

***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  
October 28, 2018  
*First Service - Reformation 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

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

Spiritual

Call to Worship

Leader: Like any institution, the church can grow stale with human corruption, apathy and the eternal quest for position, power and treasure.

**People: Then the Spirit of God blows in and sweeps away the cobwebs from the myopic eyes of the minions and causes divine grace and truth to surface and lead once again.**

Leader: It is an ageless cycle of God's inspiration and leadership and humanity's slow decline to baser instincts; then human insight, growth and response to God's continuing presence.

**People: Slowly, our understanding of God increases and we take the logs out of our eyes to grow in our spiritual maturity: both as individuals and as a family of faith.**

Leader: Today, let us remember one such day in 1517 when Martin Luther and others opened their eyes to see God's truth and light leading the way into a future where the Word and the Church were opened to invigorating ideas.

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

*Sevenfold Amen*

Lutkin

**\*Hymn**

*We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

**#500**

**Scripture Readings**

Old Testament Prophetic    Jeremiah 32    [page 570]

Gospel    Mark 10:46-52    [page 36]

**Musical Anthem**

*Thank You For The Valleys*

Berry

**Sermon**

*Blinded by Faith*

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*Faith To Carry On*

Besig

**\*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**

*For All The Saints*

**#299**

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 Maureen McKenzie  
in loving memory of Roger VanDenDorpel*

Deacon: 1st: Betsy Weischedel, 2nd: Jonah Moos

Ushers: 1st Service: Cathy & Tom Shearer; 2nd Service:

Greeters: 1st Service: Sylvia Nyhagen & Joyce Jacobs ; 2nd Service: Andrea & Steve Sharp

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny

Mark Carter

Holton Family

Eric Lindholm

Judy Janwich

Eric & Shannon

Carol Janwich

Richard Ansell

Joe Phenix

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mark McKenzie & Family

Jenna

Mike Heston

Mike K

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** \* \* \*



**Today, 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.

**Today, October 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Halloween Party**

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



**Today, 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!

**Today, 2019 Jamaica Team  
Stock Sales Fundraiser**

Our first fundraiser, “Stock” sales, has begun!

Team members are now selling shares of stock to family, friends, and supporters. Each share costs \$25.00. Beginning October 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have a table on Sunday mornings between services and after the second service where you can learn about the Jamaica Mission Program and purchase stocks. This is a great way for members of the congregation to invest in this intergenerational, international service program. Talk with a team member or stop by the table and see us.



**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!



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



**Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

**Preschool – 8th grade**

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

*November 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Spiritual Friends with Preschool & Kindergarteners*

*November 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Music & Peer Group time*

*November 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Hands-On Mission Sunday*



## **Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018**

Total for 2018 \$637.88

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**

November 4<sup>th</sup>, @ FCCEJ, 5-7pm

## **Junior Youth @ FCCEJ**

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

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games



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

## **Still In Need of Faith Formation Volunteers**

**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!



## **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 Monday, November 12th, 5:30 - 7:30pm and Thursday, November 15th, 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 could donate a case!



**Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop**

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs  
Open Saturdays Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm  
Fall & Winter Merchandise is ON THE RACKS!  
Donations gratefully accepted!

**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.

**Got Coats?**



**Graphic Designer Needed!**

The Communication Committee is looking for a volunteer to create a new church logo to represent the congregation to the wider community. We want to have the new logo ready to present at the Annual Meeting. Talk to Pastor Josh for details!

**10th Anniversary 5 Corners Craft Fest**

*November 10th is right around the corner!*



**Nearly New:** Consider donating your gently used items to the Craft Fest! Drop off items in the Marvin Lounge We make about \$2,000 from this part of the Craft Fest. Best Sellers: books, jewelry, purses, scarfs, dishes, frames, holiday items & puzzles.

**Silent Auction:** Suggestions: donating tickets to a theater, arts or sporting event; giving golf/tennis lessons; baking cookie/pie/cake/bread of the month; making a homemade dinner; sewing/cleaning/yardwork/babysitting; homemade sweaters/quilts; original artwork; gift certificate to a favorite store. We can make up a certificate!



**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



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

**October 30th ~ Get Out The Vote Rally**

6-7:30 @ FCCEJ. Live bluegrass music, pizza, raffles, non-partisan candidate info and polling location. This is a non-partisan event. Let's celebrate representative democracy!

**GET OUT  
THE VOTE!**



**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**

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. 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 11th ~ Rite Aid Flu Shot Clinic, between 1st & 2nd Service**

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

**November 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Advent Decoration / Workshop & Pot Luck**

You are invited to decorate your OTHER HOME.....the church. After second service we will have a pot luck lunch and then decorate the sanctuary. There will also be an Advent Project where young ones [of all ages!] and their parents make the characters in the manger. Upstairs we will be hanging the big wreaths and garland in the Sanctuary. We will put up the Christmas tree and make sure the bows are perfectly puffy! We have an awful lot of fun both downstairs and up so come with your whole family and enjoy the day, make a manger for your home and get OUR HOME ready for the Christmas season.



**THIS WEEK: October 28th - November 3rd**

- SUNDAY: **8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
**10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
**11:30 - 1:00 pm Halloween Party / Gym & YL**  
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  
**5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts / Youth Lounge  
6:00 - 7:30 pm Get Out The Vote Rally-VIA sponsor/ Front Steps / Sanctuary if rain  
**7:00 - 7:30 pm Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery**
- 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**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin 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**  
3:00 - 4:00 pm Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 630 Meeting (Pelaia) / Fellowship Hall  
**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  
**4:00 - 5:00 pm Guild Wedding Rehearsal / Sanctuary**  
**5:00 - 8:00 pm EEO Community Dinner / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen**
- SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
**9:00 - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
**12:00 - 2:30 pm Guild Wedding / Sanctuary**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge

## 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)]

*mission*  
**M O M E N T S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 28, 2018

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:46-52

*Take Heart*

Bartimaeus must have gotten asked quite often if there was anything anybody could bring him, or help him across the street, or in some way aid him but only once did the Lord of Life ask him what he wanted. Only once did someone who could change things ask him what he wanted.

What would you say – if asked what do you want by someone who could give it to you? A person struggling to pay for their education, especially theological education, would know what to ask for. The average Seminarian debt these days hovers between 30 and 40,000 dollars. That's a lot of debt to incur preparing for a career that doesn't have a high salary return. The United Church of Christ has many scholarship funds for Theological students. There are funds for people going into military chaplaincy, funds for disabled students, funds for LGBTQ students, Latino and Latina students, African American students and more. If you know somebody planning to go into ministry who is a member in discernment in the UCC let them know that there is help by going to [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and searching for scholarships.

Many Conferences in the UCC have all manner of scholarships. And congregations, too, have set up a variety of scholarships. In Cloverdale, California they have a scholarship for a graduate of the local High School who is the first in their family to go to college. Heidelberg University in Ohio has a scholarship for members of UCC congregations. Chapman University in Orange, California is another school with scholarships for UCC students. Cable Congregational UCC in Cable, Wisconsin has a small scholarship in the name of a former pastor.

The average monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): \$411 [based on average debt at 39,000 dollars (WSJ: Test Your Smarts on Student Debt, March 4, 2018)]. That is a huge amount of debt to follow a recent graduate. Wouldn't it be great to help lessen that burden—to be someone who gives what a person wants? Think about how much Higher Education means to a young person and what kind of a difference even a small scholarship could make. Many churches and conferences have set up funds. Your church probably has a memorial fund for your congregation's future. What about building a different kind of security for the people in your church? What about a scholarship fund for the children of members of your congregation?