

***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
April 14, 2019
Sixth Sunday of Lent ~ Palm Sunday

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

Prepare Ye

Schwartz

Call to Worship

Leader: Friends, gather around, prepare for Jesus' parade into Jerusalem. His triumphant parade excites his disciples to sing praises of joy and celebration. They are ready to enter Jerusalem with him.

People: Let us join our hearts with the early disciples, ready to sing praises of joy and celebration.

Leader: Let us worship God. Let the parade begin.

(At the start of the hymn, children, youth, & young at heart are welcome to parade around the sanctuary, by moving to the back of the sanctuary)

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

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 Holy City

Adams

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.

Today's prayer of focus is Suffering Prayer.

The Prayer of Suffering is not centered only on our own needs but also centers on others. In Suffering Prayer, we offer to God the various difficulties of our lives, the trials that we face and ask God to use them in a redemptive way. Suffering Prayer also encourages us to voluntarily take on the grief and sorrows of others in order to set them free. Suffering Prayer also encourages one to see how our own suffering has led to truth, meaning, growth and grace. One core of this type of prayer is not that God sends the suffering, but that God is suffering with us, crying at the injustice, weeping for those afflicted with disease and advocating for those suffering at the hands of despots and villains.

Speak to your neighbor about one way you have been able to use the suffering or difficulties in your life for the good, and then quietly hold hands and pray for the other person's prayer of suffering.

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**

God of Love, God of People

#571

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalm 34

The Cry of the Poor (Psalm 34)

John Foley, S.J.



New Testament Luke 19: 28-40

[pg. 63]

Sermon

A Celebratory Parade

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Ride On Jesus, Ride

Spiritual

***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**

Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise

#529

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.

Deacons: Clint Russell/Pete Schmalz
1st Service Greeters/Ushers: Emily Guziak
2nd Service Greeters/Ushers: Marilyn & Steve King; Justin, Melisa, Genevieve & Henry King

*The flowers on the altar are given by Merrill & Zhina Cate
in loving memory of their parents.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin	Linda Dudley	Karla
John A	Judy Janwich	Eric & Shannon
Carol Janwich	Richard Ansell	Joe Phenix
Rob Fredricksen	Serena & Chris Baker	Meredith
Mike K	Frank Polanshek	Carolyn
Tib T	Judy	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

*** * * TODAY * * ***

Sanctuary Paint Color Options.... Take the Color Option Survey TODAY!

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 palettes include historic neutral colors that are welcoming, peaceful, bright & timeless. Please vote TODAY!

Last Day to ORDER ~ Easter Flowers

On the next page are the flower choices from Maplehurst Florist. Please put your order in the offering, mail to the office or email Jen at welcome@fccej.org and let her know who you would like to remember/honor in the bulletins. Also, please remember to take your plants with you after Easter to enjoy, plant or give to someone who would enjoy the cheer!

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



Signups for Easter Breakfast [Donation & Volunteers]

* * * **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!



LAST Wednesday, April 17th ~ Lenten Morning Service, 7am

What better way of starting the day than by worshipping our Creator and centering yourself on the Spirit of the Living God. Come and start your morning at church and see how it transforms your entire day.



Wednesday Night Searchers

Each week we get together to explore the faith. We do so through books, movies, discussions with members from other religious traditions & TED Talks. We are currently reading, Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt by Arthur C. Brooks. This 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. Books are 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 14th ~ Palm Sunday ~ Music & Peer Group time

April 21st ~ Easter Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship

April 28th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ CWS Hygiene Kits

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$136.65

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 pews 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

April 14th, 5-7pm Arcade Games & Food @ Spare Time in Colchester

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.

April 21st ~ Easter Breakfast ~ Sign up for a shift ~ 6am to 11am

*** * * 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 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 Thursday, April 25th, 2-6pm and Monday, May 13th, 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 20th & May 4th, 9 am to 1 pm



Thank You From Joyce Jacobs

Joyce would like to express her heartfelt thanks for all the calls, cards, food, prayers and good wishes that have been sent her way. She is on the mend and looking forward to being back with us on Easter!

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 5-9th 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 18th ~ Maundy Thursday, 6pm

April 19th ~ Good Friday, 7pm

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

Easter Breakfast (@FCCEJ) 6:30-10am

April 28th ~ Joe's Big Band Concert, 3pm



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 ~ Jazz, Sunday/Ice Cream Social/One Service, 9am

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: April 14th-20th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 11:45 - 1:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 5:00 - 7:00 pm High School Youth Group / offsite-Spare Time-Colchester
- 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 Assoc. / 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
 4:30 - 9:00 pm St Andrews Pipe Band / Third Floor
 5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah
 6:30 - 9:00 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 7:00 - 9:00 pm CE / Fellowship Hall
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **7:00 - 7:30 am** Lenten Morning Worship / Sanctuary
 8:00 - 11:00 am Food Shelf Delivery / Fellowship Hall
 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
 5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary
 6:30 - 7:30 pm Pack 630 Lion Den / 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
 6:00 - 7:15 pm Maundy Thursday Service / Fellowship Hall
- FRIDAY:** ***May Spirit At First Newsletter Deadline***
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 - 3:00 pm Nepali Comm Worship / Sanctuary
 3:00 pm - 6:00 am Easter ~ Prayer Vigil / Sanctuary
 1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
 7:00 - 8:00 pm Good Friday Service / Sanctuary
- 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]

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

April 14, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm/Passion Sunday)

Luke 19:28-40

Into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday is a Sunday of possibility and expectancy. There's a colt and cloaks on the road, people shouting and a lot of excitement. Jesus is coming! There's a party atmosphere with neighbors that don't like the noise and tell Jesus to keep his followers quiet. But Jesus replies, "Even if everyone was quiet the stones would shout." Can you imagine feeling so much hope and joy at the entrance into your city or town of someone who represents not a political, military or sports victory, but the coming of peace itself?

The day after Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the temple and turned over the tables of people who were buying and selling and changing money. He drove them out saying, "my house shall be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers" (Luke 19:46). The economic injustice of the money-changers' profiteering in the temple infuriates Jesus and this is one of the few times we witness his righteous anger.

At that time, following Jesus meant making choices about whose side you were on. Christians still make those kinds of choices. But we followers of Jesus have not done such an excellent job of understanding his message of compassion and love. Instead, for two thousand years, we've often been part of the same kind of brutal power systems as the one in Jerusalem long ago. And all of this time, the God of compassion and love must have wept.

This week, as we stumble toward Jerusalem, we can rely on God's grace to carry us every step of the way and trust the unknown future to the God who works good in every circumstance and in every holy week of our lives.

Work this week for peace and economic justice. Here are some ideas:

Start a prayer and meditation group in your church with a focus on peace.

Find ways to use your voice in solidarity with others who may not always be heard.

If there are ways in which you are serving the master of money in your life, free yourself!

Put love into action: right some wrongs with an organization seeking economic justice.