

The Spirit at First

June 2019



A Pondering Pastor.....

As we wind down this programmatic year, it should be noted that it has been one heck of a year!!! We raised nearly a million dollars and are in the process of spending it to make the place we love to worship and act out our faith in look great! By the end of the summer the new vestry will be completed along with its new handicapped bathroom on the first floor and Deacon's storage room on the second. In addition the parking lot with new lighting will be completed. AND the sanctuary will have its interior completed made over with fixed plaster and new colors. What a year: special kudos to the Trustees for overseeing the various projects and to Kaki McGeary and Dave Johnson who continue to quietly work the campaign to the end!!!

We also sent Laurie Chipman on a trip through New England and the Northwest of our country to glean what makes successful church's children's and youth ministry thrive. Naturally, her work also found some of the similarities of non-children and youth programs in churches that are successful, a great gift to us as we look to the future with hope. Already there have been some changes in our Faith Formation Program! We are also saying good-bye to Karen Gray and her CPEC pre-school which has been in our space for decades. Hearing the sound of kids playing and learning has been a delight as has the vital ministry our church has supported as our youngest community children received a great start to their education. We have enriched the community by partnering with Karen in this endeavor. I look forward to see what our church will use the space for in the future and how it fits into our ministry and vision for the church and the wider Essex community.

Lastly, we said good-bye to a loyal and talented Church Administrator. Jennifer Dooley has been here for seven years and has done much to create a healthy office where everyone feels welcome and great things are accomplished. A good administrator, as everyone knows, is the lynchpin of the church, the glue that keeps all the disparate parts of our unwieldy organization on track and functioning smoothly. We are an incredibly busy church with so many parts spinning at the same time it is nearly impossible to keep track of them all but Jen did just that with aplomb and grace. She is a greatly valued member of the staff and she will be missed dearly. Luckily, she and her family will be continuing as members of the church so we get to continue to see her smiling face and benefit from her work ethic....go hospitality! We had a fine celebration on May 12th where the church gave her a nice gift certificate to the Single Pebble restaurant, as well as a cake after each service where she greeted folks and they expressed their appreciation.

Before I close this article, let me encourage all of you to make an effort to come to church in the summer. We only have one service at 9:00 a.m. and it means a great deal to the preacher to have a full house. Its early enough that you will still have a vast majority of the day to get outdoors and enjoy the summer. Plus Josh will be re-visiting his sermon series where he integrates famous musicals with an appropriate text and sermon; naturally there is great musical performances as well!

Have a great start of the summer.

Rev. Mark

ASSOCIATE PASTOR NEWS

Thank you all for your prayers of support during my surgery and with the loss of my grandpa. As I've said to folks, my 30s have not started off great. Your care and support during my acute stage with Crohn's Disease and more recently with the death in my family has meant a lot to me and helped sustain me. FCCEJ is filled with so many wonderful people. I feel incredibly lucky to minister to you and to be ministered by you. Our ministry together has grown immensely during this time. Thank you.

My surgery on April 23rd went well with about six inches of my intestines being removed. The intestines leading to the obstructed area were significantly dilated, meaning the surgery should lead to overall improvements to my health—time will tell. I have an ileostomy pouch until June 25th when it will be reversed. That surgery is an overnight and requires a few days of recovery. My grandpa unexpectedly passed away during my recovery. I flew to Wisconsin, almost two weeks post-surgery, to be with my family. Thankfully my mom had flown out to Vermont to be with me as I recovered at the parsonage, and we were able to travel back to Wisconsin together. There were no difficulties while flying but it was an added comfort to fly with my mom. As she said, we can add another milestone to our mother/son relationship: flying together! When I was in Wisconsin, my grandma asked that I stay with her. She wasn't comfortable staying at the house alone. I was privileged to be able to do that and stay with her.

