

***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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**E-mail: [welcome@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org)**

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
November 4, 2018  
*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.*

Introit

*Song of Hope*

Schumaat

Call to Worship

Leader: The God of the Law, and Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit through Paul teach us all the same thing: we must love.

**Pulpit Side: The Lord, our God is one and you shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

**Lectern Side: And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

Leader: God wants us to love. Jesus wants our lives to be in accord with the dictates of love. The Holy Spirit wants our church community to be shaped according to the law of love. Come, let us try.

\*Opening Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

#43

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you teach us through the centuries to simply love: love and take care for the created order, love and cherish our relationship with you, love and treasure our neighbor and love ourselves without measure. We are so sorry that we fail in this simple, long standing request.**

**Forgive us for not taking care of the world.  
Forgive us for not nurturing our relationship to you.  
Forgive us for not thinking about others.  
And forgive us for neglecting our own well being.**

**Help us integrate your love into our psyche and ways of being so that we might sincerely follow you. In Christ's name, amen.**

#### The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Luckily, God loves us and embedded in that belief is complete forgiveness. When we fall short of God's vision of love, God always forgives us. Jesus forgives all of you today.

**People: We accept God's mercy and will use it to pay it forward.**

Leader: Amen and Alleluia...The Good News of Christ's victory!!!

Musical Song -2nd Service      *The Unicorn Song (Cherubs & Joyful Noise)*      Silverstein

#### 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

*Hear Our Prayer*

Whelpton

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Deuteronomy 6:1-9 [page 127]

New Testament I Corinthians 13:1-13 [page 134]

Mark 12:28-34 [page 38]

Musical Anthem

*Within These Walls*

Choplin

Communion Meditation

*A Community of Love*

Rev. Mendes

**\*Hymn of Approach**

*Jesus Loves Me*

#327

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*The bread will be passed out to the congregation; please wait for the minister to invite you to eat it so that we can all eat it together. This symbolizes our unity in Christ. Drink the cup as the Spirit moves each person to do so, as a sign of the unique gifts we bring to our ministry. Our faith is both an individual and corporate reality.*

*Special note: Our bread is gluten free and all the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

*All are welcome at Christ's table.*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*In Remembrance of Me*

Courtney

**\*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**

*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

#485

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 Ed & Anita Guild  
in honor of Curt & Julie's Wedding.*

Deacon: Carolyn Rushford

Ushers: 1st Service: Alison & Carl Wermer; 2nd Service: Terri Livak & Gorden Starkey

Greeters: 1st Service: Beth & George Paul; 2nd Service: Carl Wermer

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny

Eric Lindholm

Carol Janwich

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mike Heston

Mark Carter

Judy Janwich

Richard Ansell

Mark McKenzie & Family

Mike K

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*

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

**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. There is 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 sign-up 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!

**Sign up For Nativity Set for Advent Event on November 18<sup>th</sup>**

See more info on page 9



\* \* \* **THIS WEEK** \* \* \*



**2019 Stewardship Campaign**  
**Help us keep the train on track!**

Thank you to those who have returned their pledge cards to the 2019 Stewardship Campaign! If you haven't already, please return your card asap and mark either "yes" or "no", indicating whether or not you are able to make a pledge for 2019. You may also email your confidential pledge to Financial Secretary Pat Seaver at [vttri2@aol.com](mailto:vttri2@aol.com). We need to hear from everyone, whether or not you plan to pledge or are keeping the same pledge amount as last year. 80% of our income comes from YOU, and we depend heavily on these funds for our operations, our programs and the many people they serve.



**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**

Join us in the Sanctuary, 7pm. where producer Nicholas Ma discusses and shows clips from his recent film 'Won't You Be My Neighbor?', a documentary about Mister Rogers, a leader in TV programming related to kindness, racial harmony, civility, and hope.

