

***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@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)**

**Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)**

**Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC**



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
November 18, 2018

*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

Call to Worship

Leader: God is with us.

God's love unites us.

God's purpose steadies us.

God's Spirit comforts us.

**People: Blessed be God forever.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

***We Gather Together***

**#421**

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

The Baptism of Easton Monroe Isham [First Service]

## 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

## Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalm 16

New Testament Gospel Mark 13

Musical Anthem

Sermon

*I Believe In Hope*

Rev. Simon

**\*Hymn**

***Hope of the World***

**#46**

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.**

**\*Hymn**

***Lift Every Voice and Sing***

**#593**

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 Sharon Dettenrieder  
in loving memory of Douglas Dettenrieder.*

Deacon: Erica Garvey

Ushers: 1st Service: Barb & Frank Smith; 2nd Service: Linda Bogardus

Greeters: 1st Service: Alison Wermer; 2nd Service: Marsha Duell

**First Church's Prayer Ministry**

Lilly & Donny

Gabrielle

Carol Janwich

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mike Heston

Barbara Howe

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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)*

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



### **Hannaford Cards & Reloads on Sale TODAY!**

### **TODAY ~ The Giving Tree Is Here!**

Perhaps you noticed the Christmas tree that is set up in the narthex. It holds tags for approximately 50 children in Essex Junction, Essex Town and Westford. For each child there are three tags, two of the tags ask for gifts of clothing that the child needs and the third tag asks for a book, game, toy or gift card for the child. There will be a group of tags with red ribbons that combine all three gift tags for one child as requested by several people in the congregation. All of the other tags have green or gold ribbons. Please consider taking a tag or two to bring a smile and some Christmas cheer to a local youngster. If you do take a tag(s), be sure to sign your name on the sheets by the base of the tree identifying the tag number(s) that you have taken in case we need to follow up with information. Wrapped gifts, with the tags securely attached, need to be returned to the church no later than Dec. 12. We will be distributing the gifts on Dec. 19. Families that we help have expressed how much they appreciate the gifts we give their children and the joy that abounds on Christmas Day. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elaine Raymond at 879-7350.



### **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.

**\$7882.85 Craft Fest Total**



## **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!



## **TODAY! ~ 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** \* \* \*

## **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!



## **NO Meeting This Week ~ Wednesday Night Searchers**

### **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**

*November 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 \$672.67*

*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 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th, 15th ~ Christmas Pageant Rehearsals  
For all youth, 5th-12th grade, 5-7pm

### **Junior Youth @ FCCEJ**

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

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

TODAY, November 18th, 3-4:30pm

\* \* \* **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!

**Dismas House Meal Volunteers All Set for 2018!**



Members of the Church have volunteered to provide dinners for residents of Dismas House Winooski for the fourth Wednesdays in both November and December. A big "Thanks" to all who have supported the Church's Dismas House mission. If you want more information about the program, please contact Ed Steele, the current facilitator of the program. (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 Monday, December 10th, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
and Thursday, December 20th, 2-6pm**

We are in need of fruit juice, 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 Dec 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm

Fall & Winter Merchandise is ON THE RACKS!

Donations gratefully accepted!



**Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed**

Fall & Winter dates are all up on the Sign Up Genius-please volunteer!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4facae2daafe3-ushergreeter>



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



**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

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

For all youth, 5th-12th grade, 5-7pm



**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 1st ~ It Takes A Village: Voices For Equity & Belonging**

8:30am-12:30pm @ EMS Cafeteria

**December 13<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. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> for the rest of 2018. Everyone, church and community members are welcome, bring a friend!



**Christmas Pageant**

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

**THIS WEEK: November 18th - 24th**

- SUNDAY: **8:30 am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
**10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**3:00 - 4:30 pm Junior Youth Group / ML/Third Floor**
- MONDAY: 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
- 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 - 9:00 pm St Andrews Pipers / Third Floor  
**5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall**  
6:00 - 7:30 pm Cub Scouts-Robin Law / Youth Lounge  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge**  
**7:00 - 7:30 pm Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery**
- WEDNESDAY: **\*Office Closed\***  
8:30 - 11:30 am Food Pantry Delivery / Fellowship Hall  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY: **\*Office Closed\***  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
12:00 - 8:00 pm Larsen Family Thanksgiving / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- FRIDAY: **\*Office Closed\***  
**\*\*December Newsletter Deadline\*\***  
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)]

Music & Choir Director: *Carol Spradling* [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto:cspradling@fccej.org)]

Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [[lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)]

Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [[jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org)]

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [[mmendes@fccej.org](mailto:mmendes@fccej.org)]

### **Music Ministry**

Cherub Music: Jenny Bourn [[jennybourn4@gmail.com](mailto:jennybourn4@gmail.com)]

Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [[rickdooley5@gmail.com](mailto:rickdooley5@gmail.com)]

Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [[jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com)]

Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [[bill.bickford@aol.com](mailto:bill.bickford@aol.com)]

Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director: Carol Spradling [[cspradling@fccej.org](mailto: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)]



# SILENT AUCTION

***Thank You's!***

***Please show your appreciation for their donation by patronizing these businesses and thanking them!***

***Donors:*** 802 CrossFit, Ann Gray, AutoZone, Bibens-Ace Hardware, Bouchard-Pierce Appliances, Bow Meow, Carol Daigle, Central Beverage, Chapin Orchard, China Garden Clean & Clear Auto Detail, Cynthia Kelley, Darkroom Gallery, Essex Automotive Services, Essex Cinemas, Essex Colonial Mart Deli, Essex Equipment Rental, Essex Family Fun & Entertainment Center, Essex Paint & Carpet, Essex Physical Therapy, Fairgrounds Beverage, Finest Image, Gadue's Dry Cleaning, Grand Buffet, Greene Mountain Nutrition & Smoothies, Haircuts Plus, Hammer Fit, Hoagies, Jan Hopper, Jon's Darkroom & Frameshop, Judy Roy, Lester Nutting, Linda Bogardus, Lisa Clark, Lowe's, Maplehurst Florist, Marilyn James, Mark Mendes, Martone's, MetroRock Vermont, Mimmo's Pizza & Restaurant, Mindy Bero, Mountain View Animal Hospital, Nancy Milne, Nate's Automotive, Nest Bakery & Café/Firebird Café, New York Cleaners, Nomad Coffee VT, Northfield Savings Bank, Oil N' Go, Palmer Lane Maple, Penny Williams, Phoenix Books, Phyllis Willey, Planet Fitness, Ray's Seafood Market, River Road Beverage & Deli, Rocky's NY Pizza & Ice Cream, Salon Arcadia Sandy Pines Kennel, Snowflake Chocolates, Sport Central, Structures Salon, Sue Conti, Sue Wood, Sweet Clover Market, TD Bank, Terri Livak, The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa, The Links at Lang Farm, The SportsFitness Edge, The UPS Store, Triple Loop Costume Shop, Turner Toy & Hobby, Twincraft, UVM Athletics, Vermont Ballet Theater School, Village Green Florist, Wise Buys, X-Ray's Barber Shop, Yankee Pride

***Volunteers:*** Alison Wermer, Ann Gray, Barb and Frank Smith, Betsy Weischedel, Betty Moody, Bill Keithcart, Bruce Bottamini, Cynthia and Todd Kelley, Gail Babinger, Jane Schneider, Jessica Moos, Kathy Finnie, Maureen Evans, Maureen McKenzie, Muriel Nutting, Nancy Milne, Pat Seaver, Paulette Frisbie, Phyllis Willey, Sara Leggett, Sue Conti, Sue Wood