

***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
May 5, 2019
Third Sunday of Easter

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

The House of the Lord

Peterson

Call to Worship [Psalm 30 adapted]

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, people of God, and give thanks to God's Holy name. God's anger is but a moment, but God's favor lasts a life time; weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes with the dawn.

Pulpit Side: You have drawn me up and protected me from my foes.

Lectern Side: You heard my cry and healed me, O God.

Pulpit Side: You led me out of my own hell and restored me to life.

Leader: Let our souls offer praises to our God, silence is not an option! The Lord turns our darkness into joy and our mourning into dancing. Come, let us give God our thanks forever and ever. Amen and Alleluia.

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: God orders the universe, gives us life and shows us how to live in a state of abundance and peace. Then give us freedom to follow in the Way.....

People: Humanity instead, creates chaos, determines decent destruction and death, ennobles exemptions for exemplary behavior and favors fortuitous flirtations with pre-eminence.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Forgive us God for focusing on ourselves instead of you. Forgive us Jesus for not loving our neighbor, much less our enemies. And forgive Great Spirit of God for even not really loving ourselves. Help us to align ourselves with your ways and by doing so, living to our potential and more healthily. In Christ's name we continue to say when praying.....

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We all fall short of the glory of God, need a little more grace to fan the flames of Jesus' love, and need to strive to be better people. God forgives us all and offers us power and light to guide us along the way.

People: We need God's presence in our lives. We need Christ's law of love in our hearts. We need to Holy Spirit to be with us in life. Thank you for your grace God and for being with us every day. Amen and alleluia!

***Opening Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

#245

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 ("trespasses")**

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.

Sung Congregational Response #55 *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*

**Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go,
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.**

Anthem

Communion Meditation

Pote

New Testament Scripture Reading: Historical Acts 9:1-9 [page 97]
9:10-19a
9:19b-25

Communion Meditation

Ananias Who?

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

For the 1st Service, we will partake of 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 and drink the cup as the Spirit moves each person; this symbolizes both the corporate and the individual nature of our relationship to our God. **For the 2nd Service**, we will come forward to receive the elements from the ministers. If you are unable or uncomfortable coming forward, just mention it to a Deacon and they will bring the elements to you. Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

Special note: Both the bread and the crackers are gluten free. The juice is non-alcoholic grape juice. Anyone who wants to share in Christ's meal is welcome.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

No Longer The Stranger

Manibusan

***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.

***Hymn**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

#295

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: Betsy Weischedel/Judy McCullen

*The flowers on the altar are given by Linda & Ed Dean
in memory of Gregory Garvey for Erica & Josh Garvey.*

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** * * *

Hannaford Cards and Reloads for Sale TODAY!



Claussen's Cards are HERE TODAY!

If you ordered them, you can pick up gift 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, May 5th ~ 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends with

Preschool & Kindergarteners Communion Sunday ~ Intergenerational Worship
Thank You! 35 Hygiene Kits were dripped off at the Waterbury UCC church for CWS pick up. Thank you to all who donated and to the children, youth and volunteers who helped put them together.

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$167.78

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

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.

Today, May 5th; 11:30-1:30 & May 19th; 3-4:30

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



Help Making T-Shirt Bags for Food Pantry

Can you volunteer to cut more shirts to get ready for sewing them into bags? Meet on Monday, May 6th @ 2pm in the Marvin Lounge. Please bring sharp scissors or a quilt cutter. If you can't make that date/time but would still like to help, contact Linda Lou vttechie@yahoo.com

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 5th.

**#2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, 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 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.

Next Food Pantry days are Monday, May 13th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, May 23rd, 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 4th & 18th 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 5-9th 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** * * *



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 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!

May 19th ~ Laurie’s Presentation of her travels to UCC churches ~ 11:30-12:30/FH

May 23rd ~ Interfaith Seder @ Ohavi Zedek in Burlington, 5:30-8:30pm

Come and celebrate the shared goal of freedom from oppression for all peoples featuring a universalized Passover Seder commemorating liberation. Everyone is welcome.
tari@ohavizedek.org for more information and tickets.



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 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: May 5th - 11th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 11:30 - 12:30 pm Music Committee / Choir Loft
 11:30 - 1:30 pm Junior Youth Group / FH/YL/Gym
 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
 1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
- 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
 5:30 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Church Council / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 12:00 - 2:00 pm Fink/Johnson Memorial Reception / Marvin Lounge
 4:15 - 5:30 pm Bylaw Review / 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:** 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
 9:30 - 11:30 am CPEC Carnival / Gym
 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

May 5, 2019

Third Sunday of Easter

The Way Forward

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

“Saul got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.” Acts 9:20

“Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Feed my sheep....’” John 21:17

In an act of compassionate faith, the followers of the risen Christ share a meal with Saul, their former persecutor. Sharing food is a ritual long associated with peace-making. More than simple nutrients, food is imbued with the legacy of local soil, the people’s covenant with the land, and the just or unjust practices of the community. Each morsel is laden with the culture, identity, and values of the communal body and the spirit of those who have gathered, grown, prepared and offered it. When Christians share food, we share the blessing and power of the body of Christ.

This has been true for Rev. Randy Mayer, pastor of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona, who welcomed an asylum-seeking family escaping domestic and gang violence in Honduras into his home in 2018. This was at the time the Department of Justice began changing the rules indicating that domestic and gang violence may not qualify families for asylum. "Having an Asylum Family sitting at your dinner table and on your couch watching TV in your living room is quite the experience as you are listening to the evening news," Mayer said. "Maybe that is the best way to get through an experience like this —having the stranger sitting right in front of you, loving her family and proving right before your eyes that the ugly rhetoric and hate filled comments have nothing to do with the truth."

As you walk in faith this week, consider taking the following acts to welcome others into the circle of God’s grace:

- Meet your neighbors and invite them to enjoy a meal together.
- Work through your church to plan an immigrant welcoming dinner.
- Lift up in prayer those who seek asylum and those who would turn them away.
- Prepare food from a culture that is new to you and share with friends.