

***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  
April 28, 2019  
*An Open and Affirming 7th Anniversary Celebration*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All*

*In the Spirit of Christ*

Order of Worship

Prelude

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.*

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome in this place.*

Musical Introit

*Born This Way*

Germanotta

Call to Worship

Leader: From the Garden to the Golden Streets of the Kingdom, God calls all of us into a relationship of abundance, mercy, justice and love.

**People: I am precious in God's sight. I am the apple of God's eye. Jesus came to earth so that I might know how to live more fully. And God welcomes me into the eternal kingdom that knows no end.**

Leader: As Protestants, we left our Catholic forbears because God's welcome was being thwarted. As Congregationalists, our pulpits rang against slavery and our church decrees proclaimed the equality of all people.

**People: Our churches were the first to welcome a black man as an ordained pastor, the first to welcome women clergy into the fold and the first to ordain an openly gay man.**

Leader: We have a long history of inclusion that span hundreds of years and many mass movements. On April 30, 2012, we formally voted to be an Open and Inclusive Church. That historic vote honors our past and embodies our future. Come, let us celebrate following in Christ's footsteps of love.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Opening Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31.....The Innate Goodness of Humanity

**\*Opening Hymn**                      *Everything is Beautiful [song sheet]*                      Stevens

Children's Message

**Halle, Halle, Halle..lujah [x3]  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Celebrating Being Open and Affirming.....The Moos Family

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray.....

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

**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                      *Rise Up*                      Day**

**I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day, I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid.**

**I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.**

**And I'll rise up, high like the waves, I'll rise up, in spite of the ache,**

**I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousands times again.**

**And I'll rise up, I'll rise up, I'll rise up. I'll rise.**

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:8-15.....God’s Love is for Everyone

**\*Hymn** *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know* **#327**

Celebrating Being Open & Affirming.....Gary Hartman & Francis Gravel

Anthem *Stand Up* Nettles & Bush

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37.....Loving Your Neighbor

**\*Hymn** *O Day of God Draw Near* **#611**

Celebrating Being Open & Affirming.....Justin King and Melisa Gibson-King

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem *Home* Phillips

**\*The Doxology #55** *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*  
**Praise God, who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,**  
**Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forever more.**  
**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

Scripture: Acts 10:1-16, 11:1-18 [page 98]

**\*Hymn** *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service* **#495**

Celebrating Being Open and Affirming.....Ed Steele

**A Re-Affirmation of Our Calling to Be an Open and Affirming Church**

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Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

**\*Sung Community Benediction #55 *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart***

**Rejoice, you pure in heart, lift praises to the sky;**

**Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

**Bright youth and snow crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek,**

**Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

\*Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Deacons: Clint Russell/Pete Schmalz

*The flowers on the altar are given by Fred & Gail Babinger  
in loving memory of family & friends.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin

John A

Carol Janwich

Rob Fredricksen

Mike K

Tib T

Linda Dudley

Judy Janwich

Richard Ansell

Serena & Chris Baker

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*

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

**LAST DAY ~ 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 on May 5th and May 12th or during the week in between at the Church office.

**Former Bell Ringers**

Please make an effort to return your maroon vest to the Church Office or to Carol Spradling. Thank you.



\* \* \* **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!



**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**

**TODAY, April 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ CWS Hygiene Kits  
**May 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Spiritual Friends with Preschool & Kindergarteners  
Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship

## **Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019**

*Total for 2019 \$165.65*

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

### **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.

***May 5<sup>th</sup>; 11:30-1:30 & May 19<sup>th</sup>; 3-4:30***

## **\* \* \* 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!

### **Jamaica Mission Trip – Collecting School Supplies**

The Jamaica team is now gathering donations of school supplies to bring with us. The following items are needed at the school. Donating an item is a great way to support the school from afar! We will have a collection bin in Fellowship Hall beginning May 5<sup>th</sup>.

#2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, white board/dry erase markers & erasers, math manipulatives (e.g. fraction towers, base 10 magnetic cubes, time sets), children's toothbrushes

If you would like to help but prefer to make a financial contribution, please see Sharon Dettenrieder or Carolyn Rushford, or a check could be given and made payable to the church with "Jamaica school supplies" in the memo line. If you have questions about items, please contact Carolyn Rushford at [cjrushford@comcast.net](mailto:cjrushford@comcast.net) or 878-9593. Thank -you so much for your support!





