

***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**

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
February 3, 2019  
*The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany*

*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

*Table of Plenty*

Schutte

Call to Worship

Leader: William Sloan Coffin said, "The lack of material well being among the poor reflects a lack of spiritual well being among the rest." Come, let us welcome the spirit of the Living God into our worship service so that we might be loved and challenged. Come, let us prepare to meet our Maker, our Friend and our Sustainer as we sing with joyous expectation.

**\*Opening Hymn**

***Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

**#1 [vs 1 & 4]**

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: The road to chaos, apathy and destruction is filled with good intentions. We strive to do good and follow in the ways of our Loving Savior, but we fall short, we fail to live up to our potential, we fall prey to powers and principalities that rule our lives, we get bogged down with details, demons and devilry.

**People: Come, let us acknowledge our shortcomings and the ways we suffer at the hands of systems that oppress, demean and discourage. Come, let us confess our sins before our God and Maker.**

### Litany of Confession

Leader: We are taught to love you, O God, with all of our heart.

**People: We confess that our allegiance is less than complete.**

Leader: We are taught to love you, O God, with all our soul.

**People: We confess that we long to have our own way.**

Leader: We are taught to love you, O God, with all our mind.

**People: We confess that our thoughts are seldom pure.**

Leader: We are taught to love our neighbors as we love ourselves

**People: We confess preference for ourselves being first.**

Leader: God have mercy upon us as we make our confession.

**People: Christ have mercy upon us and forgive our wayward ways.**

**Help us to improve our spiritual walk with you every day in some way.**

### Unison Proclamation of Assurance

**Everyone: O God, beyond language there is your Word; beyond sin there is your Holiness; beyond fear there is your Love. You are the Breath that fills us; you are the Hand that holds us; you are the Heart that loves us. Be with us this day and all days, Almighty and Redeeming Lord. Amen and Alleluia!**

### Children's Message

#### *The Fun of Choosing Where to Give*

*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 and kindergarteners are invited for a time of Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends and all will return for Communion. Adults are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship.*

**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

*Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name*

arr. Dennard

Pastoral Prayer & **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

*Amen, Amen*

Spiritual

**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

*Amazing Grace/Pachelbel's Canon*

Schafferman

**\*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.**

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-30 [page 47]

Communion Meditation

*A Shocking Thought*

Rev. Mendes

**\*Hymn of Approach**

*We Limit Not the Truth of God*

*[insert]*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*Both services will have the Deacons pass out the bread and cup passed out to the congregation. Please wait for the minister to direct you to eat the bread so we can partake as one body. Then feel free to drink the cup as you like. This style of communion represents both the corporate and the individual nature of faith.*

*Special note: Our bread and crackers are all gluten free and all the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice. All are welcome at Christ's table.*

**\*Closing Hymn**

*O for a World*

#575

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: Lauren Starkey/Josh Sharp

1st Service Ushers & Greeters: Jane & Russ Schneider and June Silverman

2nd Service Ushers & Greeters: Jenny. Phil, Molly & Izzy Bourn, Jessica & Makaylah Moos

*The flowers on the altar are given by Carolyn Toof in loving memory of Dick Toof.*

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

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

**TODAY ~ Hannaford Cards & Reloads on SALE!**



## NEEDED-Old T-Shirts

We are trying to discourage the distribution of plastic grocery bags at our Heavenly Food Pantry by making and distributing reusable tshirt bags. If you have old tshirts that you can donate to be repurposed into a bag, please put them in the box in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help with this project, please contact LindaLou Parker at vttechie@yahoo.com 999-0998



## 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 offers 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. Classes are free & 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**

*Today, February 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Spiritual Friends with Preschool & Kindergarteners*

*Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship*

*February 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Music & Peer Group time*

### Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

*Total for 2019 \$8.25 VOTING TODAY FOR 2019*

*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.

### High School Youth @ FCCEJ

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

**NO MEETING TODAY ~ Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 5-7pm**

Since it's the Superbowl, we'll hold off on meeting and we will meet February 17<sup>th</sup> for Holy Spirit Café during the second service and will have youth group after the second service to watch Selma.. Also, I want to support you in your school activities; no matter the school activity—musicals, plays, games, chess tournaments, robotic competitions, etc—I will attend and root you on. Just let me know when and where. Pastor Josh

### Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm ~ provide a meal*

*3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 10:15am Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture*

*17<sup>th</sup> ~ 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](mailto: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, tomato soup, spaghetti sauce 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 16<sup>th</sup> & March 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 am to 1 pm**

Sale: \$2.00: Men's Shirts, Women's blouses, Women's pants

Check out a great selection of puzzles, books and dishes.