As I say that one of the greatest relationships that can exist is between a grandchild with a grandparent or between child and a caring wise elder. It's why it's so important for us to develop meaningful relationships with each of our young people. When young people know that there is someone there for them, they feel more connected to their church and feel more supported in life.

Keep your eye out for: 1) children and youth ministry survey that Laurie and I are working on. 2) dates for junior youth and high school youth groups making sandwiches in July.

High School Youth Group:

Sunday, June 2nd is graduation Sunday! Come and celebrate our college and high school graduates. Also, I'll also be handing out final exam encouragements and supplies.

On June 9th, 5-7pm, take a break from studying for your exams. We'll eat food and watch a movie. During exam week, if you need a study lounge area, we have space for you to study. Contact me.

Interfaith Pride Service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn Riots/Liberation. Join me Thursday, June 27, 7pm @ The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul (2 Cherry Street, Burlington). We'll meet at Saint Paul, unless you need a ride, email me.

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS IN JUNE



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

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!

Communion ~ One Service ~ June 2nd ~ 9am

Both Services: people will come forward to receive

Ice Cream / Graduation / Jazz Sunday ~ June 2nd ~ 9am

This will be one heck of a service. It is the traditional end of the Faith Formation year so we will celebrate our teachers and all their time and energy freely given throughout the year. We will also honor our graduates so please send those pictures to welcome@fccej.org for the slide show: one current and one as a little kid/baby. We will also be celebrating both of those things with upbeat and incredibly good Jazz music from none other than our Finally@First. And naturally there will be a picnic with ice cream after church out on the lawn. It will be a day you will not want to miss and a good day to bring a friend. **AND DO NOT FORGET THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 9 A.M.!!!**

Pentecost/Scout Sunday ~ June 9th ~ 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, 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!!! Usually they make their famous peach cobbler for fellowship hour. Come and support these outstanding young boys and girls.

Jamaica Team Dedication Sunday ~ June 16th ~ 9am

On June 22nd, 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

LAURIE'S LENS



Summer is coming and many of us schedule family vacations, trips, outdoor projects, camping, gardening and any way we can to enjoy the long warm days of summer. We all need to take time to disconnect from our phones and reconnect with the people around us and God's great outdoors. I hope you all will look for different ways and times that you can do this. By yourself or with a group of people. Encourage the children and youth you know to register for a week of camp through Horton Center in NH or another outdoor ministry site. They will spend a full week away from their phone, make new friends, connect with God and peel off a layer or two of stress. Horton Center's open house day is coming up on June 8th. You can arrive at 11am and hike up to worship on Chapel Rock, followed by a cookout, tours and games. Brochures are here at church or go visit their website. Help us keep our UCC weeks of camp alive and well, feeding our souls and help us to stay connected with our God, ourselves and those around us. A week of camp can really change a life and be an experience one will never forget...you'll end up wanting more. Scholarship money is still available.

On April 30-May 2 was my continuing education retreat, N.E.A.U.C.E. (New England Association of United Church Educators). I had a really nice 48 hours in the white mountains at Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, NH connecting with other educators and pastors. I came away with a few new things that I look forward to implementing next year and ways to help families grow their faith at home.

Recruitment is underway for our vibrant faith formation programs for next year. If you have helped this year or in the past year, please pray about how you will help our programs to continue to grow and be vibrant for our children, youth and families as well as all our members here at First Church. We have many ways and opportunities to support from behind the scenes, lead a group or be a second set of hands. Faith formation has continued to change over my almost 10 years with you all and we continue to need volunteers to help us keep our programs healthy and strong so that we may support the busy and active families of today. In all areas we try to follow Jesus' example of taking time to get to know each other and build community...whether it's in a peer group class time or a large group activity. It's important that we form relationships across the generations or with our peers. Faith is not taught... faith is caught! Sometimes it seems so simple that we skip over it. Children and youth need us to take the time. Every one of them needs to build a relationship with at least 5 adults (feel comfortable enough to chat with them openly at coffee hour on a Sunday). These relationships are what we keep in mind that every child or youth needs to build a relationship with and know at least 5 adults who they will openly have a conversation with. This is what research tells us will keep them connected to the church even after they graduate from high school. It is what will bring them back during college and help them reach out and find a church after they graduate from college.

