, 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 VanSteenburg; **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 26<sup>th</sup>. Two church members have already agreed to prepare a salad and a dessert for the 26<sup>th</sup>. 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!



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 could donate a case!



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



**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

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



**Winter Coat Drive 2018**

**Got Coats?**



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!



**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 are currently accepting items in the Marvin Lounge 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.



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



October 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Bible Sunday

On this special Reformation Sunday we will be passing out Bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders during worship. Please let Pastor Mark, Pastor Josh or Laurie know if you will be with us that day and also if you have an older child/youth who has not received their own Bible.

October 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Halloween Party

After second service, wear a costume! Decorate a Halloween cookie!  
Dunk for Donuts! Face Painting!



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  
Interactive and Communion included.



Second Thursday of the Month ~ Bereavement Support Group

A logo for a bereavement support group. It features three small green dragonflies and the words "bereavement support group" in a simple, lowercase font.

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!

November 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Rite Aid Flu Shot Clinic, between 1st & 2nd Service

Come between services and get your flu shot here at FCCEJ!



**THIS WEEK: October 21st - 27th**

- SUNDAY: **8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
**10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**3:00 - 4:30 pm Junior Youth Group**
- 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  
6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall  
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**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts / Youth Lounge  
**7:00 - 7:30 pm Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Stewardship / Fellowship Hall**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Trustees / 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  
**2:00 - 4:00 pm Ladies Night Out / Marvin Lounge**  
**5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary**  
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge**
- THURSDAY: **9:00 am Newsletter Volunteers / Marvin Lounge**  
**9:00am - 6:30pm Food Pantry (open 2-6pm) / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen**  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
**6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**  
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY: 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
7:30 - 10:30 pm Grange / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
12:00 pm - overnight Cub Scouts BALOO Class/ML (12-2)/FH-Kitchen(2pm-8am)  
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)]



*Today is Stewardship Sunday, a day when you bring your pledge card forward to place on the altar. It is an expression of your gratitude to God and of your continuing commitment to Christ's community of faith here at FCCEJ. If you have forgotten your pledge card, you can email your confidential pledge to Financial Secretary Pat Seaver at [ytri2@aol.com](mailto:ytri2@aol.com), get another one online at [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org) or we will have extras printed out for today's services.*

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