

***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**

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**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  
April 7, 2019  
*Fifth 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

*Pie Jesu*

Webber

Call to Worship

Leader: God calls the worlds into being and creates life.

**People: Thank you, O Great Creator, for bringing us into life.**

Leader: God's Spirit graces us with the law and teaches us how to love.

**People: Thank you, Divine Spirit, for showing us how to live.**

Leader: Jesus overcomes death and leads us into eternity.

**People: Thank you, Jesus, for ushering us into new life.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Living God.

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

**Leader:** It is easy to give up chocolate or caffeine for 40 days, but taking a look deep within one's self can be painful, scary, and exhausting. And yet we are called in this season of Lent to be different, to be intentional, to be reflective, to be penitent. So let us open ourselves to God's saving forgiveness.

**People:** Let us fear no more. God calls us to seek forgiveness, not because our Loving Creator revels in punishment, but because the Divine Presence longs to love us earnestly and openly. We pause before you Mighty One and seek your transforming grace.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Holy One** it is easy to want to forgo Lent. It is no fun. It is not easy. Slow our minds, break free our burdened hearts, and heal our aching wounds. Help us to look within that we might begin to experience you in all your creation. Forgive us for not forgiving ourselves and recognizing you within our lives. Help us in letting go of old hurts and enliven us to begin to know you differently. Let this time of reflection be one of profound transformation: one in which we find ourselves within you in ways that dazzle and delight. Hear our silent confession as we seek to be more Christ like.

The Assurance of Pardon

**Everyone:** Majestic Spirit, we know in you there is no darkness. We celebrate that you bring light to the darkest of places. Thank you for loving us unconditionally and forever seeking to be in relationship with us. Amen!

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.**

**Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer**

*Each week during Lent, we will begin our time of prayer by focusing on one type of prayer by practicing it and then sharing with the people in your pew or those closest to you, making sure that everyone in the church is connected. 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.*

*This week, we will be focusing on Intercessory Prayer which are prayers offered on behalf of another or for those beyond yourself. These can be prayers for a loved one or friend. They can be for a people who are oppressed or struck with loss and misery. They can be for entire communities, nations, or even all of Creation.*

*These can be prayers for healing, peace, patience, forgiveness, recovery, hope, wholeness, and much more. Intercessory prayer moves us beyond ourselves and into the struggles of others. However, it is much more than simply empathizing with another. Prayers of Intercession invite us into a deeper relationship with God. Inviting us to have our hearts aligning with God's and praying for others to be deeply transformed by the presence of God in their lives.*

*After you spend time in intercessory prayer, speak to your neighbor about one or two of your personal prayers of intercession and ask them if they would include them in their own prayers.*

**Prayer Requests Offered within the Community****A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer & Unison Lord's 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.**

**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*****What a Friend We Have in Jesus*****#506****Scripture Readings**

Old Testament Psalter 63 [page 409]

New Testament Gospel John 12:1-11 [page 81]

**Communion Meditation*****Hosting Jesus*****Rev. Mendes**

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Both services will observe communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person. Please wait for the minister to direct you to eat the bread together as one body: you are welcome to drink the cup as the Spirit moves each person; this symbolizes both the corporate and the individual nature of our relationship to our God.*

*Special note:* *ALL the bread used today is GLUTEN FREE BREAD and all the juice is NON-ALCOHOLIC grape juice.*

***Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!***

## Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

Lightfoot

**\*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**

***Let Us Tongues and Talents Employ***

**#347**

## 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: Clint Russell/Pete Schmalz  
Greeters & Ushers are from our Pastoral Relations Committee

1st Service Greeters/Ushers: Maureen & Rob Evans  
2nd Service Greeters/Ushers: Maureen Evans, Julie Leach & Riley Elliott

*The flowers on the altar are given by Joanne Irwin in loving memory of Alan Irwin.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin  
John A  
Carol Janwich  
Rob Fredricksen  
Mike K  
Tib T

Linda Dudley  
Judy Janwich  
Richard Ansell  
Family of Jim Lillie  
Frank Polanshek  
Judy

Karla  
Eric & Shannon  
Joe Phenix  
Meredith  
Carolyn  
family of Katherine Scott

*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** \* \* \*

**Sanctuary Paint Color Options.... Take the Color Option**

**Survey on Sunday, April 14 (Palm Sunday)**

Paint samples are painted on the walls in the sanctuary so that everyone can have a chance to see the different ideas being explored. The color options were recommended by color expert



Betsey Dempsey, owner of Color Concepts in Shelburne.

Betsey spent time in our sanctuary and came up with two palette recommendations. Both palettes include historic neutral colors that are welcoming, peaceful, bright and timeless.

