

***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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Website: www.fccej.org

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
May 12, 2019
First Service ~ Fourth 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

My Lord, What A Mornin'

Spiritual

Call to Worship

Leader: The beauty of creation inundates us with the scents of spring and colors bursting forth everywhere, with rainbows and waves crashing on the beach.

People: For freshly tilled earth to butterflies, from songbirds to the sounds of neighborhoods awakening from the winter, from the warmth of the sun to the coolness of our lakes....God blesses us each day.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the power of Christ's resurrection with small acts of kindness, hope within the darkness, friendship that endures and love that never ends.

People: For the memory of loved ones that live on, not only in our hearts but in God's kingdom, for the arc of justice that keeps challenging and for new life and insight in all fields of knowledge....Jesus lives on.

Leader: Thank you God for embedding newness of life into every fiber of creation, every heart that beats and every avenue of inquiry. Come, let us enter into God's stream of consciousness as we deepen our understanding of life.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

#18

The Sacrament of Baptism

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. All children and youth are remaining in worship for Mother's Day.

**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

Ride The Chariot

Smith

Scripture Readings

Old Testament	Psalter	Psalms 23	[page 390]
New Testament	Historical	Acts 9:36-43	[page 98]

***Hymn** *Savior Like a Shepherd, Lead Us* **#252**

Sermon *The Evidence of Faith* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem *The Angel Rolled The Stone Away* Spiritual

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** *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us* **#583**

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: Carolyn Rushford/Judy McCullen

*The flowers on the altar are given by Steve & Sue Wood
in loving memory of their fathers at planting time.*

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

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** * * *

Come Downstairs and Wish Jen Well!

After both services, Jen will be downstairs in Fellowship Hall so you can say goodbye and best of luck!



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. Join us every Wednesday night in the Marvin Lounge at 7pm.

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 12th ~ Mother's Day ~ Intergenerational Worship

May 19th ~ Music & Peer Group time

May 26th ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ make decorations for VB Camp

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$189.78

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

May 19th; 3-4:30



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 13th @ 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

* * * Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate * * *

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 18th & June 1st 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!

See donation list on Black table in Fellowship Hall

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

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 16th ~ 3rd Thursday Potluck from 5:45-7pm

Bring a dish to share and enjoy a time of great fellowship. We'll be making some decoration items for VB Camp! You don't have to be crafty to lend a hand.

We promise it will be FUN! All ages welcome! Join us!

May 19th ~ Guest Preacher Rev. Ron Faux

On May 19th, Rev. Mark will be at a UCC Conference and Rev. Josh will not quite be recovered yet from surgery, so Rev. Ron has gratefully agreed to preach and lead worship. Ron served churches in Hawaii, California and New Mexico and brings a wealth of experience to the church and on May 19th, the pulpit. Be sure to come and hear an experienced ordained minister from the United Methodist Church deliver the week's message. He will be preaching at both services.

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



May 24th ~ Memorial Day Evening Service, 7pm

The Memorial Day Remembrances will begin at First Congo with a worship service where we will remember those who have given their lives to protect our country and way of life, pray and introduce the Grand Marshals to the community. Rev. Mark will work with the parade committee to shape the service and set the tone of the week-end remembrances in town. The Service will start at 7 p.m. and then proceed to the five corners around 8 p.m. for the candlelight ceremony. Everyone is welcome.

June 1st ~ Saturday Special Service, 4:30pm

On the first Saturday of each month, we have an alternative worship service. Fellowship Hall is transformed into worship space, communion is observed as a way to commune with God and each other at the same time and each element of the service is interactive. We have been getting between 20-30 people and all of us enjoy the difference. Come experience this new and different approach to worship and bring a friend. It starts at 4:30 and ends easily by 5:30, although many hang around and talk to each other.



June 2nd ~ Graduation, 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.



August 5-9 ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2019

To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!



THIS WEEK: May 12th - 18th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 3:30 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Food Pantry [open 5:30-7:30pm] / FH & Kitchen
 5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
 5:30 - 7:30 pm Girl Scout Troop / Third Floor
 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:** **8:00 - 11:00 am** Food Bank 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/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 / FH & Kitchen
 6:45 - 8:15 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
 8:15 - 9:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:** ***June Spirit At First Newsletter Deadline***
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
- SATURDAY:** 9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
 9:00 - 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 1:30 - 4:30 pm Card Making - Andrea Sharp / Marvin Lounge

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 12, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Mother's Day

Life-giving Acts

Today's scripture tells about raising Tabitha (or Dorcas) from the dead. She was a seamstress for the widows of Joppa and has become a symbol for lay women who have worked in the church for centuries. Churches also can be brought back to life, raised from ruin. This has been the experience of Rev. Jennifer Brownell who is pastor of the Vancouver (Wash.) United Church of Christ that was severely damaged by fire in May 2016, displacing its congregation.

Adopting the mantra "you can burn us down, but you can't burn us out," Rev. Brownell kept the flame of faith alive as the congregation grew in its commitment and numbers even as its home was being rebuilt. This accomplishment was celebrated in a dedication ceremony in September 2018.

For Rev. Brownell, the experience, including the open house celebration, has reinforced the power of community. "We have been focused for a long time on our internal needs — we had to be, because the rebuild was so complicated and absorbing," she said. "The rededication was packed with neighbors and friends who had supported us, and it reminded me again how important it is to continue to forge connections across the lines that we think separate us."

"We live in challenging times for our community, and for our nation," Brownell added. "As we move forward, it is our prayer that we are able to take what we have learned about the power of community and the hope of resurrection out into the world, to be a force for justice and healing."

I thought, the only good thing about sorrow is that it brings us down to ground zero inside ourselves, it reacquaints us with our best and truest self, and it releases compassion like some mighty hormone and if there is one thing that is good for us it's to have compassion, because it brings us together. -Elizabeth Berg, American novelist