

***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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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
February 10, 2019
First Service ~ The Fifth 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

We Are Called

Haas

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

Leader: God be with you.

People: May God's presence be known to us all.

Leader: Yearning to feel God's presence, we worship God.

People: On the day I cried for God, the Holy One answered me: God encouraged me with inner strength.

Leader: God will fulfill her purpose for us because God's steadfast love endures forever. Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

God is Truly with Us

#68

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

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

Be Still

Beebe

Pastoral Prayer & Unison Lord’s Prayer (“trespasses”)

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

**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

Amen, Amen

trad.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Deep River

Cain

***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:

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 6: 1-8 [pg. 492]

Gospel Reading: John 1: 35-42 [pg. 70]

Sermon

Divine Presence

Rev. Simon

***Closing Hymn**

Praise to the Living God

#8

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: Lauren Starkey/Josh Sharp

1st Service Ushers & Greeters: Steve & Sue Wood; Barb & Frank Smith

2nd Service Ushers & Greeters: Andrea Sharp & Linda Bogardus

The flowers on the altar are given by Ginny Coe in loving memory of her son, Tom.

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, After Both Services ~ Renew Your Wedding Vows

we will offer anyone who would like to renew your commitment to your partner to stay in the sanctuary after church and renew your vows.

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





Stop by the PURPLE Table ~ Volunteer for Pretzel Sunday on March 17th

Stop by the YELLOW Table ~ See more on Spectrum Youth & Family Services ~ 2019 winner for Faith Formation Sunday School Offering



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

* * * **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

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

February 24th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ Tour of our Thrift Shop & more

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$8.50

By a vote of 45 to 22....

Spectrum Youth & Family Services is the winner for 2019!

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 1st Sunday of the month during 10:15am service

Sunday, February 17th ~ 11:30-1:30pm

We will meet February 17th 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

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 17th ~ 3pm – 4:30pm ~ provide a snack***

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



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!



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.



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 16th & March 2nd 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 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.



March 17th ~ Pretzel Sunday

A special Sunday in Lent is coming! We are looking for adults to volunteer to sign up and take a shift. Mark your calendars for this fun day and stop by the PURPLE table in Fellowship Hall or email Laurie. Shifts are: 7:30- 9:30am (mix up dough, roll pretzels & bake); 9:15-10:30am (bake & set up tables); 10:30-11:30am (bake); 11:30am-12noon (help Hospitality with clean up). See Laurie for questions and to sign up!

* * * **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.



February 24th ~ Outdoor Ministry Special Offering

Your donations help to send kids and youth to a UCC camp and support our VT programming. Money that comes in will be split 50/50 and go to the VT OM Scholarship Fund and the VT UCC OM

Program. It costs money to build a great week a camp. By supporting you are helping kids dive deeper than one can get at VB Camp or on Sunday mornings, grow in their faith, make friends, spread their wings in a fun, safe and Spirit filled atmosphere. Mark your check 'VTUCC OM' , use the special offering envelope in the pew or in your offering box.

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

May 16th ~ 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 and receive your “Community Circle” discount and your Preferred Appointment!



Be a Counselor! Share your love of God & the Outdoors!

Counsel youth on the shores of Lake Champlain for @ THE LAKE

July 28th ~ August 2nd for Campers going into 5th – 8th.

Join Laurie at Horton Center in NH and counsel youth for GOD’s CO-STARs, July 14th ~ 20th for campers going into 6th – 8th grade

See Laurie for more details on both.



Vacation Bible Camp

TO MARS and BEYOND: Exploring Where God’s Power Can Take You!

August 5-9th from 9am to 11:45am

Recruiting NOW for station leaders: Craft, Discovery/Science, Snack, Games, & Music and for Youth Helpers and Adult Group Leaders. leader, puppeteer and group leaders.

THIS WEEK: February 10th - 16th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 11:30 - 1:00 pm Called To Care Meeting / Marvin Lounge
 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
 3:30 - 8:00 pm Food Pantry [open 5:30-7:30pm] / FH & Gym
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 6:00 - 7:30 pm Boy Scout Alumni Association / Third Floor
 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
 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 / 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 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge
- THURSDAY:** **8:00 - 9:00 am** Jamaica Bound Calcutta Committee / Marvin Lounge
 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
 6:45 - 8:15 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 8:15 - 9:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:** ****March 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
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 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@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
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]



February 10, 2019

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 5:1-11

Racial Justice Sunday / Science and Technology Sunday

A Surprising Catch

Apparently, being the church is not all potlucks and Bible study, Christmas bazaars and picnics, preaching and marching for justice. Apparently, according to Luke's Gospel, it's also about deep sea fishing. That is, very specifically, deep water fishing. If you want to catch a lot of fish then you must put your nets out into deep water. Of course, the fish Luke is talking about are not mackerel and blue fin tuna, they are people. They are the people Luke envisions coming from all parts of the world to worship in Jerusalem and come to understand God through the person of Jesus Christ.

What does it mean in your community for your church to put its "nets" out unto deep waters? Our denomination is casting our evangelical nets more broadly and effectively through reorganization. The United Church of Christ is hoping that by combining some of its offices we will be able to spread the good news of the UCC in a way that will benefit the local church. We have launched a newly organized team called OPTIC.

OPTIC is the Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication. We believe that combining our communications and marketing with philanthropy and technology will enable the casting of our nets into deeper waters. Our denomination believes that there are people out there waiting to see our vision, hear our voice and understand the wide-welcome and just-world creating church that is the UCC. Finding these audiences, developing them and welcoming them into our churches is what this new team is about.

One of the many initiatives of this new team is to work closely with those planning the next General Synod. The newly minted "Shine" logo is part of that work. There will be roll outs of innovative resources for local congregations and an attention to how we can put our collective nets into deeper waters. After all, the church is called to grow and to call disciples not simply to exist. Our passion for spreading the good news is as deep as our belief in a God who offers an extravagant welcome and longs for us to live in a Just World for All – where love of neighbor, love of children and love of creation are woven in the net cast for all of us in the UCC. Look at ucc.org for word of what is happening with your OPTIC team and see the new logo for General Synod 2019.