

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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
December 23, 2018  
*Carol Sing ~ Third Sunday of Advent*

*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 by Joyful Noise

*Ring The Bells, It's Christmas*

Wagner

Lighting the Advent Candle: LOVE

**Light the Advent candle, four: think of joy forevermore;  
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

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

Opening Carol

*O Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free  
From the fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation enter every longing heart  
Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign;  
Born to rule on earth forever, come be known to us again.  
By your own eternal spirit, come to claim us as your own,  
By your own sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.**

## Children's Message

*During worship our staff person, Jennifer, is in the Nursery for children under 3 years. There is audio in there and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall.*

**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.**

## Carols of Angels

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the new born king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

## 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

*Were You There On That Christmas Night?*

Sleeth

**Tender and Quiet Carols**

***Silent Night, Holy Night***

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night, shepherd quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia.  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!  
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth**

Christmas Violin Anthem by Allie Harris

***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, from tender stem has sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.  
It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.  
Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.**

New Testament Scripture Reading Luke 1:39-56 [page 43]

**Manger Carols**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!**

**And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!**

**So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.**

**No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,**

**Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

*Away in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there**

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*Come To the Manger*

Liebergen

**\*The Doxology # 119**

*As with Gladness, Folk of Old*

**As with gladness, folk of old, did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, burning bright;  
So most gracious Lord may we, ever more be led to thee.**

**As they offered gifts most rare, at the manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy;  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to you, from whom they spring.**

**\*Closing Carol**

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light**

Refrain

**The Shepherds feared and trembled, when lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth**  
Refrain

**Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,  
God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn**  
Refrain

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

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

**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.

Deacon:

Ushers & Greeters: Ann Gray & Terri Livak

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lilly & Donny

Gabrielle

Carol Janwich

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mike K

Elizabeth Turner

Barbara Howe

Judy Janwich

Richard Ansell

Mark McKenzie & Family

Frank Polanshek

Kathy & Rob

Holton Family

Eric & Shannon

Joe Phenix

Jenna

Carolyn

Black Family

*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@fcej.org](mailto:welcomed@fcej.org)*

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



**Hannaford Cards & Reloads On Sale TODAY-Last Chance for 2018!**



**Please sign up for January 2019 Altar Flower Chart Is UP!**

Remember a loved one or a special event in your life by dedicating the altar flowers on Sunday. Maplehurst Florist creates two vases for \$34. Please take them after the services or we can try to find someone to enjoy them when Mark & Josh visit during the week. The chart is in the Fellowship Hall hallway to the Sanctuary.

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



**NO CLASS CHRISTMAS ~ Yoga & Meditation @ First !**



Jonah is now offering 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.

**NO MEETING CHRISTMAS DAY ~ 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**

Next meeting will be January 2, 2019

**Meeting This Week ~ 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**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ 10am worship ~ intergenerational for all ages**

**December 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 2 services ~ intergenerational for all ages**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends with PreK & Kindergarteners  
Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship**

**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018**

*Total for 2018 \$733.67*

*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**

*Help usher & greet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month during 10:15am service*

### **Junior Youth @ FCCEJ**

*January 6th ~ 11:30-1:30 Mark your calendars!*

### **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** \* \* \*



### **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, January 14th, 5:30 - 7:30pm and Thursday, January 14th, 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 Jan 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm

Donations needed: holiday sweaters, women & men's winter jackets,  
women's winter boots, women's shirts, winter gloves & hats

Donations gratefully accepted anytime in our bin!



## **Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed**

Winter dates are all up on the Sign Up Genius-please volunteer!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4facae2daafe3-ushergreeter>

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

## **December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Eve Services**

5pm Family Service

9pm Lessons & Carols

11pm Carols & Communion



## **January 5<sup>th</sup> ~ New Worship Service!**

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

## **January 8th ~ Finance/Council Meetings [moved from the 1st]**

## **January 10<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. 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!



**THIS WEEK: December 23rd - 29th**

- SUNDAY:     **10:00 am ONE Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
              **11:00 - 2:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal / 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**  
              **5:00 pm Family Service / Sanctuary**  
              **9:00 pm Lessons & Carols Service / Sanctuary**  
              **11:00 pm Carols & Communion Service / Sanctuary**
- TUESDAY:    11:00 - 2:00 pm Nepali Community Worship / Sanctuary & FH  
              12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- WEDNESDAY: 9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall  
              12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
              **2:00 - 4:00 pm Ladies Night Out / Marvin Lounge**  
              **5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall**  
              7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:   12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
              3:00 - 4:00 pm Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor  
              **6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**  
              **7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY:      12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:   9:00am - 11:00 am Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
              1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
              2:00 - 5:00 pm Edwards Baby Shower / 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)]

*The Poinsettias on the Altar are Given by:*

*Betty & Bill Adams in loving memory of friends*

*Myrna Doney in loving memory of her mother, Fern and Mr Bob*

*The Dooley Family in memory of Dorothy & Joseph Pine and Harry Dooley*

*Marsha Duell in loving memory of Rufus Duell*

*Norma Edwards in memory of family*

*Erica Garvey & Jon Roddy in memory of loved ones*

*Cathie Goodheart & Tim Carney in memory of loved ones*

*Joanne Irwin in memory of loved ones*

*Shannon McCullen in loving memory of Ed & Peg Hurst*

*The Noel Family in loving memory of parents, Mary & Larry Noel*

*Carolyn Rushford in memory of loved ones*

*The Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony in honor of Carol Spradling*

*The Shearer Family in loving memory of family and friends*

*The Starkey Family in loving memory of Mr & Mrs Gorden Starkey Sr.*

*Carolyn Toof in loving memory of Dick Toof & Renee Boucher*

*Carl & Alison Wermer in loving memory of family*

*FCCEJ remembers its beloved members who have passed in 2018*

*Frances Christensen, Joyce Daniels, George Dunbar Jr., Norman Faunce, Marion Ferris,  
William Harris, Diana Higgins, Carol Mauger, Gerald Lee Nadeau & Alice Williams*