Please call me, drop me a line or stop by my office and chat about being a Spiritual Friend on 1st Sundays, a peer group leader or helper, a Hands On Mission leader or helper, a 2nd floor greeter or floater, or a behind the scenes steward. Leaders need to have been a part of our community for 6 months before taking on this role.

Blessed to be in ministry with you all, Laurie Chipman, Christian Education Director

DEACON'S CORNER

Change. It's all around us at First Congregational Church. As we continue with Capital Campaign projects, we voted on the new sanctuary paint colors. We see work being done to Our Home in response to the priorities we set together. We also voted seven years ago to become an Open And Affirming Church, and although many of us still get caught off guard, we sing slightly changed lyrics to Go Now in Peace. As much as we find comfort in our traditions, we're proving to be adaptable to measured changes both large and small, theological and cosmetic. That's something to celebrate! Last year, 100-200 churches in the US closed every week. Many cite complacency as a major cause. But we're growing—and that takes some change.

Grace and peace,

Lauren Starkey

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Bylaws Being Edited

The Church Bylaws need to be reviewed and updated as needed every 3-5 years. Work is on-going to make some changes that will be submitted to Church Council for approval in the fall and then put before the Annual Meeting in 2020 for the Church to vote on. The committee working on the updates, Mark Mendes, Josh Simon, Mark Chadurjian, Terri Livak, Ann Gray and Carl Wermer, has been established by Council.

Any member can propose an edit to the current bylaws to the committee for consideration. If you have an edit to submit or are interested in the work being done please contact Carl Wermer carlw_essexvt@outlook.com. If you simply want to review a copy of the current document please contact the Church Office for a copy welcome@fccej.org.

SAVE THE DATE

June 2nd ~ Graduation/Jazz/Ice Cream Sunday ~ 9am summer service time begins

*June 8th ~ Horton Center's Open House Day up on Pine Mtn outside of Gorham, NH
www.hortoncenter.org*

June 9th ~ Pentecost/Scout Sunday @ FCCEJ

*August 5-9 ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2019
To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!*

MUSIC



Music Director's Corner

June will be our first month of summer music (one service, 9am on Sunday). This is a great opportunity for folks who aren't able to make a regular music practice to make some music! Get in touch with me if that is something you are interested in. I'll have the full list to put on the website including open Sunday slots.

Our staff here at FCCEJ have been joyful and wonderful to work with and have made me feel welcome. We laugh and pray in equal amounts. I am going to miss Jen Dooley so much; she has been incredible to work with and has made sure everything around here gets done.

Summer should be a great time to practice the organ and work on the choral library. I hope everyone has a fantastic graduation season and I'll see you on Sundays!

Carol

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Music Time During Faith Formation

Cherubs ~ Our Preschool ~ 2nd grade & *Joyful Noise* ~ Our 3rd ~ 8th will have music time when our fall schedule starts up in September.

Watch for our new program year calendar on Welcome Back Sunday, September 8th.



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 8th Grade

June 2nd ~ 9am Intergenerational Worship with Communion, lively Jazz music & a slideshow of our HS and College Graduates & CE Volunteer Recognition ~ Ice Cream Social to follow

June 9th – September 1st ~ 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 8th ~ Welcome Back Sunday ~ Picnic & Bouncy House on the Lawn
A New YELLOW 2019-20 Faith Formation Family Calendar will be available by September.

Watch for more news in August.





