

***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@fcej.org

Website: www.fcej.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
January 13, 2019
First Service ~ The Baptism of Christ 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

Praise His Holy Name

Hampton

Call to Worship

Leader: The rains watered the earth and brought forth vegetation, life and growth. Water is the fountain of life.

People: Our mother's water nurtures us in the womb and releases us into life within our world. Water is the fountain of our life.

Leader: Moses finds life on the Nile, Noah ushers in new life with the flood, Jonah sees reality anew in the depths of the lake, John welcomes folks into a new relationship with God through the waters of the Nile. Water brings new life.

People: Jesus offers us new life through the waters of baptism. New behaviors, new visions, new ways of being meet us as we are washed with sacred waters. Jesus' water nurtures our souls and sets us right.

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise our God,

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

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. After the Children's Message second service, Preschool - eighth grade are welcome to follow Laurie for Faith Formation with music & peer group on the 2nd & 3rd floors. High School youth are welcome to join in as peer helpers. Adults can accompany children, get them settled, stay or return to worship. 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.**

Anthem

Down to The River To Pray

Trad.

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer**

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response *Amen, Amen*

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.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Corner Of The Sky

Schwartz

***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.**

New Testament Scripture Readings

Historical Acts 2:37-47 [page 91]

Gospel Luke 3:15-22 [page 46]

***Hymn of Preparation**

Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed

#328

Baptism Meditation

With You God Is Well Pleased

Rev. Mendes

An Invitation to Renew Your Baptism Vows

Rev Mendes invites and encourages everyone forward to renew their baptism vows and to accept God's blessing. Rev. Mark will make the sign of the cross on your forehead with water and declare that God is well pleased with you. You only need to accept the blessing

Congregational Acclamation

***Closing Hymn**

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

#351

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.

Deacon: Betsy Weischedel

Ushers: 1st :Tim Carney & Cathie Goodheart; 2nd :Linda Bogardus & Amy Trimble

Greeters: 1st Service: Steve & Sue Wood ; 2nd Service: Linda Jackson

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Elizabeth Turner
Gabrielle
Carol Janwich
Bruce Giannuzzi
Mike K

Linda Dudley
Judy Janwich
Richard Ansell
Mark McKenzie & Family
Frank Polanshek
Mary Weltzin

Holton Family
Eric & Shannon
Joe Phenix
Jenna
Carolyn

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 Budget Information Sessions

Come ask any and all questions you have about the 2019 FCCEJ Budget that can be found in the Annual Reports in the Narthex. After 1st Service we will be in the Marvin Lounge and after 2nd we will remain in the Sanctuary. Join Us!

Looking To Show Off Your Baker's Hat?

Hospitality is looking for some help in showing off your mad baking skills! If you would like to help provide a goodie for any Sunday Fellowship Time, contact Jim Glatz
802-503-5076 glatzjim@gmail.com



If You Asked For Pledge Envelopes, Please Pick Them Up TODAY in the Fellowship Hall

* * * **THIS WEEK** * * *

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.



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



Each week, a group of folks get together to explore the faith. We do so through books, movies, discussions with members from other religious traditions, TED Talks and anything else we want to do. We will begin meeting after the Christmas break on January 2nd, where we will discuss a handful of insightful articles collected by Rev. Mendes AND pass out our next focus of Study: Simply Jesus by N.T. Wright. Whether you love Jesus and call him Lord and Savior or struggle with his divinity, you will be welcome to come and discuss those issues with a supportive and loving group of people. Books are available in Jen's office or on a Sunday morning.

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

January 13th ~ Music & Peer Group time

January 20th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ Celebrating your 2018 Offering

January 27th ~ Music & Peer Group time

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$759.67

*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 1st Sunday of the month during 10:15am service
Sunday, January 20th ~ 11:30am-1:30pm Martin Luther King Jr service project.

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

Sunday, January 20th ~ 3pm – 4:30pm ~ provide a snack
Parent Helper Needed

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL
HELPERS NEEDED!



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 1st & 2nd.

Spiritual Friends – First Sundays of the month - great conversations, read a story, have snack, playdoh time & return for communion.

Peer Group Leaders & Helpers – support a group from preK - 8th 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!

Laurie will be away visiting UCC churches in Connecticut from Saturday, January 19th – Tuesday, January 29th. If you need to reach her, please send an email.

Dismas House Meal Volunteers

FCCEJ has volunteered to provide dinners for residents of Dismas House Winooski for the fourth Wednesdays of each month. A big "Thanks" to all who have supported the Church's Dismas House mission in 2018. Signups for 2019 are on the bulletin board going out of Fellowship Hall. 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.



