

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

**Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)**

**Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC**



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
United Church of Christ  
March 3, 2019

*Communion Sunday ~ Transfiguration*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All*

*In the Spirit of Christ*

Order of Worship

Prelude

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Bach

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

*Walk With Me*

Glaser

Call to Worship

Leader: God's presence is with us, around us, in between us, revealed to us as God weaves us together in worship. We are not always certain that we are worthy to worship God, yet God's holy presence is worthy of praise.

**People: Praising God lifts our spirits, keeps us rooted in hope, love, and faith, sustains us for the week ahead. Let us worship our God together.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

***This Is The Day***

**#84**

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession and Confession

Leader: Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. "It's good for us to be here. Let's get comfortable." We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

**All: God of glory and light, forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves. Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege. Keep expecting more of us as your disciples. Keep reminding us to listen to your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

### 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 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                      *Come Follow Me [flute: Amy Johnson Jackman]*                      Kupferschmid

### Pastoral Prayer and 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                      *Twofold Amen*                      Ramsey

### Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem                      *Let Us Be Bread*                      Porter

### \*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 Readings

Old Testament Prayer Psalm 99 [pg. 429]

New Testament Gospel Luke 9: 28-36 [pg. 53]

Sermon

*Let the Light Shine*

Rev. Simon

## **\*Hymn of Approach**

*Arise, Your Light is Come*

**#164**

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**

*This Little Light of Mine*

**#524**

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

*Fanfare*

Lemmens

\*Please stand if you are able.

Deacons: Amy Trimble/Myrna Doney

*The flowers on the altar are given by Sharon Dettenrieder  
in loving memory of her son, Eric Dettenrieder.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin  
John A  
Carol Janwich  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
Mike K

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

Holton Family  
Eric & Shannon  
Joe Phenix  
Tatro Family  
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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)*

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



**LAST WEEK TO BUY~ Calcutta Tickets on Sale TODAY!**

Stop by and chat with a Jamaica Team member in Fellowship Hall and if you haven't bought your Calcutta ticket yet, you can pick it up today! You're not going to want to miss this super fun night out, next Saturday, March 9th! Great Fellowship AND Prizes!

**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](mailto:glatzjim@gmail.com)



**NEEDED ~ Old Tshirts For Food Pantry Bags**

Bring your old tshirts to church to be recycled into grocery bags that we will provide at the Food Pantry instead of plastic bags. There is a box in Fellowship Hall to put them in. Thank you!

\* \* \* **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

This may seem like a foolish question, but if you like to talk and drink coffee, then come down to Martone's every Friday morning from 8-9 for an open conversation. Rev. Mark and/or Josh are there every week and we talk about everything from camping to politics, from deep theological questions to silly jokes, from village life to great vacation spots, from business deals to the best restaurants in town. We laugh, get serious and support each other. Everyone is invited!



\* \* \* **Children, Youth & Family Announcements** \* \* \*



## Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

**Preschool – 8th grade**

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

Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship

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

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pretzel Sunday & Peer Group time

## Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

*Total for 2019 \$51.50*

*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.

Information about Spectrum is available downstairs in the Fellowship Hall



### **High School Youth @ FCCEJ**

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

***Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm***

***Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am-1:30pm***

We're bringing back Holy Spirit Cafe on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> during second service. Holy Spirit Café is an opportunity for high school students to talk about issues of faith with young adults, many of whom were active in our youth ministry when they were students.



### **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!

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

***10<sup>th</sup> ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm ~ JYG ~ provide a meal***

**\* \* \* 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](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com).



**Next Food Pantry days are Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 March 16<sup>th</sup> & April 6<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm

Week of March 4<sup>th</sup> All adult clothing \$2

Week of March 11<sup>th</sup>, All adult clothing \$1

March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Bag sale

Looking for: jewelry, socks, nightwear & towels, bring in your Spring & Summer Items



## **Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed**

Spring 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** \* \* \*

## **Next Saturday, March 9th ~ 5th Annual Jamaica Bound Calcutta**

### **March 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 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!





# Pastoral Installation

**April 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Devon Thomas' Installation Service, 3pm**  
At the Waterville Union Church, 37 Church St, Waterville

**April 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Palm 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.

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

**June 2nd ~ Ice Cream Sunday**

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



Counsel youth on the shores of Lake Champlain for @ THE LAKE July 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> for Campers going into 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

See Laurie for more details on both.

**Vacation Bible Camp**

TO MARS and BEYOND

Exploring Where God's Power Can Take You!

August 5-9<sup>th</sup> 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: March 3rd - 9th**

- SUNDAY:** 8:30 am Worship Service / Sanctuary  
10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary  
11:30 - 12:30 pm Music Committee / Choir Loft  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
2:00 - 4:00 pm Birthday Card Making Ministry / Marvin Lounge  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** \*Office Closed-Jen Vacation\*  
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:** \*Office Closed-Jen Vacation\*  
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:** \*Office Closed-Jen Vacation\*  
7:00 - 7:30 am Lenten Morning Worship / Sanctuary  
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  
6:00 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts-PLC / Youth Lounge  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service / Sanctuary  
7:00 - 8:30 pm Jamaica Bound 2019 Team Meeting
- THURSDAY:** 8:00 - 9:00 am Jamaica Bound Calcutta Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
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  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary  
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 630 Meeting (Pelaia) / 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  
5:00 - 10:00 pm Jamaica Bound Calcutta Fundraiser / offsite

### **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: *Joanne Irwin* [878-2528], *Ed Steele* [871-5897]

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

March 3, 2019

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Astounding Glory

From time to time it is good to stop talking and listen. Just as an awestruck and babbling Peter was reminded by God, “This is my Child, my Chosen; listen!” we also sometimes need a reminder. How glorious Peter’s reminder must have been on that day!

During our days, we consume ourselves with the crush of work, news of the world, and other obligations. We forget the divine is all around us, a still-speaking God who leads and guides us.

Let’s commit to listening this week and trying these 7 things:

Sunday: Spend some time with God today and commit to letting grace speak through your life.

Monday: Ask God to shake off our complacency and forgive us for failing to listen for the Holy One’s voice.

Tuesday: Spend time with God at the end of the day reflecting on what has happened and examining your thoughts, intentions, and heart.

Wednesday: Listen to what God is calling you to do this week: help the elderly, welcome a new friend, volunteer at a women’s shelter, clean up the neighborhood.

Thursday: Spend time not only seeking God, but sharing God among your circle of friends; find the Holy One’s Voice together.

Friday: Spend time outdoors listening to the sounds of God’s magnificent creation.

Saturday: Journal about what gets in the way of hearing God’s call for your life.

This is Women’s Week at the United Church of Christ :

This week, think of Queen Vashti, who was summoned to an elaborate party by King Xerxes that she refused. Not allowing herself to become objectified, she lost favor and was banned from the King’s presence, but maintained something more valuable, her dignity. Think of Queen Esther, who risked her life to foil a plot to annihilate her fellow Jewish people. As you celebrate Women’s Week, remember Queen Vashti and Queen Esther. Their lasting legacies inspire not only women, but all who stand up for justice and freedom. (Book of Esther)