Acolytes

Every Sunday we carry in the light of Christ and light the worship candles. During our sung benediction we carry out the light of Christ to remind us all that God and Jesus are with us everywhere we go, not just here at church. Ushers may assist the acolytes by lighting the taper, then walking with them if they are new to acolyting or would like a partner or you can go solo. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board down in the hallway on your way up to worship. If families are ushering or greeting, please feel free to acolyte and ring the church bell also... however please check the sign up sheet to see if anyone has signed up for that morning. Thank you.

Ring the Bell ~ 8:45am in the Summer

Do you hear the church bell ring? Volunteers do this every Sunday morning 15 minutes before worship begins. Families, children, youth, anyone. Signup sheet is located on the bulletin board before you walk up the steps to worship (in the downstairs hallway). Instructions are at the top of the signup sheet as to which rope to pull and how many times to ring the bell.



Summer Nursery Room, 8:45 -10:15 am



Our Nursery staff and volunteers, Jennifer & Manu will meet you and help you get settled in on Sunday mornings. Feel free to stay with your little one and hear the worship service by way of a speaker or step out into Fellowship Hall and watch the service on the screen. We want you to feel comfortable here. Children are welcome in worship and throughout our space. We do ask you to be aware of our Safe Conduct Guidelines and help us to be good stewards of our child ratio (2 children to 1 adult) and volunteer to stay if you are needed. Thank you for your cooperation.

All our First Church Youth Programs are Parent Supported!

1 to 2 parents/volunteers are needed at each youth group gathering!

Youth Group bulletin boards can be found in the staff hallway.

Junior Youth by Laurie's office / High School Youth by Josh's office



Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders; snacks & meals provided by parents ~ sign up on the bulletin board

Mark your calendars!

July TBA ~ make sandwiches and deliver them to the homeless

Date coming soon - watch for an email and church posts!

August 5-9th ~ Volunteer at Vacation Bible Camp ~ t-shirt, Friday pizza party & gift

****Parents ~ Watch for an email to fill out our Parent survey on youth ministry and faith formation programs. We would like your feedback and input to help us plan for our 2019-20 program year. Coming to your inbox by early June!**

This SUMMER ~ stay active and lend a helping hand!

- Help a neighbor or a friend
- If you earn an allowance? Practice dividing your money 3 ways

Save (in the bank) ~ Give to the church/offering ~ You (spend/save/give to an organization)

- Bring your Offering with you on Sunday and use the envelopes in the pews
- Find ways & places to connect with your God & have Spiritual Prayer time ~ praying in color, etc.

2019 Faith Formation Offering ~ Spectrum Youth & Family Services

2019 Total is \$200.78

Learn more about this great organization. *Remembering to bring your offering each week!* \$1 a week can go a long way! Just think what you spend a \$1 on. Use the envelopes in the pews so your money goes to Spectrum and it will not be confused with the regular offering for the church.



SUMMER CAMPS

Register for OUTDOOR MINISTRY Camps ONLINE

Check out the OM Camp News Board by Glass Doorway by the Front Door
Camp brochures are posted on the board & on the table in the staff hallway

3 age-level camps offered each week in NH & CT

Horton Center Camp in NH is online at <http://www.hortoncenter.org/>

Silver Lake Conference Center in CT is online at <https://www.silverlakeect.org/>

VT UCC Outdoor Ministry Camp Program



Help keep OM camping alive and well in VT!

Help us get the word out for ...Lifeguards

Contact Laurie for more information.



@ THE LAKE

July 28th ~ August 2nd

*for Campers going into 5th – 8th grade in
the fall of 2019*

On the shores of Lake Champlain at
Rock Point Camp



Deans: Pastor Susan McKnight & Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters
2019 ~ Erik Frivoll has signed up to attend again this year! Join Erik @ camp!

Past FCCEJ Participants:

2016 Counselors ~ Ethan Benton, Kate Tallman

2017 camper ~ Erik Frivoll

2018 camper ~ Isabelle Owens

2018 daytime volunteers ~ Jonah & Jessica Moos, Pastor Josh, Laurie Chipman



GOD's CO-STARs

July 14th ~ 20th

for Campers going into 6th – 8th grade

Horton Center UCC Camp, Gorham, NH on Pine Mtn.