Bottle/Can Drive

Thank you for all your donations! The NEW container is on the Church Street side under the overhang. Thank you to the Boy Scouts for constructing it! **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 24th, 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 19th & Feb 2nd 9 am to 1 pm

Donations needed: women & men's winter jackets, 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 * * ***



Pick Up Your Annual Report in The Narthex TODAY!

January 13th & 20th ~ 2019 Budget Information Sessions

After 1st Service (Marvin Lounge) & After 2nd Service (Sanctuary) Members of the Finance Committee will be on hand to answer your questions.

Karen Mendes Pulpit Exchange-MOVED to February



Available until January 15th ~ Early Bird Calcutta Tickets

The fifth annual Cabin Fever Calcutta tickets are now available. Anyone who purchases an Early Bird Ticket will be automatically entered into the Early Bird Drawing for a \$100 cash prize, which will occur at the Calcutta. Your \$125 ticket supports the Jamaica Service Trip and includes dinner for two as well as one Calcutta ball number. Please make checks payable to FCCEJ with "Jamaica" on the memo line. Team members at the Jamaica table in Fellowship Hall will be happy to assist you. We hope you will join us on March 9th for an evening of fun and fellowship.

January 25th ~ Young Adult Gathering

Young adult gathering is Friday, January 25th, 7-9pm. Hannah Tracy and John Wermer are hosting at their place, 14 Sugartree Lane, F6, EJ



January 27th ~ Annual Meeting (11:30 am) / Ask the Pastor Sunday (10am)

The heart of our congregational tradition is meeting once a year for our Annual Meeting. Those gathered at the meeting on January 27th at 11:30am become the governing body of our church. What they vote upon stands as policy with neither a committee nor staff member being able to rescind or disregard their vote. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get to the meeting, we will only have ONE SERVICE on January 27th @ 10:00am and in light of our congregational ways and tradition, Mark & Josh will answer any questions the congregation has during the sermon time.



February 2nd ~ New Worship Service!

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

February 14th ~ 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. Everyone, church and community members are welcome, bring a friend!



March 17th ~ Pretzel Sunday

April 21st ~ Easter

August 5-9th, 2019 ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2019

To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!

Monday – Friday from 9am – 11:45am

Recruiting for: Music ~ Snack ~ Discovery ~ Games

Bible Drama Leaders



THIS WEEK: January 13th - 19th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary
9:30 - 10:15am 2019 Proposed Budget Question Session / Marvin Lounge
10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:30 am 2019 Proposed Budget Question Session / Sanctuary
11:30 - 12:30 pm Ushering Committee / Youth Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:00 - 6:30 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
2:30 - 8:00 pm Food Pantry [open 5:30-7:30pm] / FH & Kitchen
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
5:30 - 6:30 pm Audit Meeting / Jen's Office
6:00 - 7:30 pm Boy Scout Alumni Association / Third Floor
7:00 - 8:30 pm Venture Crew / Marvin Lounge
- TUESDAY:** **8:30 - 10:00 am** Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge
10:00 - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
4:00 - 9:00 pm St Andrews Pipe Band / Third Floor
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Deacons / Youth Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 7:30 pm Meditation w/Jonah / Nursery
- WEDNESDAY:** **8:00 - 11:30 am** Food Shelf Delivery / Fellowship Hall
9:30 - 10:30 am Tai Chi / Gym
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 1:30 pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary
6:30 - 7:30 pm Pack 630-Lion Den Nick Dennis / Third Floor
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
- THURSDAY:** **8:30 - 10:00 am** Hiawatha Tour of Food Pantry / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 4:00 pm Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
5:45 - 7:00 pm Third Thursday Potluck / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
6:45 - 8:15 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Stamping Club / Third Floor
8:15 - 9:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary

FRIDAY: ****February Newsletter Deadline****

12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge

SATURDAY: 9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH

9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge

1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fcej.org]

Music & Choir Director: *Carol Spradling* [cspradling@fcej.org]

Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fcej.org]

Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fcej.org]

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fcej.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@fcej.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: *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

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]

**WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ESSEX JUNCTION, UCC
January 27, 2019
11:15 a.m.**

**To the members of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction,
GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:**

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction will be held in the sanctuary of the Church on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 11:15 a.m. to act upon the following business:

ARTICLE I: To hear and act upon the reports of the Church Officers, Committees and Recognized Groups of the Church.

ARTICLE II: To act and vote upon the proposed budget for 2019.

ARTICLE III: To elect all church officers and committees required by the by-laws of the Church and others as may be necessary.

ARTICLE IV: To see if the Church will authorize the Finance Committee to borrow money and sign notes pledging the credit of the Church, if needed, to meet the current expenses of the Church.

ARTICLE V: To transact any other business which may properly be brought before this Annual Meeting.

**On behalf of the Church,
Alison Wermer, Church Clerk**