

***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
March 10, 2019
Second Service ~ First Sunday of Lent

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.

Passing the Peace

Passing the Peace of Christ is an ancient ritual of the church grounded in Christ's resurrection appearance to the disciples in the upper room when he breathed upon them and offered them peace. After the minister passes the peace of Christ, then everyone is encouraged to greet the people around you with a bit of kindness, thus spreading Christ's peace. We begin this ancient ritual with the following words....

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Introit

Return to God

Haugen

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus calls Matthew to come and follow him. Matthew immediately got up and followed Jesus.

People: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, Jesus calls you to follow him as well. Will you?

Leader: Come, let us explore what following Jesus means and try to shape our lives to journey ever more readily into Christ's demand to love everyone.

Deacon's 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

No More Alleluias

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

From This Valley

Williams

Pastoral Prayer

Each week during Lent, we will begin our time of prayer by having each pew [or if along in a pew, then pairing with the pew next to you] in focused dialogue about particular types of prayer. This will just take a small fraction of time and in the process we will learn some of the various ways Christians have prayed through the centuries.

On March 10th we will focus on Prayers of Adoration

Prayer of Adoration is when we worship, honor, magnify and or bless God. The focus is on the ways we cherish, adore, exalt God. Adoration has two sides: thanksgiving and praise. In thanksgiving we give glory to God for what God has done for us and in praise we give glory to God simply for who God is.

Speak to your partner/pew and think about one way you are thankful to God AND one attribute of God's for which you can offer praise. Later, when you pray outside of church, try to remember to include prayers of adoration.

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Congregational Musical Response #451 [verse 1]

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light**

***Hymn of Preparation**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#539

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalter

Psalm 91 Antiphon

[page 681 in hymnal]

New Testament Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

[page 7]

Sermon

My Name is Matthew

Rev. Paul Sangree

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Chain Breaker

Williams

***Doxology #451 [verse 3]**

Be Thou My Vision

**Riches I heed not, nor life's empty praise,
Thou, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

***Closing Hymn**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

#610

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.

Deacons: Amy Trimble/Myrna Doney
1st Service Greeters/Ushers: Pam Blake, Peter Gray, Ann Marie & Mike Sullivan
2nd Service Greeters/Ushers: Justin & Melisa King

The flowers on the altar are given by Sally Turner in honor of her family.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin

Linda Dudley

Karla

John A

Judy Janwich

Eric & Shannon

Carol Janwich

Richard Ansell

Joe Phenix

Bruce Giannuzzi

Mark McKenzie & Family

Tatro Family

Mike K

Frank Polanshek

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, welcomed@fccej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *

TODAY ~ Guest Preacher ~ Rev. Paul Sangree

Rev. Paul Sangree is the new Associate Conference Minister for the Vt Conference of the United Church of Christ. He is an Andover Newton graduate [a little overlap w/ Rev. Mark] and did great parish ministry for 30 years in Massachusetts. He brings a wealth of experience to the table and a boat load of gifts. He will be preaching at both services, but even more importantly, he wants to meet us and learn what our church is all about. Welcome Paul!

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



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** * * *

NO Yoga @ First This Week

Jonah offers class on **Tuesdays** at 5:30-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. He will return from traveling for the Tuesday, March 26th class. 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!



Wednesdays, March 6th - April 17th ~ Lenten Morning Services, 7am

What better way of starting the day than by worshipping our Creator and centering yourself on the Spirit of the Living God. Pastors Mark & Josh want to provide everyone an opportunity to come to church to pray, take communion, sit in silence and hear hopeful words from Jesus' preaching during the season of Lent. The service will be about 30 minutes so that everyone can still get to work on time. This is a new opportunity for folks who want to deepen your journey with the divine in our midst. Come and start your morning at church and see how it transforms your entire day.



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 10th ~ Music & Peer Group time

March 17th ~ Pretzel Sunday & Peer Group time

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$52.65

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

Today, Sunday, March 10th, 5-7pm

Sunday, March 24th, 11:30am-1:30pm



We're bringing back Holy Spirit Cafe on Sunday, March 31st 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

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!

10th ~ 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!



2019 Altar Flowers

We still have twelve dates open for 2019, 6/23, 7/7, 7/21, 7/28, 8/11, 8/25, 9/1, 9/15, 10/20, 10/27, 11/10 & 11/17. The chart for altar flowers is up in the hallway leading out of Fellowship Hall. The donation is \$34/Sunday and you can write your name and also who or what event you would like remembered/honored. Contact Jen with any questions welcome@fccej.org





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, March 11th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, March 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 March 16th & April 6th 9 am to 1 pm

Week of March 4th All adult clothing \$2

Week of March 11th, All adult clothing \$1

March 26th – 28th 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>

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

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!



Pastoral Installation

April 7th ~ Devon Thomas' Installation Service, 3pm
At the Waterville Union Church, 37 Church St, Waterville

April 14th ~ Palm 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.

Register online TODAY at 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 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: March 10th - 16th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 11:30 - 1:30 pm Junior Youth Group / Youth Lounge & Gym
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 5:00 - 7:00 pm High School Youth Group / Marvin Lounge
- 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 & Kitchen
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 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 NO Yoga w/Jonah
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Deacons / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **7:00 - 7:30 am Lenten Morning Worship / Sanctuary**
 8:00 - 10:00 am Summit School-Food Pantry Visit / FH & Kitchen
 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
 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 / 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
 6:00 - 7:00 pm CPEC Singalong / Fellowship Hall
 6:45 - 8:15 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Essex Eats Out Meeting / Marvin Lounge
 8:15 - 9:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:** ***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
 9:30 - 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: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897]
Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]
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]



March 10, 2019
First Sunday of Lent
Luke 4:1-13

Wilderness Companions

Lent begins in the deserted wilderness, where we are given another opportunity to deepen our understanding of who Jesus is. Today's lesson is about the way and the why of the ministry of Jesus: we might say that the ground rules are set. The Son of God is not here to grab power for himself, or to show off how much he matters to God, or to work magic for the masses. Jesus spends forty days struggling alone and wandering, tested by the seductive voice of evil that is backed up by scripture. This reminds us how easily the Bible can be used for wrong purposes and to be mindful of seductively good things that can lead away from God.

Jesus leaves the wilderness, filled as always with the Holy Spirit, assured that he is God's beloved, and ready for what lies ahead. As our own Lenten journey begins, we too are sure of Jesus, our companion in whatever wilderness we face, and we walk with trust in him.

This Lent, contemplate tests you have faced in your journey of faith and what path you will take in the Lenten season ahead. Even better than giving up chocolate, we might develop a daily spiritual practice of reflection on God's provision, God's abundance, and God's power in our lives.

"The greatest temptations are not those that solicit our consent to obvious sin, but those that offer us great evils masking as the greatest goods." (Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island)

Take the UCC Environmental Justice Quiz!

Did you know that UCC ministers coined the phrase "environmental racism" and played a leading role in giving birth to the environmental justice movement in the 1980s? During a six week campaign of civil disobedience in 1982, a movement was born that made national headlines and introduced the world to the issue of environmental racism.

Did you know that the UCC is building a powerful environmental network that stays connected through a blog and e-newsletter called The Pollinator? The Pollinator is a digital platform of the UCC for the sharing of ideas and inspiration, so that we might become more fruitful in the pursuit of environmental justice. Its focus is the building of a faith-filled and faith-rooted movement for the care of creation.

Did you know that UCC churches are deepening and expanding their commitment to the environment by becoming Creation Justice Churches? Whether it is taking on climate change or addressing the lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now.

Learn more at ucc.org/environmental-ministries and get involved.