Dean ~ Laurie Chipman



Laurie is recruiting 4 counselors to join her for this fun week of bringing Biblical stories to life straight from the bible, through drama and with a modern twist. Join her team!

College Students & Young Adults Volunteering at camp is a great thing to add to your resume! Whether it's VT or NH. Contact Laurie for more information lchipman@fccej.org.



Vacation Bible Camp

TO MARS and BEYOND:

Exploring Where God's Power Can Take You!

August 5-9th from 9am to 11:45am

Registration forms are here! Pick yours up today & Mark your calendars for this really fun week!

All are welcome!

You & Me Toddlers (attend with parent/adult)

PreK – 5th grade (grade you are entering in the fall) Youth Helpers (6th grade & up) & Adult helpers

We use many of the rooms throughout the church, welcome in and form a community of children, youth and parents who all have a great time learning, growing and celebrating our faith each morning of camp week. Any questions about our program or volunteering, please connect with Laurie.

FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING



Wednesday Night Searchers, 7pm

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.

JOY (Just Older Youth), Meets @ 11:30 This Month

A group for the over 55 crowd (both men & women) meets the first Thursday of each month usually at 12 noon in the Marvin Lounge. Please join us on **Thursday, June 6th** at noon for a planning session for September to June 2019-2020. We are looking for your input so that JOY programs are vital and interesting to our church seniors. Bring your lunch and ideas to this brainstorming session.



Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue...

1st Friday of Every Month ~ June 7th

Come - Help - Eat www.essexeatsoout.org

3rd Thursday Potluck Series

Join us for 3rd Thursday meal **June 20th**! All ages welcome!
5:45-7pm Look for info on our speaker/s in the weekly bulletin.



The Community of Bridge

Love to play the game of bridge? Has it been a while and you want to brush up on your oft used bridge skills? Looking for a place that is more friendly than competitive? Then you are free to come and play an afternoon of bridge right at First Church. We have incredible snacks, the conversation is always great and the table talk is always fairly frequent! Plus, there is a prize of Rev. Mark's jam for the winner. We play on the 3rd Friday of each month and so for June, it is on **June 21st** and we play from 1:30 -4:00. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend.



Yoga @ First!

Jonah Moos is offering class on **Tuesdays** at 5:30-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. All levels from beginner to experienced are absolutely welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Classes are free but donations are gratefully accepted for FCCEJ.



Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet in Marvin Lounge at 9:30 am on the third Saturday of each month. All women of the church are invited to join us for interesting programs and wonderful fellowship.

Please join us on **Saturday, June 15th** at 9:30 for a planning session for September to June 2019-2020. All women of the FCCEJ church family are welcome. Let's celebrate our past year and plan some fun and interesting programs for the year ahead



Coffee Clatter @ Martone's

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 to come to Martone's in the Village center at 8:00 a.m. every week.

Wednesday, June 19th, Noontime Book Group

For June we are reading Sue Grafton's *A is for Alibi*. The first in Alphabet Mysteries, Kinsey Millhone, 32, private detective investigates the death of prominent divorce lawyer Laurence Fife. His murder eight years earlier was blamed on his wife, Nikki Fife. Upon being released from prison, Nikki hires Kinsey to find the real murderer. Bring your bag lunch and join us for some good conversation and laughs.



Crafty Time Out

Do you knit, crochet or do any other crafty projects that you would like to do in fellowship with others? Join us in the Marvin Lounge the 4th Wednesday of each month at **2-4pm, June 26th** for a time of common crafting. All are welcome!

Tuesday Morning Summer Sermon Talkback, 8:30 – 10am

We will continue to celebrate each other's company and have fun parsing the words and content of the sermon throughout the summer every Tuesday from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Now is your chance to find out what the longest running adult education program in the church is all about!!! We usually have goodies so if you like to bake, bring some along!!!



