

***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***A Welcoming Community, Accepting and
Serving All in the Spirit of Christ***

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

**One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
June 2, 2019

Faith Formation Volunteer Sunday
Graduation Sunday
Ice Cream Social Sunday
Jazz Sunday

<p><i>A Welcoming Community - Accepting and Serving All</i> <i>In the Spirit of Christ</i></p>
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Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

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 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.

Musical Introit

Just a Closer Walk with Thee (instrumental)

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we celebrate the fullness of our community as we commit ourselves to living into Christ's way of life.

Pulpit Side: Today, we celebrate our most precious resource: our children. Let us shower them with attention, stories of faith and ice cream!

Lectern Side: Today, we celebrate the many volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to instilling Christian values into our kids.

Pulpit Side: Today, we celebrate our graduates who have worked hard to achieve great success. We remember them in this place and wish them well as they move on to college or new beginnings.

Lectern Side: Today, we celebrate the gift of music that Finally at First brings into our lives and worship. They bring us God's glory, they bring us to tears, they make us laugh and they enliven our faith with such beauty.

Pulpit Side: Today, we celebrate the meal that unites us into one body of Christ and challenges us to spread the good news of love.

Leader: Today, our community is strengthened through our children, our many volunteers, our graduates, great music and the Spirit that unites us. Come, let us sing with joy and enthusiasm.

***Opening Hymn**

Wade in the Water

Refrain

**Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
wade in the water. God's a gonna trouble the water.**

**See that host all dressed in white, God's a gonna trouble the water;
The leader looks like the Israelite, God's a gonna trouble the water.
(refrain)**

**See that band all dressed in red, God's a gonna trouble the water;
Looks like the band that Moses led, God's a gonna trouble the water.
(refrain)**

**Look over yonder, what do I see? God's a gonna trouble the water;
The Holy Ghost comin' down on me, God's a gonna trouble the water.
(refrain)**

**If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's a gonna trouble the water;
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream, God's a gonna trouble the water.
(refrain)**

Children's Message

During service, Jennifer will be in the Nursery for three and under. There is audio to hear the worship service and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall. Today is Intergenerational Worship and a celebration of all our volunteers. There are items in the Narthex for busy hands.

**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.**

A Celebration of Ministry: Mark, Josh and Laurie

Mark: Today, we celebrate those who have served our Faith Formation and Youth Programs; volunteers who have shared Jesus' love with our most precious resource.

Josh: We honor their gifts and their willingness to offer them to our community of faith. Each one of them has offered to plant the seeds of faith in the hearts and minds of our children and youth. Their efforts grow in beautiful and surprising ways...some quickly, some slowly.

Laurie: We recognize our 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends, Peer Class Leaders & Helpers, Hands On Mission Volunteers, Cherub & Joyful Noise Leaders, 2nd Floor Greeters, Nursery Staff & Volunteers, Stewards for the Narthex & Resource Closet, and High School Youth helpers. Please come forward as you are able to receive the thanks of the congregation.

Gail Babinger	Jenny Bourn	Donna Burnett
Lisa Clark	Maryann Carlson	Sue Conti
Sharon Dettenrieder	Erna Deutsch	Dave Dewey
Christine Dewey	Kate Field	Erica Garvey
Andrea Goedken	Joanne Irwin	Laura Marthaler
Jessica Moos	Shannon McCullen	Amanda Palmer
Beth Poratti	Elaine Raymond	Jon Roddy
Judy Roy	Jane Schneider	Andrea Sharp
Manu Shrestha	Barb Smith	Sarah Spaulding
Sandy Tallman	Hannah Tracy	
Allison VanSteensburg		

Staff – Laurie Chipman, Jennifer Morse, Josh Simon

Everyone: Creator of every good gift and of our church community, we are grateful for the ministry we hold in common and for our friends that minister to the children and youth of our church. Thank you for calling these members and equipping them with your Spirit.

Josh: By their offerings of gifts, they plant seeds.

Congregation: And your spirit brings growth.

Laurie: They dream the possibilities.

Congregation: And you do more than they can ask or imagine.

Mark: They enrich us with their efforts.