**Second Thursday of the Month ~ Bereavement Support Group**

7-8:30, Marvin Lounge, All Welcome



**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**

Kindergarteners **November 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Spiritual Friends with Preschool &  
**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 \$650.88*

*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**

**Today, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, Get Air , 5-7pm



**Junior Youth @ FCCEJ**

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

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

**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!

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

**December Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!**

We need someone to prepare an entree for Wed, Dec 26, If you are preparing a Holiday meal for Christmas, please consider cooking some extra turkey (or other kind of entree) 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 871-5897 or [edwardmsteele@msn.com](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com)



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

**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 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> 9 am to 1 pm  
Fall & Winter Merchandise is ON THE RACKS!  
Donations gratefully accepted!



**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.

**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**

**Still Accepting Nearly New Items:** 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.

**VT Foodbank Volunteer Trip**

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





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

**November 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 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!



**Next Sunday, 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!

**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.



**Christmas Pageant**

**November 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th, 15th ~ Christmas Pageant Rehearsals**

**December 1<sup>st</sup> ~ New Worship Service!**

Once a month on the first Saturday of the month, 4:30 pm  
Interactive and Communion included.



**December 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Pageant ~ Both Services**

**THIS WEEK: November 4th - 10th**

- SUNDAY:** 8:30am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
10:15am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
11:30 - 1:30 pm **Craft Fest Meeting/Lunch/Decorating / ML & Church**  
11:30 - 1:30 pm **Junior Youth Group / Youth Lounge**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
5:00-7:00 pm **High School Youth Group / offsite @ GetAir**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
- 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**  
5:30 - 7:30 pm **Girl Scout Troop / Third Floor**  
6:30 - 9:30 pm **Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall**
- 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 - 7:00 pm **Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Church Council / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 7:30 pm **Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery**
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:00 am **Nominating Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
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 **Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall**  
6:00 - 9:00 pm **Brownell Library Wed. Program / 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 2019 Team Meeting / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge**
- THURSDAY:** 8:00 - 9:00 am **Jamaica Bound Calcutta Committee / Marvin Lounge**  
9:00 - 8:30 pm **Nearly New Setup / Gym**  
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
3:00 - 4:00 pm **Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor**  
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 **Bereavement Support Group / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY:** 9:00 - 5:00 pm **Craft Fest Setup / All Church**  
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: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 5 Corner Craft Fest / All Church**  
9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
**9:00 - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**

### **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)]



November 4, 2018

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-18

### Wherever You Go

Ruth and Naomi qualify as refugees, forced from their home by death and famine. Naomi is going back to the town where she was born but Ruth is a foreigner. These two women will forge a team that will overcome odds, deal with whatever comes up for them and survive against all comers. The result will be good for them and for their community. It's a story that has been told and retold throughout human history, and today, in the same part of the world, and in a similar geography, people who once had homes, and communities and families are displaced and wandering.

“Week of Compassion” is a network of church partners through Global Ministries and our partnership with the Disciples of Christ. It works to ensure our faithful and efficient response to humanitarian needs around the world. Recently they sent a team of people, including a UCC pastor from New Mexico, to a refugee camp in Iraq. The job of these three representatives was to document the work being nurtured to help the women in these camps find a way to support themselves and their families. Some statistics estimate that the number of refugees from Iraq in Kurdistan may be well over 2 million people. Many of those are women and children.

The UCC pastor on the team found herself in Iraq because, as she told the UCC news service, “I accepted the invitation to go to Iraq because I got tired of being numb, of reading about the latest atrocities and then turning the page. I think it's important for us, as people of faith, to see the human faces behind the headlines. Refugees are people just like the rest of us who once had homes, families, jobs, communities. We need to hear their stories.” Sometimes loving your neighbor takes you on a journey.

The Pastor's name is Reverend Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister of the United Church of Christ in Santa Fe, a church that has a long history of working with immigrants – in the 1980s it was Salvadorans fleeing a brutal civil war, in the 90s Rwanda and Kosovo swept the headlines with its refugees. Today, the congregation works with its large immigrant population in Santa Fe.

The object of ministry, of reaching out to those in crisis from other cultures, is to recognize that we are all God's beloved creatures and share human needs for shelter and safety and nourishment and community. We have stories to tell each other. We have things to learn from each other. We have things we can give each other. Ruth clings to Naomi and will not leave her. She knows that her future belongs in following a woman from another culture, another language, another home. Ruth follows Naomi because she has no other way forward. Just like the women of Iraq and Syria and all the places that families flee to find a better life.