**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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fun and fellowship.

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

**February 19th ~ Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition (VHCC) Legislative Day**

At the State House in Montpelier is Tuesday, February 19th.

Affordable housing advocates will spend the day talking to state legislators to push for more funding for affordable housing.

Pastor Josh, members from FCCEJ, and other local Christians are attending the Legislative Day. We'll leave from FCCEJ at 8am and will return by 3pm. If you're interested, talk to Pastor Josh.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Pretzel Sunday**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Easter**



**May 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Life Line Screening**

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be here at FCCEJ.

Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease including; Carotid Artery (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a Heart Rhythm Screening (to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!

**THIS WEEK: February 3rd - 9th**

- SUNDAY:** 8:30 am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
10:15 am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**  
11:30 - 12:30 pm **Music Committee / Choir Loft**  
11:30 - 1:30 pm **New Member's Class / Marvin Lounge**  
11:30 - 1:30 pm **Junior Youth / FH, YL, Gym**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
5:00 - 7:00 pm **High School Youth Group / Youth Lounge**  
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**
- 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**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Church Council / 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**  
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:** 8:30 - 11:30 am **Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall**  
12:00 - 1:30 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
12:00 - 2:00 pm **JOY / Marvin Lounge**  
3:00 - 4:00 pm **Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor**  
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**  
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Cub Scout Pack 630 Meeting / Fellowship Hall**  
6:45 - 8:15 pm **Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**  
8:15 - 9:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
6:30 - 10:30 pm **Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge**  
6:30 - 9:30 pm **Grange / Fellowship Hall**
- SATURDAY:** 9:00 - 11:00 am **Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**  
4:00 - overnight **Boy Scout Sleepover / full church**

## 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: *Andrea Sharp* [879-0580] or *Judy McCullen* [878-9794]  
Deacons: *Betsy Weischedel* [922-2094], *Peter Schmalz* [202-297-3625]  
Hospitality: *Jim Glatz* [503-5076]  
Missions:  
Music:  
Nominating: *Barb Smith* [878-6866]  
Stewardship: *Jessica Moos* [399-8068]  
Trustees: *Kevin Meilleur* [238-4041]  
Ushering: *Jessica Moos* [399-8068]

### Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop [879-6552] *Sue Wood* [suewood@myfairpoint.net](mailto: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]

*mission*  
**M O M E N T S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 3, 2019

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 4:21-30

Prophet on the Edge

Jesus, the young Jesus, has just returned home and preaches his first sermon in his home synagogue. He reads scripture and says little. Yet, something he says makes the people in that synagogue that day so angry that they want to throw him off a cliff. What made those first century worship attenders so enraged that preacher-cide was on their mind?

What Jesus did was suggest that their God, the God of the Old Testament, often spoke to non-Israelites, like the Syrian Naaman and the widow of Zarepath. His listeners were not happy to think that God was God to others as well as themselves. Of course, this is not just a first century idea. We humans have often fashioned God into ourselves. We are heirs of a tradition that has historically claimed God as Western European. Imagine a God that speaks Spanish, or Urdu, or Quechua. That is God – still speaking and not necessarily in English. How do we, as congregations, open ourselves to a multilingual God? How do we deepen our relationship with that God of all people? One way is become an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Just as churches became Open and Affirming and grew spiritually in their understanding of who God includes; welcoming those culturally different from us and listening to how God speaks to them in their traditions expands our understanding of God and of ourselves as human beings. It all begins in the Bible, a book that some have called the immigrants handbook because so many of its stories are about immigrants. Its stories teach about welcoming strangers and foreigners and how such relationships deepen people's connection with God. Your church can do more than Bible study on this issue. Some churches reach out to immigrant communities and churches and plan programs to share food, and culture and ministries. Some congregations read books, take trips, watch videos and listen to the stories of immigrants in their communities. Getting to know this changing world and letting in those who are different is all part of God's plan for the world. A world made of many kinds of people from many nations. All of us are born a life created by the same God. All of us trying to make a Just World.

If you want to know more go to [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and search for becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation. It's time we all did this. God has called to open our hearts to the stranger. God has called us to welcome the foreigner in our midst. It's part of being the church. It's yet another way to show your love of neighbor.