### **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, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</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 May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm

\*Donation Needs: All Men's Clothes\*

### **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: Games and for Youth Helpers and Adult Group Leaders.

***VB Camp Wish List ~ Donations Are Greatly Appreciated!***

Bible Drama: 5 battery operated LED String Lights (clear or white); 1 Tan Paper Table Cloth, 10 rolls of Black Landscape Fabric Discover/Science: 1 box of Baking Soda; 1 box of Alka-Seltzer antacid tablets; 1 large 32oz bottle of White Vinegar; 12 oz container of Gold Glitter; 12 empty 35mm Film Canisters; 4 Children's size Safety



Goggles or Glasses Snacks: 300 Paper plates (luncheon size); 1 box of Cheerios (plain - large); 1 box of Graham Crackers; 2 bags Pirate Bootie; 1 box Hannaford Magic Star cereal; 3 bags of Pretzel sticks (small ones); 2 bags of Pretzel Twists (small ones); 1 container of Cheese Balls (Costco); 1 box of Raisins; 1 small container of Craisins; 500 white plastic small recyclable cups (Costco)

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

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



**May 7th ~ Documentary, "Downstream", VT Children on Parent Incarceration, 6:30pm**

At the Essex Cinema, the Essex Community Justice Center (ECJC) hosts Downstream, a one hour documentary featuring the compelling stories of those left behind when a parent goes to prison. Vermont children and caregivers share their experiences, revealing the complex and emotional terrain they navigate in the wake of a parent's incarceration. ECJC serves our community through restorative justice and providing support for those who transitioning out from prison.

**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 ~ Jazz & Ice Cream Sunday/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 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.



**THIS WEEK: April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 4<sup>th</sup>**

- SUNDAY:**     **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
                 **10:15 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
                 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                 **3:00 - 5:00 pm** Joe's Big Band Concert / Sanctuary
- 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
- 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 - 8:30 pm** PRC / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **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  
                 6:00 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts PLC / Youth Lounge  
                 7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall  
                 **7:00 - 8:30 pm** Jamaica Bound 2019 Team Project / offsite  
                 **7:00 - 9:00 pm** Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
- THURSDAY:**   8:00 - 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  
                 6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 630 (Pelaia) / Fellowship Hall  
                 6:30 - 8:30 pm Affordable Housing Coalition / Marvin Lounge  
                 **6:45 - 8:15 pm** Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary  
                 **8:15 - 9:00 pm** Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:**       12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                 5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- SATURDAY:**   8:00 am - Sunday 9:00 am Cub Scout Sleepover / Marvin Lounge & Outside  
                 9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
                 **9:00 - 1:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open  
                 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                 **4:30 - 5:30 pm** Worship Service (Communion) / 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](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

April 28, 2019

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Resurrection Witness

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:27-32

Today we sing a song of joy and thanksgiving for a new day. The psalmist calls the people to rise up and rejoice as branches bursting with renewed life. After the night of persecution, confusion and death, there is new light and hope! The risen Jesus enters our fearful lives, offers us peace, and sends us to cooperate with God's abundant grace throughout the whole of creation.

Faithful witnesses all of them, Peter and the Apostles, risking death and public humiliation because they must preach what they preach. New church starts are kind of like that, though usually without the death part, because they have no building or traditions born of "we've always done it this way." They have only the way in which they proclaim their faith and their hope. Just like Peter in the Book of Acts, pastors planting new churches have only themselves and the genuine message of their personal testimony to convince and invite. Such is the ministry of The Lighthouse Church of Chicago.

The Lighthouse Church is 5-year-old church plant called by God to be, "passionate about Jesus and serious about Justice." Lighthouse is a predominately African American LGBT-inclusive church that welcomes all people. They follow the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ, believing that God has offered the greatest love story in all of human history: the story of a God who has come to us in human form, lived, died, rose, and is soon to come again. From faith, Lighthouse takes serious the call towards Justice. Lighthouse welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races, ethnicities, and class—beloved not in spite of the gospel, but because of the gospel. And anywhere they experience –isms or –phobias at work in the world, they commit to work to uproot them, inspired by the example of Christ. Pastor Jamie Frazier says of the Lighthouse Church of Chicago: "It is wonderful to be so utterly supported by all levels of the United Church of Christ, including National! Words cannot express the pleasure and honor it is to pastor the incredible folks at Lighthouse."

Learn more about Lighthouse here: <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>.