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Jamaica Mission Trip – Collecting School Supplies

The Jamaica team is in the process of gathering donations of school supplies to bring with us. The principal of White Horses Infant and Primary School has provided a list of items that are most needed at the school. Please consider donating an item. This is a great way to support the school from afar! Look for the collection bin in the fellowship hall.



- #2 pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- erasers (for pencils)
- white board/dry erase markers
- dry erase erasers
- math manipulatives (examples include equivalency cubes/fraction towers, Cuisenaire rods, magnetic base 10 sets, balance sets, liquid measurement sets, time sets, scales)

We will also be bringing some sports equipment for track and soccer, both of which are very popular sports in Jamaica. The school does not have the resources for uniforms or equipment. The Essex United Soccer Club (EUSC) is generously collecting gently used soccer gear (jerseys and cleats). Coincidentally, the White Horses school colors are the same as the EUSC colors! And British Challenger Soccer will be donating 20 soccer balls to take to the students as they currently have ONE ball that the entire school is using. 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!

Jamaica Team Volunteers at COTS

As part of our fundraising efforts at the Calcutta this year, the Jamaica Team auctioned off two hours of our time to the highest bidder. The winner generously donated our time to the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS)! On May 1st, we went to COTS’ 95 North Avenue building to help with preparations for the COTS Walk. We were treated to a tour of the facility by Becky Holt, the Development and Communications Coordinator.



We learned a lot about the wonderful programs there and the careful and thoughtful recent renovation of the building. For example, they had surveyed the guests who requested mailboxes, showers and laundry machines. The guests also requested single comfortable armchairs instead of couches, in order to have a better sense of personal space. These requests were all included, as well as other “trauma-informed” features (in

recognition that many homeless adults and children have had trauma in their lives). To this end, the ceiling in the day center was designed to create a sense of spaciousness, but also provide sound reduction. Meals are served family style at round tables, to increase the sense of community. After the tour, we were put to work on a paper project making “thought bubbles” to be used at the COTS facilities on the day of the Walk. We’re so thankful to everyone who made this possible!

Dismas House ~ Your Good Deed Will be Much Appreciated

Across Vermont there are four Dismas Houses that provide shelter and support for men and women who have served prison terms and are making the transition from life in prison to life outside. For several years now, on the fourth Wednesday of each month, three First Congregational Church members have been preparing dinner for the residents and staff of the Dismas House in Winooski. Attending the meal are typically ten residents, two paid staff members (a Director and Associate Director who work at Dismas House during weekdays), and the three members of the Church who have prepared the food.



Our participation in this program is of great value in lessening the feelings of estrangement that burden many who have served prison terms. The residents and staff are friendly and appreciative of our help. The dinner we take consists of an entrée, salad, and dessert. We bring enough food to feed 15 people and stay to enjoy the meal with the Dismas House residents and staff.

If you would like to volunteer for the Church’s Dismas House Mission, take a look at the sign-up sheet that’s on the bulletin board in the hall leading to the social hall.

Questions? Please contact Ed Steele, the current facilitator for the Dismas House Mission. His contact information is: (802) 871-5897 or edwardmsteele@msn.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Calling All Bakers!

Looking To Show Off Your Baker’s Hat? Hospitality is looking for some help in showing off your mad baking skills! If you would like to help provide a goodie for any Sunday Fellowship Time, contact Jim Glatz 802-503-5076 glatzjim@gmail.com



Heavenly Food Pantry

Next Heavenly Food Pantry days are Monday, June 10th, 5:30-7:30pm
and Thursday, June 27th, 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 would donate a case!





Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed

Summer dates are up on the Sign Up Genius-please volunteer!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4facae2daafe3-ushergreeter>

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop News

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs

Mark these dates on your Calendar

Open Saturdays June 1st & 15th 9 am to 1 pm

Come and check out the new Spring and Summer Fashions

Check out our new renovated bathroom, it's beautiful!

