

***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 17, 2019

Second Service ~ Second 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 Christ's peace. During this winter season where many have been sick, feel free to put your hands together in prayer and offer peace to your neighbor without shaking their hands. This will keep us all healthy and better able to come to church! We begin this ancient ritual with the following words....

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Introit

'Pretzel Sunday'

Prince/arr. Dooley

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us unite our hearts and souls to God's presence in this place.

Pulpit Side: Some of us are business people, Yet God is more
important than profits.

Lectern Side: Some of us are teachers and professors. Yet God is more
important than passing along truth and wisdom.

Pulpit Side: Some of us are doctors and nurses, Yet God is more important than healing and tending.

**Lectern Side: Some of us are engineers, philosophers and scientists,
Yet, God is more important than explaining reality.**

Pulpit Side: Some of us are homemakers, Yet God is even more important than caring for your family.

**Lectern Side: Some of us are carpenters, plumbers and electricians,
Yet God is more than creating a stable and safe home.**

**Everyone: Putting God first in one's life is the most important tasks.
Yet, we tend to put all sorts of worldly things before God.**

Leader: Come, let us connect with the mysterious presence of our God and strive to follow in Jesus' ways of love. Come, let us put God first in our lives.

Opening Hymn

Our God is Here [song sheet]

Muglia

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.

Joyful Noise Anthem

Zacchaeus

trad.

Children's Message

After the Children's Message, Both Services, our Nursery is open with our staff person, Jennifer. Second Service, children & youth are invited to Fellowship Hall to roll pretzels. They will then move to music time and go to their classrooms for a time of sharing and an activity. Pretzels will be delivered for snack time to the classrooms. Adults are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. Children in Preschool up through 2nd grade will need to be signed out of class by an authorized person at 11:30am.

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

Lord I Need You

Maher

Pastoral Prayer

Each week during Lent, we will begin our time of prayer by having each pew [or if alone 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 deepened their relationship with God through pray.

On March 17th we will focus on Prayers of Petition

Prayers of Petition are prayers when we ask God for our own need; God asks us to pray for ourselves and delights in our asking; God's heart is warmed when we come to the divine for help. Indeed, prayers of petition are never answered without the asking! Petitionary prayer keeps us in right relationship to God for the asking deepens and enhances our relationship. God also simply likes to be included in the daily activities of our lives and to know our deepest needs. Sometimes just the asking, clarifies our need and adjusts our attitude to the divine and centers our journey in Christ's way of love; this in an of itself can produce answered prayers. There is also a mystery and power in prayer that cannot be explained: when we center our energy and focus our thoughts there are powerful consequences which can also be defined as answered prayer.

The Lord's Prayer includes many petitionary prayers. Not praying for your own circumstances also limits one of the most difficult and faithful discussions one will ever have with the divine: that of unanswered prayer.

Speak to your neighbor about one or two of your personal prayer petitions, then commit to praying for your neighbor's prayer this week.

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**

Once to Every One and Nation [song sheet]

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalter Psalm 27 Antiphonally [page 637: hymnal]

New Testament Gospel Luke 31:31-35 [page 58]

Sermon

*Gathering Your Children or
Living into Your Hardest Lesson*

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

How Great is Our God

Tomlin

***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**

This Is My Song

#591

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

Greeters & Ushers today are members of our Stewardship Team

1st Service Greeters/Ushers: Ann Gray, Kathy Finnie & Kevin Dorn

2nd Service Greeters/Ushers: Jessica, Makaylah & Zoe Moos, Bill Keithcart & Linda Bogardus

*The flowers on the altar are given by Marion Wrightington in loving
memory of her parents, Marion & Collis Wrightington.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin

John A

Carol Janwich

Rob Fredricksen

Mike K

Linda Dudley

Judy Janwich

Richard Ansell

Mark McKenzie & Family

Frank Polanshek

Judy

Karla

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*

* * * **TODAY** * * *



TODAY ~ Hannaford Cards and 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



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!

Stewardship Committee Needs Your Help! See the Enclosed Insert

Communication and education of the congregation about methods of giving, design and execute annual stewardship & Per Capita campaigns.



Please see one of the committee members or Pastors Mark/Josh if you have questions.

* * * **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 20th - 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. 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.

Third Thursday Pot Luck, 5:45 - 7 pm

Third Thursday Potluck is an intergenerational dinner, bringing together people of all ages to share a meal, enjoy each other's company, and grow together. Barb Smith will lead a conversation on strategies to help with the pressures of life in and out of school.

Join us for a relaxing dinner and calming conversation.

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 17th ~ Pretzel Sunday & Peer Group time

March 24th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday



Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$60.65

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

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.

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!

March 24th ~ 3-4:30 pm

April 7th ~ 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 eleven dates open for 2019, 6/23, 7/7, 7/21, 7/28, 8/11, 8/25, 9/1, 9/15, 10/20, 10/27 & 11/17. 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 April 6th & 20th 9 am to 1 pm

March 26th – 28th Bag sale





Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed

Spring dates are all up on the Sign Up Genius-please volunteer!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4facae2daafe3-ushergreeter>

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: Discovery/Science, Games, & Music and for Youth Helpers and Adult Group Leaders.



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



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.



THIS WEEK: March 17th - 23rd

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 2:00 - 4:00 pm Cub Scouts-Pelaia / Gym-Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 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
 6:00 - 7:30 pm Boy Scout Alumni Association / 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
 4:00 - 9:00 pm St Andrews Pipe Band / Third Floor
 5:30 - 6:45 pm NO Yoga w/Jonah
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **7:00 - 7:30 am Lenten Morning Worship / Sanctuary**
 8:00 - 11:30 am Food Shelf Delivery / FH & Kitchen
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 - 1:30 pm Noontime Book Discussion Group / 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 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
 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: 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]

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

March 17, 2019

Second Sunday of Lent

Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Strong and Tender

Lent is the season for uncomfortable questions and hard truths. Exactly what is needed to open our eyes and our hearts, and set our feet on the path of faithfulness? In today's Scripture, the petty tyrant Herod's vision of how things should be clashes with what Jesus is teaching as he travels around, right there on Herod's home turf. But Jesus brushes aside the warnings about Herod's evil scheming as only words that are insignificant when viewed in relation to the plan of God. Those in official positions of power, whether it's Herod in Galilee, Pilate in Jerusalem, or the mighty Roman Empire itself, can cause havoc.

During these six weeks of Lent, we take a hard look at the obstacles between us and God (obstacles that God didn't put there), not just on our own personal spiritual path, but also on the road toward a new world of justice, wholeness, and peace. Consider these three questions this week:

1. How can we reflect the selfless, unconditional love of Jesus in the world?
2. How can we embody "love of neighbor" in our public life?
3. How would Jesus be perceived in the halls of power today?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more. In 2017, the OGHS offering received over \$2 million. Nearly sixty-five percent of UCC congregations participate annually.

On **March 31st**, members and friends of the United Church of Christ will have the opportunity to respond to all of these needs through One Great Hour of Sharing. Let's all give generously.