

***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 27, 2019
Ask The Pastor ~ Annual Meeting 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

Gather Us In

Haugen

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us gather together to celebrate life, unite in common purpose and seek to create a more just and loving world.

People: We offer ourselves up to this community knowing that our presence strengthens the ministry and calls us to participate in building Jesus' kingdom in our little corner of Vermont.

Leader: Come, let us unite as we worship and praise our God.

Opening Hymn

We Gather Together

#421

Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

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.

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, Preschool - eighth grade are welcome 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 *10,000 Reasons* Redman

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response *Christ, Be Our Light* Farrell

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem *We Are One Body* Scallon

***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 Reading: Luke 5:1-11 [page 47]

***Hymn of Preparation** *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator* #13

Sermon *Asking the Pastors* Rev. Mark & Rev. Josh

On the Annual Meeting Sunday, everyone is encouraged to ask Rev's Mark and Josh a question by writing it down on the sheet provided in the bulletin. The Deacons will collect the questions during the hymn immediately prior to the sermon. Everyone is invited to ask any question concerning any aspects of our ministry at First Congregational Church or even personal questions if appropriate in nature.

AFFIRMING OUR PARTNERSHIP OF MINISTRY

Deacon: On January 28, 2008, the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction called the Rev. Mr. Mark Mendes to serve as our Senior Pastor. On August 3, 2009, we called Laurie Chipman to serve as our Christian Education Director. On February 19, 2013, we called Jen Dooley to be our Lead Administrator. On November 27, 2017, we called Josh Simon to be our Associate Pastor. On May 1st, 2018, Carol Spradling came to be our Organist/Choir Director. Come, let us affirm these decisions and ask our God to continue to bless our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We are blessed to have Mark, Laurie, Jen, Josh and Carol as our professional staff and we pledge our support to them as we partner in ministry on behalf of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

Staff: We thank the First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to us over this last year. We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made. We are grateful for the ways our leadership has been accepted. And we look to the future with promise and optimism.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and re-affirm our commitment to your ministry. We express our gratitude for your dedication and work this last year. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith is appreciated as we move into the unknown future.

Staff: We forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together, both in the past and time to come will be pleasing to God.

VOWS OF PARTNERSHIP

Deacon: Do you, the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction promise your continued support of Mark, Laurie, Jen, Josh and Carol?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you offer your encouragement for their future ministry as it unfolds in new ways among us?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you, Mark, Laurie, Jen, Josh and Carol pledge your continued support for the ministry of the church's leadership?

Staff: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you offer your encouragement and prayers to all members and friends of this church, promising to treat all with the love of Christ? And do you promise to pray for them, journey with them in the exploration of faith, teach them of your knowledge and care for them to the best of your ability?

Staff: We do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF SHARED MINISTRY

Church President: On behalf of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, I, Carl Wermer, President of the Church, witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and a commitment to future ministry. I, along with the members and friends of this church hold both our staff and our members accountable to the promises made this day. May we hold each other in prayer and pledge our commitment to our shared ministry in the future.

Everyone: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray.

People: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. During this past year, we were united in your name and saw laughter and tears as well as hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move in new directions, as we work together to build a good and healthy church that gives glory to you here in Essex Junction. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

We Would Be Building

#607

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: Clint Russell
Ushers: Maureen & Rob Evans
Greeters: Ann Gray & Ellen Polanshek

*The flowers on the altar are given by Norma Edwards
in loving memory of her sister, Patty*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Elizabeth Turner
Gabrielle
Carol Janwich
Bruce Giannuzzi
Mike K
Karla

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! ~ Annual Meeting, 11:30 am

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. Please join us after this service, everyone is welcome!

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



Blue Table in FH ~ Resources For Families

Free items for you to take and use. Please stop by and pick up something to take home with you or give to a friend/neighbor

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



Yoga @ 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.

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 are reading 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 27th ~ Music & Peer Group time

February 3rd ~ 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends with Preschool & Kindergarteners

World Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship

February 10th & 17th ~ Music & Peer Group time

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$5.75

Total for 2018 \$778.67

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.

Laurie will be away visiting churches in CT 1/19-1/29. She will be answering emails

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

Sign up to help usher & greet on the 1st Sunday of the month during 10:15am service
Sunday, February 3rd ~ 5-7pm

Meet in the youth Lounge for another interactive experience on being changemakers. We'll discuss a service project we want to work on as a group. All ideas are welcome and we'll decide together what we want to focus on. We'll also spend time playing games and eating.!

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders gather TWICE a month Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games
Parents please stop by and sign up to help provide a meal or snack. Thank you! Mark your calendars!
February 3rd ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm ~ provide a meal
3rd ~ 10:15am Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture
17th ~ 3pm – 4:30pm ~ provide a snack

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

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 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 (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, February 11th, 5:30 - 7:30pm and Thursday, February 28th, 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 Feb 2nd & 16th 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>

Available NOW in Fellowship Hall ~ Calcutta Tickets

The 5th annual Cabin Fever Calcutta will be held at the Catamount Country Club in Williston on Saturday, March 9th. Cocktails will begin at 5:00 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM. Jamie Polli, our MC, will begin the



Calcutta at 7:00 PM. This is a fun night out with lots of great prizes in addition to the grand prize of \$1000! We will also be holding the popular wine pull, a raffle for an overnight stay/dinner at three great area hotels; Courtyard Marriott/Bleu Restaurant, Hotel Vermont/Juniper and The Essex/Junction and also a raffle for a tablet or similar electronic device. 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.

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



February 2nd ~ Praise-A-Palooza

Praise-a-Palooza is coming! Please join us for a great evening of soup, fellowship and music! Because this overlaps with the FCCEJ Saturday evening service, we are going to combine the two! We'll start at 5:00 with a fellowship service and soup dinner in Fellowship Hall, and then proceed upstairs to the Sanctuary for some great praise music by Got Grace! (Grace Methodist Church), Malletts Bay Congregational Church UCC, Smokey Newfield Project, and Finally@First (FCCEJ). Come join the fun with soup, song and praise! Admission is free, although there will be a good will offering at the door.

NO February Meeting~ Second Thursday of the Month ~ Bereavement Support Group

Next meeting in Marvin Lounge, 7-8:30 p.m, **March 14th** Everyone, church & community members are welcome, bring a friend!



March 17th ~ Pretzel Sunday

April 21st ~ Easter



THIS WEEK: January 27th - February 2nd

- SUNDAY:** **10:00 am ONE Worship Service / Sanctuary**
 11:15am Annual Meeting / 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
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
 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
 5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall
 6:30 - 7:30 pm Communications Committee / Marvin Lounge
- 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 - 8:30 pm Volker Condo Association Meeting / Youth Lounge
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
- THURSDAY:** 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
 6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
 6:45 - 8:15 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 8:15 - 9:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:** **8:30 - 10:00 am Hiawatha Tour of Food Pantry / FH & Kitchen**
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / FH & Kitchen
- SATURDAY:** 9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
 9:00 - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 5:00 - 7:30pm Praise-A-Palooza & Communion Service / FH & Sanctuary

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: *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**