Looking for jewelry, dishes, towels, spring and summer clothes, especially men's.

Drop off anytime in the donation bucket.



Recruitment has begun for 2019-20 Faith Formation Volunteers

Contact Laurie for more information or questions. Many opportunities to support First Church children & youth:

- Nursery – join our staff person and be a friendly face to the parents and the littlest ones among us during first service or second. We strive to follow our Safe Conduct guidelines for a two to one ratio in the Nursery.
- Spiritual Friends –on the First Sundays of the month on the 2nd floor read a story, pass out snack and have great conversations with the PreK & Kindergarten children. Follow this up with Godly playdough mats and with play dough. Everyone returns to worship for communion.
- Faith Formation Peer Group Leaders & Helpers – our peer group classes of preschool up through eighth grade meet twice a month during second service. Laurie sends out a weekly email with the lesson and helps you pick an activity. All items are gathered for you. You don't need to feel like you have all the answers. Leader and helpers learn right alongside the children and youth. It's ok for all to feel comfortable and ask questions.
- Hands-On Mission Sunday Leaders & Helpers – PreK up through eighth grade are together for a time of fellowship and build community while doing an mission activity. This group has made T-shirt baskets for our Easter breakfast tables that have been given to older members, put together Church World Service Hygiene Kits, JUMP food donation sorting, Thrift Shop tour, Vacation Bible Camp decorations, Earth Day theme – planting seeds.
- Youth Group helpers – Pastor Josh and Laurie are looking for adults who enjoy time being in conversation with youth. High School youth (9th-12th) and Junior youth (5th – 8th).

Nursery Volunteers

Volunteer to stay in the Nursery with Jennifer or Manu.

Nursery hours are 8:15am to 10:15am



Some Sundays we are looking for a second person to help us hold to our Safe Conduct Guidelines. Laurie will add you on to an email group to help with coverage. We know you'll have a fun time playing with the youngest among us. Interested? Stop by the Nursery and talk with the staff or connect with Laurie.

Be a Camp Counselor! Camp Needs You!

Share your love of God & the Outdoors

NEED 1 male counselor for @ *THE LAKE*, on the shores of Lake Champlain at Rock Point Camp

July 28th ~ August 2nd for Campers going into 5th – 8th grade.



Or Join Laurie

at Horton Center and counsel for *GOD's CO-STARs*,
July 14th ~ 20th for campers going into 6th – 8th grade



Bring your high energy and your love of kids to this demanding, but SO rewarding role. Parents get a discount for counseling if their child/youth is also attending a camp this summer. See Laurie for more details and for information on scholarships!





Volunteers for Vacation Bible Camp

TO MARS and BEYOND: Exploring Where God's Power Can Take You! August 5-9th from 9am to 11:45am

Our leadership team is shaping up!

Bible Drama ~ Allison VanSteensburg; Crafts ~ Jenny Bourn; Snacks ~ Judy Allen & Ginny Coe; Music Leader ~ Jessica Moos; AV/Photographer ~ Doug Olufsen

Recruiting for: Decorators, Game Leader, Group Leaders, Youth Helpers (6th grade and older).

Help volunteer behind the scenes and put decorations together or be a part of the team that decorates before camp week. Contact Laurie for more information and to sign up!

