

***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  
May 26, 2019  
*Second Service ~ Sixth 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

*Canticle of the Sun*

Haugen

Call to Worship

Leader: Today we remember the power and depth of God's message for the people. We all claim Christ's message in different ways depending on our history, current circumstance and outlook.

**People: Come God and refresh us with your presence in word, song, guidance and spirit.**

Leader: Today, we also remember that we are here, safely worshipping you in our home state of Vermont and within the United States of America due in part to the sacrificial service of those whom would keep us safe, even with their own life.

**People: We are grateful for the sacrifice of those who have kept us safe and the values you have planted in the world to challenge all of us to wholeness, peace and justice.**

Leader: Come, let us worship our God.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

**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. Second Service after the Children's Message, children in preschool up through Senior High are welcome to join us for our Hands-On Mission Project. Adults are welcome to accompany the kids, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. All will return to worship during the final hymn.*

**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**

***Gospel Amen***

**A---men, A--men, A--men, A-men, A-men**

**Anthem**

***God of Wonders***

**Byrd & Hindalong**

**New Testament Scripture Readings**

Historical Acts 9:11-40 [page 104]

Gospel John 14:15-29 [page 83]

**\*Hymn**

***Lift Every Voice and Sing***

**#593**

**Sermon**

***The Gospel and the Rich***

**Rev. Mendes**

**Offering Our Gifts to God**

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

**Anthem**

***And All the People Said Amen***

**Maher**

**\*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.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

***O Beautiful For Spacious Skies***

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.**

**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: Carolyn Rushford/Judy McCullen**

*The flowers on the altar are given by Carolyn Toof  
in loving memory of Dick Toof & Renee Boucher.*

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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)*

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

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 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Hands On Mission Sunday ~ make decorations for VB Camp

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** ~ 9am Intergenerational Worship with Communion, lively Jazz music, slideshow of our Graduates & CE Volunteer Recognition ~ Ice Cream Social to follow

**June 9<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>** ~ Intergenerational 9am Worship

Kids may bring a parent to FH and watch the service while you spend time being creative.

Colored bin of activities - crafts, puzzle, etc. will be by the Nursery door.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ Welcome Back Sunday ~ Picnic & Bouncy House on the Lawn

*2019-20 Faith Formation Family Calendar will be available by September ~ more news in August.*

### **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.



### **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 5<sup>th</sup>.

**#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](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, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30pm  
and Thursday, June 27<sup>th</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 June 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm

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

### **Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed**

Spring & Summer 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!***

*See donation list on Black table in Fellowship Hall*

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

### **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 [welcomer@fccej.org](mailto:welcomer@fccej.org) so we can put them in the Graduation slideshow.





### **June 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 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.

### **Jamaica Team Dedication Sunday ~ June 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 9am**



On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, our team of youth and adults will be parting for Jamaica to work on the 30,000 square foot garden they established last trip and to build a playground for the White Horse School. Having the playground will allow the school to request another teacher from the state for their programs, which will be a significant secondary gain.

#### **Your Jamaican Mission Trip Team Members**

Nolan Boerger, Sharon Dettenrieder, Christine Dewey, Dave Dewey, Rick Dooley  
Sam Dooley, Caitlin McGeary, Kaki McGeary, Mark Mendes, Nicholas  
Mendes, Carolyn Rushford, Pete Schmalz, Zach Schmalz, Aliyah Watt

### **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.



### **August 5-9 ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2019**

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

**THIS WEEK: May 26<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 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  
**1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym**  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge  
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 Stewardship / Fellowship Hall**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm Trustees / 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**  
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
- SATURDAY: 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 Communion Worship Service / 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

May 26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Rural Life Sunday

In many early Christian traditions, prayers for the renewal of the earth were offered in the days before Ascension Thursday. Lay folks and clergy walked throughout the parish fields and petitioned God to bless land and seeds. These were called Rogation Days: in Latin, *rogate* means “to ask.”

*A Prayer for Planting*

Bless the land, Creator God; bless pavement and open field,  
rocky cliff and desert sands, forest floor and ocean bottom.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless the water, Creator God; bless crystal streams and deep blue oceans,  
dancing waves on the lake and swirling eddies and rising tides.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless the air, Creator God; bless gentle breezes and powerful gusts,  
hurricanes and tornadoes and the silent stillness after a great storm.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless the animal kingdom, Creator God; bless house pets and forest dwellers and residents of  
the desert, bless four legged and many legged and the winged ones, bless the furry and the  
sleek and the scaly.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless our neighbors, Creator God; bless the factory worker and the farmer,  
the CEO and the waitress, the over-the-road trucker, the computer analyst, the unemployed and  
all your children.

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless these little seeds we have planted, Creator God, and all that grows upon the earth.  
Bless us with desire to care for your earth so that your bounty will increase and  
all may share it!

Hear, O hear our prayer...

Bless us, O God,  
let appreciation of your creation  
expand beyond our imaginings. Amen.

*Taken from Outside the Gates: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, written by the Reverend Jill K. Warner, Pastor of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Aberdeen, SD.*