Congregation: And you grow the fruits of faith in us all.

**Everyone: For a great Faith Formation Program we celebrate and give thanks.
For a tremendous Youth Program we celebrate and give thanks.**

*Laurie gives her famous homemade pot holders so that our
volunteer's hands may remain tender.*

***Hymn**

Standing in the Need of Prayer

#519

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")**

Leader: God who loves our children and youth....

People: God of Love.....Hear Our Prayer

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

A Celebration of Our Graduates

Leader: Come, let us gather as a community to pay tribute to and honor those
among us who have worked hard to graduate from school. Will the following
graduates please come forward.....

Jeremy Brennan

Nathaniel Brennan

Eva Cunningham-Firkey

Martin Deutsch

Clay Messier

Maggie Parks

Jack Poratti

Madeline Reed

Gordon Schmalz

Munroe Shearer

Sarah Tallman

Eric Watt

People: When one part of our body celebrates with joy, all of us share in that joyful celebration. We, your brothers and sisters of the faith, think that you are great and are thrilled that you are a part of our family of faith!!! We admire your efforts and wish you well as you set out on your new journey.

Parents & Family of Graduates: We have nurtured our loved ones and offered them our support and love. We are proud of you and want the best for you. We celebrate with our family of faith in wanting only the best for you.

Graduates: We thank God for life and for the gifts of the heart, mind, souls and strength that have allowed us to reach this day of accomplishment. We thank God for the support of our families and the support of the people in this church.

Leader: Armed with your degree and girded with all of our love and support, go forth from this place strengthened to succeed, poised to prosper and eager to engage the world.

Graduates: This place has helped plant the power of God in every fiber of my being; this community has taught me that the love of Christ rests within my heart; this family of faith has offered me gifts beyond measure. We take these blessings with us whether we will be here next week or whether we will be journeying to new places.

People: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace.

Everyone: Amen and Alleluia!!!

Our Graduates Then and Now
The Presentation of Graduate Gifts

Anthem

Unwritten

Bedingfield

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Invitation & Words of Institution
Communion instrumental piano music: Carol Spradling & Brian Chipman

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will celebrate communion by intinction which means that everyone is invited to come forward to receive the bread and juice. Each person will be invited to dip their gluten free piece of bread into the cup and then eat it immediately. People are invited to approach either minister as individuals, families or groups of friends....then return to your seat. A Deacon will direct the flow of people.

Special note: *ALL the bread and crackers used today is gluten free and all juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

I'll Fly A way

***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.***

Scripture Reading and Congregational Reflection.....Acts 2:37-47 [page 91]

***Closing Hymn**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

#282

Pastoral Benediction

Musical Congregational Benediction ***O When the Saints***

**O when the saints go marching in, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.**

**O when the trumpet sounds the call, O when the trumpet sounds the call.
O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.**

**And when the sun begins to shine, and when that sun begins to shine,
O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.**

**And on that hallelujah day, on that hallelujah day,
O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.**

**O when the saints go marching in, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.**

*Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacons: Jonah Moos & Clint Russell

*The flowers on the altar are given by
Judy and Mary Jane Allen in memory of loved ones.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

John A	Judy Janwich	Eric & Shannon
Carol Janwich	Richard Ansell	Joe Phenix
Mary Weltzin	Serena & Chris Baker	Linda Dudley
Mike K	Frank Polanshek	Carolyn
Judy	family of Katherine Scott	Tib T
Mark McKenzie & family	Tom McKenzie & family	

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 on Sale 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

On June 9th, the group will be meeting to watch a movie and discuss summer reading plans. Join us!

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** * * *

June 9th—Final Exam relief

Take a break from studying for your exams. We'll eat food, watch a movie, and rest our brains. During exam week, if you need a study lounge area, we have space for you to study. Contact Pastor Josh, jsimon@fccej.org



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 8th grade

TODAY June 2nd ~ 9am Intergenerational Worship with Communion, lively Jazz music, slideshow of our 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

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019

Total for 2019 \$210.78

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.

* * * **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 have a collection bin in Fellowship Hall.