VB Camp Wish List

Bible Drama: 5 battery operated Craft LED String Lights (clear or white); 1 Tan Paper Grass Table Cloth

Discover/Science: 12 empty 35mm Film Canisters; 4 Children's size Safety Goggles or Glasses

Snacks: 8 cans of pineapple chunks; 4 ~ 16oz bags of large marshmallows; 2 bags of mini marshmallows; 3 boxes of Cheese It crackers; 2~ 12oz bags of mini chocolate chips; 1~ 12oz bag of vanilla chips; 1~ 12 oz bag of strawberry chips; 1~ 12oz bag of carmel chips; 2 tubes of frosting

Decoration: 10 rolls of black light weight landscape fabric

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Goodbye From the Church Office

For the past seven years I have really loved serving all of you in the position of Church Administrator. It has been a lot of hard work, but

also a lot of fun! Thank you all so much for welcoming & embracing myself and Rick and our family. I have recently been offered a position at UVM working in the Office of the General

Counsel and after much thought and talking with Rick, I have decided to take it. My last day was Friday, May 17th but you will all still see us on Sundays and I will make myself available to help get the next Administrator up to speed and on board with all the wonderful things happening here at FCCEJ! Thanks again for letting me serve the church, it has been my privilege!



Bottle/Can Drive



The Boy Scouts have made a bin for can collection. Right now, the bin is located near the door by the kitchen. Please, drop your cans/bottle there. Thank you for all your donations! Please make sure that you only put in the cans & bottles that are redeemable, not just recyclable



Dear First Church Family, Thank you so much for the lovely yellow birthday rose! The yellow is always so cheerful as spring tries to emerge! Cheers and happy spring to all! Nancy Hayes

Dear friends at First Congregational, Thank you for your generosity and support in the two donations that were sent in recently ~ first a gift of \$1,061 in early April, followed by \$237.50 in mid-April. We are beyond encouraged to be able to help the Oglala Lakota in Pine Ridge as the waters subside and the day to day work of cleaning up and healing take place. The spring sunshine and winds, along with your kind support and the help of many volunteers are restoring order. Again, we are so grateful for your gifts.
Philamayaye, Lul Gotter

RE-
MEMBER

June Birthdays

1st Phyllis Hogel, Ann Marie Sullivan **2nd** Curtis Guild; **3rd** Susan Boyd, Erna Deutsch, Louise Kolvoord; **4th** Max Smith; **5th** Paige Bero, Steve Wood; **6th** Wayne Hathaway; **7th** Bev Davis, Brenda Dawson; **8th** Janet Astore, Matthew Giannuzzi; **9th** Mindy Bickford, Finn Hamilton, Colleen Messier; **12th** Sean McCullen, Ann Wells; **14th** June Nadeau; **15th** Sarah Metcalf, Ellen Polanshek; **17th** Brandon Kinney, Leslie O'Neil, Jonathan Stapleton; **18th** Dennis Conti, Joan Faux, Cynthia Kelley; **19th** Christine Catterton, Stephanie Field, Ed Steele; **21st** Linda Bogardus **22nd** Henry Gabert, Hans Mertens; **23rd** Kaki McGeary; **24th** Andrea Cilley; **25th** Cindy Chadurjian, Paula Sargent; **26th** Kathryn Brennan; **27th** Abigail Wood; **28th** Lori Giannuzzi, Linda Jackson, Whitney Noel, Suzanne Reardon; **29th** Peter Schmalz

STEWARDSHIP

Per Capita Dues

All members of FCCEJ should have received a letter in the mail for our annual Per Capita campaign. Thank you SO much for all the members who have already sent in

their dues. Each year we are assessed dues based on the number of members listed on our membership data. Each year we ask members to contribute their share of the Per Capita. It is an acknowledgement that membership has costs as well as benefits. This year our church's Per Capita fee is \$13.97. Please consider rounding up your share or paying an additional payment for someone else. Per Capita Sunday was May 12th. You may mail it in or put it in an envelope marked 'Per Capita' any Sunday you are in worship. Thank you!

percapita

2019 Special Offerings: June-Strengthen The Church, Sept-Seminary Sunday, Oct-Neighbors In Need, Nov-Food Pantry, Dec-Christmas Fund

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Please help us clean up our mailing list! If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, or would like to receive it electronically instead, simply:

- E-mail an “unsubscribe” message to welcome@fccej.org , OR
- Phone us at 802-878-5745, OR
- Mail this page back to us at the address above

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