

***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 17, 2019
Second Service ~ The Sixth 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

Come Worship The Lord

Talbot

Call to Worship

Leader: Blessed are those who trust in God.

People: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

Leader: Blessed are those who hope in God.

People: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

Leader: Blessed are those who delight in God's Word.

People: We come to hear God's Word, and to be healed of our brokenness.

***Opening Hymn**

Blest Are They [song sheet]

Haas

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

The Rising

Springsteen

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 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Medema

Lord, listen to Your children praying. Lord, send Your spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to Your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Brother

Rinehart

***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.**

***Hymn**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

#476

Scripture Reading:

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26 [pg. 49]

***Closing Hymn**

What A Covenant

#471

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: Jenny Bourn, Lisa Clark; Donna Burnett, Elaine Raymond
 2nd Service Ushers & Greeters: Heather & Terry Stein; Holly Parker, Alison VanSteensburg
 This week our Ushers & Greeters are from our Christian Education Committee

The flowers on the altar are given by Beth Paul in honor of George's birthday this week.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin
 Gabrielle
 Carol Janwich
 Bruce Giannuzzi
 Mike K

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

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, welcme@fccej.org*

*** * * TODAY * * ***



TODAY, Hannaford Cards & Reloads on SALE!



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 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 \$33.00

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

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

We will meet 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!

TODAY, February 17th ~ 3pm – 4:30pm ~ provide a snack



This Week, 2/21, Third Thursday Potluck, 5:45pm-7pm

Game Night! Bring your favorite board game for the group to play. If we have enough people, we can play multiple board games. Bring a dish. Bring yourself, bring your family, bring your friend and we will have a fun dinner and games together.

* * * **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 Thursday, February 28th, 2-6pm and Monday, March 11th, 5:30-7:30pm



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 March 2nd & 16th 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.



Bereavement Support Group

We have decided to discontinue the group at this time due to lack of interest. Please see Pastor Mark if you are interested in this topic and would like to see it continued.

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 ~ Aug 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 17th - 23rd

- SUNDAY:** 8:30 am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
10:15 am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
11:30 - 1:30 pm **High School Youth Group / Marvin Lounge**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
3:00 - 4:30 pm **Junior Youth Group / FH & Youth 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**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Christian Ed / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Missions / Marvin Lounge**
- 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**
3:30 - 5:30 pm **Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Capital Campaign Steering Committee / 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 **Stewardship Meeting / Youth Lounge**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge**
- THURSDAY:** 9:00 am **Newsletter Volunteers / 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**
5:45 - 7:00 pm **Third Thursday Potluck / 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**
7:30 - 10:30 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**

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]

mission
M O M E N T S
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:17-26

Surprising Teaching

Nothing is ever the same after Jesus talk gets in your brain. When he preached on that hillside, as reported in Luke's gospel, and began with "Blessed are you who are poor" there must have been more than a few taking those words out into the Roman empire. The church later spread those words, upending the way people thought the world worked. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, and who weep now, for everything will change." These words burned in the hearts of many in the ensuing centuries. These words that instigated change with an emphasis on the marginalized and the outcasts and those excluded from the great and powerful rooms where important decisions get made. These words grew from the bottom of society not from the top. Jesus knew that change happens from the bottom up, not from the top down.

If we are going to really call into being "A Just World for All" then we need to start preaching to the bottom from the bottom. Take racism, for example. Take it as an example of something woven into our world that creates suffering to benefit others. Jesus said blessed are those on the bottom not blessed those who oppress and stigmatize. The unraveling of the sin of racism begins in Jesus words getting inside our brains so that the world will never be the same.

A group of young people, ages 11-24, met this summer for a week in the basement of Bethany UCC in Seattle, Washington. They met there to learn and talk about dismantling racism for the sake of the world. For 17 years, this pop up social justice program has spread the word so that we, as a nation, might absolve our past by inoculating the present with visions of an aspirational nation. An aspirational vision that believes Jesus' words about hope.

Those words reorder our perceptions of the poor and move us from blaming poverty on individuals. It lifts our eyes to see the systemic forces that keep people on the bottom. Forces like lack of health care, poor education, stagnant wages, racism, segregation, lack of affordable housing and more. When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who are poor," believe him and let those words get inside your brain so they might change the world. What action can you take to fight for the powerless?