Please weigh in by taking the Color Option Survey and identify your favorite choice on Sunday, April 14 (Palm Sunday).



**Signups for Easter Breakfast [Donation & Volunteers]**

**Easter Flowers**

It's that time again, here are the 2019 flower offerings from Maplehurst Florist. Please put your order in the offering, mail to the office or email Jen at [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) to order and let her know who you would like to remember/honor in the Easter Bulletins. Also, please remember to take your plants with you after Easter to enjoy, plant or give to someone who would enjoy the cheer! Please order by April 14th. Palm Buds - \$3.95



Single Easter Lily - \$15.00, Double Easter Lily (2 bulbs) - \$30.00

Large Easter Lily (3 bulbs) - \$35.00; Hydrangea or Large Azalea - \$25.00

Tulips, Hyacinths, or Daffodils 7" Container - \$15.00 , 8" Container - \$20.00

6" Rieger Begonia or 8" Bulb Garden - \$20.00

\* \* \* **THIS WEEK** \* \* \*



**Yoga @ First This Week**

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!



**Wednesdays, April 10<sup>th</sup> - April 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 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. We are currently reading, *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt* by Arthur C. Brooks. *Love Your Enemies* offers a clear strategy on how to engage with those who you disagree. And most of all, it is a roadmap to arrive at the happiness that comes when we choose to love one another, despite our differences. We'll discuss the first two chapters. Books will be available in the office or from Josh/Mark.

**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**

*April 7th ~ 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends, PreK & K, Communion*



**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019**

*Total for 2019 \$124.65*

***Spectrum Youth & Family Services***

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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month during 10:15am service*

*April 14<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm Arcade Games & Food @ Spare Time in Colchester*

**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!

*April 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm ~ JYG ~ provide a meal*

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



**Claussen's Cards**

Claussen's gift cards make the perfect Mother's Day gift. Everyone enjoys a burst of color to celebrate this special day and the coming of warmer weather. Memorial Day is also around the corner marking the start of the planting season! Claussen's Florist and

Greenhouse in Colchester is open 7 days a week and offers top quality flowering plants and perennials. Sign up in Fellowship Hall to purchase a \$30 gift card during the month of April. Cards will be available to pick up after Church services on Sun May 5th and Sun May 12th or during the week in between at the Church office.

**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 ~ ONLY FOUR DATES LEFT!**

We only have four dates open for 2019, 6/23, 7/7, 7/21 & 8/25. 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 [welcomed@fccej.org](mailto:welcomed@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](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com).



### **Next Food Pantry days are Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2-6pm and Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm



### **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 ~ Black Table, FH for Info & Signups**

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



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



### **TODAY, April 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Devon Thomas' Installation Service, 3pm**

At the Waterville Union Church, 37 Church St, Waterville

**April 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Faith on Tap, 6-8pm @** McGillicuddy's Five Corners.

Discussion Topic: Should We Keep the Electoral College? The Electoral College has elevated four out of five presidential candidates to the nation's highest office who had not won the popular vote.



**April 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Maundy Thursday, 6pm**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Good Friday, 7pm**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Easter, 6am(Holy Family), 8:30 & 10:15(@FCCEJ)**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Joe's Big Band Concert, 3pm**



**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!

**THIS WEEK: April 7th-13th**

- SUNDAY:**      **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
                 **10:15 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
                 **11:30 - 1:30 pm** Junior Youth / FH/YL/Gym  
                 **11:30 - 12:30 pm** Music Committee / Choir Loft  
                 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                 6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:**    12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                 **4:00 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** Yoga w/Jonah  
                 **7:00 - 9:00 pm** Deacons / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **7:00 - 7:30 am** Lenten Morning Worship / Sanctuary  
                 **10:00 am - 3:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open  
                 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                 **3:30 - 5:30 pm** Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
                 **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: **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: 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge  
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]



April 7, 2019  
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Something New  
Isaiah 43:16-21

Exodus and Exile: the most momentous experiences in ancient Israel's life. In each hour of need, God heard the cry of the people and sent prophets--Moses in Egypt, and prophets like Isaiah to the people in Babylon. For Israel, exile was being lost, homesick, divided, unmoored, rootless except for memory. It must have been hard to resist the temptation to settle down, fit in, sell out, and forget the story that had held them together. After all, what good had all that done them? Into that heartache and doubt stepped a poet-prophet to sing a new song about ancient things, and the new thing that the God of old was about to do.

## General Synod 32

You're invited to the United Church of Christ's Thirty-Second General Synod that will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, 2019!

The theme for the 32nd General Synod is based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let your light shine before others . . ."

"When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world." — The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister.

Always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers will offer illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, worship together, and participate in local community service projects.

Find out more at [www.synod2019.org](http://www.synod2019.org) and plan to attend.