**#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



Folks have signed up to prepare a salad and a dessert for the June 26th meal at Dismas House, but we need a person to prepare the entrée. If you would like to do this, please sign the sign-up sheet on the wall as you pass through on your way from the Sanctuary to FH. Your help will be much appreciated. For more information, call Ed Steele at (802) 871-5897 or email at edwardmsteele@msn.com.

**Next 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 could donate a case!



Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Also Open: Saturday June 15th 9 am to 1 pm

Donation Needs: All Men's Clothes

Usher/Greeter Volunteers Needed

Summer dates are all up on the Sign Up Genius-please volunteer!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4facae2daafe3-ushergreeter>



Recruitment has begun for 2019-20 Faith Formation Volunteers



Many ways to support First Church kids and youth:
Nursery Volunteers/1st Sunday Spiritual Friends/Peer Class Leaders & Helpers/
Hands-On Mission Helpers

- I am willing to help our children and youth at church to continue to grow in their faith
- I know it's OK to not have all the answers, but a willingness to learn and grow in the faith
- I feel that the FCCEJ Faith Formation programs are a vital part of this church and I am willing to support it with my time and talents

If these statements hold true for YOU, please connect with Laurie for more information...we need YOU!

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** * * *

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

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



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: June 2nd - June 8th

- SUNDAY:** **9:00 am** **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
11:30-12:30 **Music / Choir Loft**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout/ Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm **Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym**
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
6:30- 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
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**
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finance / Marvin Lounge**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Council / Marvin Lounge**
- WEDNESDAY:** **10:00 am - 3:00 pm** **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (PLC) / Third Floor
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Jamaica Team / Marvin Lounge**
- THURSDAY:** 8:30-11:30 Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
4:00 - 8:00 pm Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
6:30 - 8:00 pm Affordable Housing / Marvin Lounge
6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scouts (BOR) / Third Floor
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out / Kitchen, 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
5:00 - 8:00 pm Piano Recital (Marie J.) / Sanctuary & FH

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: [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
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

June 2, 2019

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Breaking Chains

Acts 16:16-34

There's a reason The Book of Acts is not called The Book of Hanging Around Doing Nothing. This book, which tells the story of the second generation of Jesus' followers, is definitely the adventure story of the New Testament. Full of perilous journeys, sometimes-deadly confrontations, and miraculous encounters, you can almost picture it as a comic book, "Kapow!" and "Blam!" exploding in bright colors from the margins.

Having freed a slave and, in so doing, robbed the slave-owner of his ill-gotten livelihood, Paul and his trusty sidekick Silas are taken prisoner! Dragged to the center of town, attacked by a crowd, stripped of their clothing and beaten, our heroes find themselves thrown into the local slammer! Kapow! Blam! In a comic book, Paul and Silas would use their superpowers (Invisibility? Incredible strength? Shooting magma out of their ears?) to escape the prison and exact revenge on those who have wronged them.

But Acts is not a comic book after all, because the story doesn't end here. Indeed, God's story is just beginning. Once in prison, Paul and Silas draw on one of the most transformative superpowers of God's people – they begin to sing together. When they sing, they strengthen themselves after a painful ordeal. When they sing, they bring a measure of comfort to those around them, who have also suffered unimaginable trials. When they sing, walls crumble and chains are broken. And look! It's not just the prisoners who are freed by their hymns. The jailer, too, is freed from the bondage of being a cog in the machinery of punishment. In the song God helps them sing, there is not such a neat division between the good guys and the bad guys – just people, together, in need of freedom and redemption.

In a moment, you will raise your voices together in song. Remember when you sing in a community, that you are not just making your way through a series of notes and words. You are using one of your most potent superpowers, stronger than any kapow or blam. So, sing like it's your superpower. Sing to warm yourself. Sing to comfort the imprisoned. Sing to knock down walls. Sing to break chains. Sing to bring people toward the Holy One. Sing because we all, whether powerful or powerless, await salvation.

Holy Spirit - We raise our voices in song. May the words and the tunes together fill us with joy and comfort, strengthen us with resilience and courage, lead us toward freedom and salvation. And may we, through our songs, bring those gifts to all the world. Amen.

