

***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.

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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 19, 2019
Fifth 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

Call to Worship Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

People: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

Leader: Give thanks and bless God's name!

People: For the Lord is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever; God's faithfulness to all generations.

A Time of Confession Psalm 51

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹⁵ O Lord open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

Spirit of the Living God

#283

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.

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.

Prayer Response by the Sanctuary Choir

Gospel Amen

Anthem

When You Believe

Schwartz

Scripture Readings

Old Testament 2 Samuel 11: 1 [page 221]

New Testament Colossians 3:12-17 [page 156]

***Hymn**

Freely, Freely [song sheet]

Owens

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem by Men at First

***Doxology #778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

***Hymn**

Sing With All the Sons of Glory [song sheet]

Irons

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: Carolyn Rushford/Judy McCullen

*The flowers on the altar are given by Sue & Dennis Conti
in loving memory of Elenor Colburn.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

John A
Carol Janwich
Mary Weltzin
Mike K
Judy

Judy Janwich
Richard Ansell
Serena & Chris Baker
Frank Polanshek
family of Katherine Scott

Eric & Shannon
Joe Phenix
Linda Dudley
Carolyn
Tib T

*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 & Reloads are on 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, 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 'Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life' by Richard Peace. Join us for an easy and comfortable conversation about the 'good news of Jesus' and how to express our faith naturally in everyday language. Books are in the office or with Mark on Sunday.

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 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 \$200.78

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

TODAY, 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 20th @ 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 Thursday, May 23rd, 2-6pm and Monday, June 10th, 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 June 1st & 15th 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 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

The Deacons have decided to not have these special Saturday evening services during the summer so this is your last chance to see what they are like until this fall. We get anywhere from 20 – 35 people and we have the service in Fellowship Hall. It is informal and your participation is encouraged although not mandatory. The last few times we have had a decent number of young families with their kids. We also celebrate communion in the dual sense of the word! Come join us and bring a friend if you can. Hope to see you there!





June 2nd ~ Graduation, Jazz & Ice Cream Sunday/One Service, 9am Please send a recent pic/baby pic and after graduation plans for your graduate to welcome@fcej.org so we can put them in the Graduation slideshow.



June 9th ~ Pentecost/Scout Sunday, 9am

We have multiple scout troops that we sponsor as a church, boys and girls, old and young, some just beginning and some Eagle Scouts. All of them come and have a camp out and Jamboree right on our property the night before (arrival at 3pm), then they come to church and we honor them and renew our partnership with them.



We ask any and all past scouts to come and support this great outreach. First Church had the very first scouting organization in Essex and we are proud of all they do to make our community a better place. If you still have your uniform or badges, wear them!!! If you have a flag that needs retiring, please bring it to the church office and Usually they make their famous peach cobbler for fellowship hour. Come and support these outstanding young boys and girls.



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 19th - 25th

- SUNDAY:** **8:30 am** Worship Service / Sanctuary
 10:15 am Worship Service / Sanctuary
 1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 3:00 - 4:30 pm Junior Youth / Fellowship Hall & Youth 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
 6:00 - 7:30 pm Boy Scout Alumni Association / Third Floor
 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
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **10:00 am - 3:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
 2:00 - 4:00 pm Crafty Time Out / 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:** **9:00 am** Newsletter Volunteers / Marvin Lounge
 9:00 am - 6:30 pm Heavenly Food Pantry [open 2-6pm] / FH & Kitchen
 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
- 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]

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]



May 19, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Imagine
Revelation 21:1-6

Mental Health Sunday

The book of Revelation was born on the Island of Patmos, a place where the Roman world dumped all those people it considered vagrant and disturbers of the peace and used them as slaves in the Island's quarry. It could not have been a pleasant life there and yet out of its misery comes these words of hope and miraculous possibility. Some scholars of religion have suggested that the words of this book were spoken out loud, recited as litanies in worship services intended to bring visions of hope alive so the island inhabitants might feel an embodied realized hope.

Embodied hope would be a hope that was real and present and touchable. Homelessness is a great destroyer of hope in our communities. When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ is ready to meet them.

Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome at home. The project received a \$10,000 Grasstop Grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries through the Neighbors in Need special mission offering.

In today's scripture from Revelation, God is no longer remote but visible among the people, wiping their eyes, and lifting pain and sadness. "See," says God, "I am making all things new;" and later in the passage, "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift . . ." Water in the desert, or on a remote rocky island, is embodied hope indeed. How more embodied a hope is there than a clean and welcoming home?

In providing such assistance, churches offer that visible, tangible message that God is love, born in our deeds encouraged by grand visions of what a world graced by God would look like. We are not separated from God. God is with us, embodied and tangible in a warm bed and a safe place.