

***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@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 30, 2019*

*Third Sunday After Pentecost*

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

Order of Worship

Prelude *Special music today is shared by....* **Steph Field (vocals)**  
**Carol Spradling (backing vocals, piano)**

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 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.*

A Musical Introit *Wonderfully Made* David Haas

Call to Worship

Leader: Dear joyous and healing God be with us in prayer now.

**People: God is with us always in our times of celebration and our times of sorrow.**

Leader: God of freedom and love be with us today as we remember that no matter whoever you are, you are welcome in the love of Jesus.

**People: Let us be like God with and with serenity and grace give love to all people, regardless of who they love, or how they dress or what they look like.**

Leader: We lift our hearts to you oh Spirit of light and life. Let our worship begin.

**All: Amen**

\* Opening Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#25

Prayer of Invocation  
Children's Message

Deacon

*After the Children's Message all are encouraged to stay with us in worship. Worship items are in the Narthex. If you are feel like moving around, take an adult or older youth with you to the Fellowship Hall where you will find our Summer Faith Formation Activity Bin by the Nursery door. The Nursery Room is available with Jennifer, our staff person, for infants and toddlers up to age 3. Our worship is streamed live to the Fellowship Hall.*

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's 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.**

Musical Response

*Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying*

Ken Medema

Musical Anthem

*True Colors*

Cyndi Lauper

Scripture Readings

Old Testament 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

New Testament Luke Chapter 9:51-62

\* Hymn

*Spirit of the Living God*

# 283

*Each Sunday until the end of July, we sing Spirit of the Living God to center ourselves before the sermon.*

Sermon

*'It Was A Riot!'*

Josh Sharp

Offering Our Gifts to God

*Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication*

Anthem

*Somewhere Over The Rainbow*

Harold Arlen

\*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

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

#391

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 is 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, watching from above.  
God now in peace, in faith and in love**

\*Postlude:

*Special music today is shared by....*

Steph Field (vocals)

Carol Spradling (backing vocals, piano)

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*The flowers on the altar are given to Amy Trimble in loving memory of Robert Trimble*

## 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	Mark McKenzie & family	Tib T
Nancy Hunt's Family	Tom McKenzie & family	Richard Bamford
Art Doty		

*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, [welcme@fccej.org](mailto:welcme@fccej.org)*

**\* \* \* FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE \* \* \***

\*\* REDACTION from July/August newsletter: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Potluck Series ended in May. Please, let FCCEJ's staff know if you're interested in continuing this series this coming fall. \*\*

\*\* REDACTION from previous bulletin: Hannaford Card Dates in July are *Mondays—July 8th, July 22nd—not July 1st and 15th* as previously published. \*\*

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

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

Today (Sunday, June 30th @ 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)*

### Vacation Bible Camp 2019

To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!  
**We still need youth & adult volunteers for August 5-9**

### Former Bell Ringers

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

## **Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

**Please, donate items. Review the wish list at the black table.**

### **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 in September*

## **Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2019**

*Total for 2019 \$241.33*

### **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.

### **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 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!

Wishing our ***Jamaica Mission Trip Team*** continued prayers as they represent FCCEJ and traveling mercies on their return trip: Nolan Boerger, Sharon Dettenrieder, Christine Dewey,

Dave Dewey, Rich Dooley, Sam Dooley, Caitlin McGeary, Kaki McGeary, Mark Mendes, Nicholes Mendes, Emma Parker, Carolyn Rushford, Pete Schmalz, Zach Schmalz, Aliyah Watt

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

### **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**

We'll finish "When They See Us" series on July 3rd, 7 pm. Starting Wednesday, July 10 and going through Wednesday, August 14, Pastor Josh is leading a Christian based spirituality group. From Christian tradition there are many different forms of practices that help a person connect more to God. For example, from the Ignatians, there is a practice called the Examen. It asks us to see where God is in our lives in a past moment and then where is God in the present moment. Join us each Wednesday at 7pm.

## **Essex Eats Out Ecumenical Community Dinner**

Friday, July 5th @ 5pm-8pm

This ongoing service project offers free, community-wide dinners open to all (with a special invitation to the needy & lonely) every Friday night throughout the Essex area. Donations (to help subsidize the cost of these meals) are solicited but not required of all dinner patrons.

## **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!

\* \* \* **Save the Date!** \* \* \*

## **Hannaford Cards & Reloads**

Summer dates: Mondays—July 8th, July 22nd, August 5th & August 19th  
Sign-up at the preceding Sunday service.

## **Next Food Pantry day is Monday, July 8th, 5:30pm-7:30pm**

We are in need of egg cartons, in addition to fruit juice, tomato soup, spaghetti sauce and sample size toothpaste tubes. 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 (closed 4th of July)  
(& 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month)  
\*Donation Needs: All Men's Clothes\*

## 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]



THIS WEEK: June 30th - July 6<sup>th</sup>

- 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 Hal  
**1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / Fellowship Hall & Gym**  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Marvin Lounge  
6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
- 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 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga w/ Jonah / Fellowship Hall  
**5:30 – 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge**  
**7:00 - 9:00pm Church Council / Marvin Lounge**
- WEDNESDAY:**               **10:00 am-3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**  
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
7:00 - 8:30pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall  
**7:00 - 9:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge**
- THURSDAY:**               **\*\* HOLIDAY – Independence Day, Church Office Closed \*\***  
8:30am - 11:30am Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall  
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
3:00 - 4:00 pm Easter Seals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor
- FRIDAY:**                   12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
7:30pm - 10:30pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner  
/ Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- SATURDAY:**               9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Community Worship & Meal  
/ Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
**9:00 – 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**

*mission*  
**M O M E N T S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Pick up the Mantle*  
*2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14*

*A Prayer for Open and Affirming Sunday*

Creator of Us All, Holy One of Many Names, Eternal Love,  
We wonder at the care and joy manifest in your design and creation.

You created the sliver of the waning crescent moon,  
a slender thread of courageous light;

You created the tenacity of each blade of grass that  
muscles aside concrete to reach for sky;

You created the birds that soar and creatures of the ocean depths  
who somehow thrive where it is too dark and too cold for life.

You look at all you have created and call it good.

We are amazed that, in ways beyond our understanding,  
you formed humanity with the same joy and care that birthed the rest of creation.  
We rejoice that each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made in your Divine image.

On this Open and Affirming Sunday, we proclaim who we are.

We are gay, we are straight, we are lesbian, we are bisexual,  
we are transgender, we are cis-gender, we are gender-fluid.

We have many names and labels for what we are,  
but we know that you call us by one name - beloved.

Let us say it over and over and over again until we believe it.

We are beloved. We are beloved. We are indeed beloved.

We acknowledge that for many of your beloved children, especially those who are LGBTQ, church communities have been places of shame and suffering, rather than homes of sanctuary and safety.

Help us to pick up the mantle of those who have gone before us in this liberation movement, that their hard work and their sacrifice might not be in vain.

We are, all of us, called by love, for the sake of love, to be love  
in this faith community and in all the world.

Continue to create us to be your beloved people. Amen.

# **Sermon Notes**