

***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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**Fax: 802-872-8236**

**E-mail: [welcome@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org)**

**Website: [www.fcej.org](http://www.fcej.org)**

**Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC**



*The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
A United Church of Christ  
June 23, 2019*

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

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

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 significant 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.*

Musical Introit

*Come Holy Spirit*

Call to Worship

*Psalms 42, 43*

Leader: As a deer longs for the flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

**People: O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me to the throne of your grace.**

Leader: Hope in God; for I shall again praise the Lord, my help and my God.

**People: Then I will go to the altar of God and praise you with the harp, O Lord, my God.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

\*Opening Hymn

*Enter Rejoice, and Come In*

#73

Prayer of Invocation

Deacon

Children's Message

**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.**

Anthem

*The Lord Bless You & Keep You*

John Rutter

Pastoral Prayer & Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

*Prayer Requests Offered within the Community*

*A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer*

**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.**

Musical Response

Scripture Reading:

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39

\*Hymn:

*Spirit of the Living God*

#283

Sermon

*"What do you have to do with me, Jesus?"*

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

*Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication*

*Anthem*

\*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

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

#506

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.  
God now in peace, in faith and in love**

\*Postlude:

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Paul & Marilyn Hyde in honor of  
Mr. George Hyde, WW2 Veteran.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

John A  
Carol Janwich  
Mary Weltzin

Mike K  
Judy

Nancy Hunt's Family

Judy Janwich

Richard Ansell

Serena & Chris Baker

Frank Polanshek

Mark McKenzie & family

Tom McKenzie & family

Eric & Shannon

Joe Phenix

Linda Dudley

Carolyn

Tib T

Richard Bamford

*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@fcej.org*

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

## **Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

**Preschool – 8th grade**

*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 \$239.33*

*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.

## **Dismas House ~ Meal Volunteers**

On the fourth Wednesday of every month for several years now, members and friends of our Church have been taking a dinner to Dismas House in Winooski, which is one of four

Dismas Houses in Vermont where folks who have finished a prison term live while transitioning from life in prison to life on the outside. Typically, one of us prepares an entrée, another a salad, and a third a dessert. We enjoy eating the dinner with the 10 residents and the paid staff (a Director and Associate Director who work at Dismas House during week). If you would like to volunteer, there is a sign-up sheet just before the

## **Former Bell Ringers**

Please make an effort to return your maroon vest to the Church Office or to Carol Spradling. Thank you.

## **Heavenly Harmony, Rehearsal for July 21st Performance**

Today (Sunday, June 23rd @ 10:15am-11:15am)

*We're singing two songs in 3-part harmony with piano:*

*- Let It Go (from Frozen)*

*- Ain't No Mountain High Enough (from Sister Act)*

\* \* \* **THIS WEEK** \* \* \*

## **Hannaford Cards & Reloads**

*Summer dates: Mondays—July 1st, July 15th, August 5th & August 19th*

## **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!

## **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.

## **Wednesday Night Searchers**

*\*\* Summer hiatus. Check back in September for details. \*\**

## **Coffee Clatter Fridays**

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!

## **Next Food Pantry day is Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2-6pm**

We are in need of egg cartons, in addition to fruit juice, tomato soup, spaghetti sauce and sample size toothpaste tubes (which are perfect companions for toothbrushes!) 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  
(& 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month...but not again until July)

\*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>

**\*\* FCCEJ Office Summer Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm.**

*Email Doug Ovitt @ [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) for more information \*\**

**\* \* \* Children, Youth & Family Announcements \* \* \***

## **Recruitment has begun for 2019-20 Faith Formation Volunteers**

Many ways to support First Church kids and youth:

Nursery Volunteers  
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
- 

## **Vacation Bible Camp**

***TO MARS and BEYOND:***

***Exploring Where God's Power Can Take You!***

August 5th to 9th from 9:00 to 11:45 am

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)  
Pre K—5th grade (grade you are entering in the fall);  
Youth Helpers (6th grade & up) & Adult helpers.

**\* \* \* Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate \* \* \***

**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, Emma Parker, Carolyn Rushford, Pete Schmalz, Zach Schmalz, Aliyah Watt



*Good luck and Godspeed during your adventure!*

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

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

**Continue to Support JUMP**

Part of our church's mission to JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Project) is to provide feminine hygiene products. Our Red Tent Project has been very successful, but we need to be sure to keep the tent full, especially in summer when we may not be in church as often. The need continues no matter the season. The population that JUMP serves seems to prefer pads. These are people on the margins of society...single mothers, New Americans, singled Dads with teen age daughters, etc. The gifts can make a huge difference for a woman being able to keep a job or a girl staying in school. The Red Tent is usually in the Marvin Lounge, but may also be in Fellowship Hall on Sundays. Thanks for your generosity in keeping it full!



## MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Doug Ovitt* [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* [238-2713]  
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 23, 2019*

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

*In God's Presence*

*1 Kings 19: 1-15a*

*This week is General Synod, the biennial gathering of our United Church of Christ. Delegates and visitors from across our denomination are gathered in Wisconsin to work, worship and discern the way forward. The invitation to General Synod at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) proclaims, "Always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers will offer illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, worship together, and participate in local community service projects."*

*In other words, for a few days, the church from many corners of the nation and the globe will gather and be the church together. The purpose of this gathering is not to turn inward on ourselves but to be a beacon. As the theme of the week declares, those gathered will let the church's light shine before others.*

*Centuries ago, Elijah the prophet tried to hide from God. The problems of the world seemed too big. Disgusted with the corruption of the powerful, convinced that his message would never be understood and fearing for his life, Elijah ran into the wilderness and hid himself in a cave. But he could not hide from God. God persisted in summoning Elijah and reminding him that his place was among the people who needed him, even if it was discouraging or potentially dangerous.*

*(Continued on next page....)*

*(Mission Moments, Continued...)*

*Like Elijah, as congregations we can be tempted to hide ourselves away from the rest of the United Church of Christ. We are not large by American denominational standards, but we are still a diverse and sprawling people. It may feel like it would be easier just to stay put in our solitary and (relatively) safe caves.*

*But God finds our congregations, wherever and however we have hidden ourselves away. God is calling each one of our churches, just as God called the prophet long ago. Our place is not hiding away by ourselves, but with one another, building community, so that the work of God and the church can be multiplied. We may not always agree with one another, but as Elijah learned and as we continue to learn, to follow God means to follow God into community.*

*Even if you are not physically at General Synod this week, you can be there in spirit and prayer. Pray for your church, that it may hear God's calling to engage in community. Pray for the safety and wisdom of delegates as they travel and gather. Pray for yourself, that you might hear God's voice calling you, whether in a roar or a whisper, to come forth.*

# *Calendar*

**THIS WEEK: June 23rd - June 29th**

- SUNDAY:** 9:00 am **Worship Service /Sanctuary**  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- MONDAY:** 12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / Fellowship Hall & Gym**  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Food Pantry / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen**  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Third Floor  
6:30 - 9:30 pm Venture Crew / Marvin Lounge
- TUESDAY:** 8:30 - 10:00 am **Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge**  
**10:00 am-3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**  
12:00 - 1:30 Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/Jonah / Fellowship Hall**  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm Stewardship Meeting / Fellowship Hall**  
7:00 - 9:00pm Trustees / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** **10:00 am-3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**  
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm - 4:00pm Crafty Time Out / Marvin Lounge  
6:30 - 7:30pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 8:30am - 6:30pm Food Pantry / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge  
3:00 - 4:00 pm Easter Seals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
7:30pm - 10:30pm Grange / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall