

***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

A United Church of Christ

July 14, 2019

Fifth 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 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

Blue Skies

Irving Berlin

**Blue skies, smiling at me...
nothing but blue skies do I see.
Bluebirds, singing a song...
nothing but bluebirds all day long.
Never saw the sun shining so bright;
never saw things going so right.
Noticing the days hurrying by,
filled with God's love, my how they fly.
Blue days, all of them gone,
nothing but blue skies from now on;
Nothing but blue skies from now on.**

Congregational responses are in bold

Deacon: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the people
Sing to God, sing praises; tell all of God's wonderful works.
**Glory in the holy name of God; let the hearts of those who seek
the Lord rejoice.**
Seek the Lord and draw strength from God;
seek God's presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works God has done, miracles and the
judgements.....
For God remembered the holy promise to Abraham.
So God brought the chosen people with joy, the chosen ones were
singing. Let us worship our God.

*Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#4

Invocation

Children's Message

*Children, youth, and young at heart are welcome to come forward for the Children's Message.
After the message, everyone is invited to stay in worship. Children three and under are
welcome to use the Nursery where Jennifer is.*

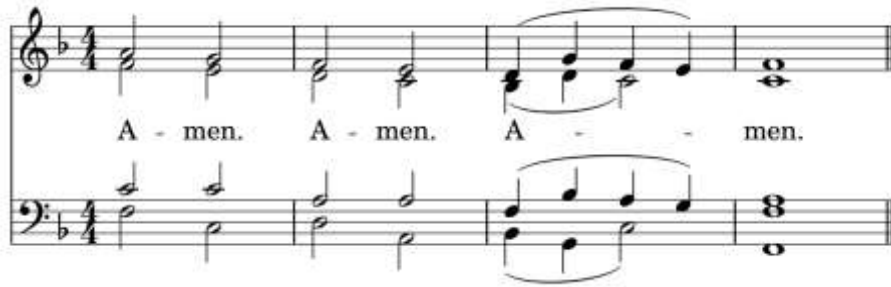
**God has made us all a rainbow.
Colors dancing 'round and 'round.
In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,
God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.**

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.**



A - men. A - men. A - - men.

Musical Anthem

I Am What I Am.

Jerry Herman

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Exodus 3: 1-22

pages 39-40

New Testament Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

page 54

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

"God: I am Who I am."

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Look Over There

Jerry Herman

*The 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.**

*Hymn

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

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

*Postlude: *Special music this week provided by...* Munroe Shearer
Josh Simon, and Carol Spradling

* = Please stand if you are able.

The flowers on the altar are given to Judy Allen in memory of her 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	Mark McKenzie & family	Tib T
Nancy Hunt's Family	Tom McKenzie & family	Richard Bamford
Marion Schneider		

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. Additionally, prayer requests will be edited quarterly. If you find an unintended error or omission, please contact the Church office.

*** * * SPECIAL NOTES FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE * * ***

Laurie Chipman is away from the office from *Sunday-Saturday, July 21st-27th*. You may email her and she will respond at her soonest convenience.

* * * **TODAY** * * *

Heavenly Harmony, Rehearsal for July 21st Performance

TODAY! Sunday, July 14th, 10:15—11:15am

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 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 in September

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering: Total for 2019 \$262.33

* * * **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.

* * * **THIS WEEK (Continued...)** * * *

Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality

**** CANCELED for Wednesday, July 17th. Returns on Wednesday, July 24th ****

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.

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!

Heavenly Cents Thrift Store—Annual Lawn Sale!

Saturday, July 20th @ 9am-1pm

Stop by the Thrift Store @ 37 Main Street (adjacent to our church) to see all of the fine apparel and accessories on sale!

Heavenly Food Pantry

Next pantry service is Thursday, July 25th, 2:00-6:00pm

We are in need of egg cartons, in addition to fruit juice, chicken 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!

* * * **VOLUNTEERING & SAVE THE DATES** * * *

Hannaford Cards Purchases & Reloads

The next Hannaford Card purchases & reloads date is Sunday, July 22nd.

Vacation Bible Camp 2019

August 5-9th

To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!
Looking for more youth & young adult helpers 8:30am to 11:45am
Come join the fun! Contact Laurie with your t-shirt size and days that work for you!

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Got Donations? Want to Volunteer?

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs
& 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm

The Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work at the shop every other Thursday from 6 to 8 PM beginning on August 1. If you have never worked there before, the staff is most happy to show you the ropes of manning the shop. The activities such as running the cash register are quite easy. It's a fun, rewarding place with contact with the staff as well as the many community members who come in to shop. Our mission is to support local groups such as JUMP and COTS as they serve their clientele. Please, join us if the thrift shop is someplace you've been hoping to work. *Donation Needs: All Men's Clothes*

Please, contact Elaine Raymond <ebraymond@gmail.com> or Sue Wood <suewood@myfairpoint.net> for more details. Additionally, you may call P# 1 802 879 6552

Essex Eats Out Ecumenical Community Dinner

Friday, August 2nd @ 5:30pm-7pm

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.

Wednesday Night Searchers

We finished "When They See Us" series on July 3rd. ...*Searchers* will not meet again until September. Meanwhile, enjoy our *Practice Traditional Christian Spirituality* sessions on Wednesdays this summer!

FCCEJ Worship Services

The Church will host two Sunday services (8:15am and 10:30am) again starting Sunday, September 8th; Saturday Holy Communion services will begin again on October 5th. For the summer, it coincides with our Sunday worship services. Please, keep an eye on the bulletin and our September newsletter for more details.

THIS WEEK: July 14th - July 20th

- SUNDAY: **9:00 am Worship Service / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
10:00—11:00 am Church Council Special Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- 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
6:30 – 8:00 pm Scout Alumni Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- TUESDAY: **8:30 - 10:00 am Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge**
10:00 -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
- WEDNESDAY: **8:00 am – 11:30pm Food Shelf Delivery / Fellowship Hall**
10:00 am-3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00pm Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:30pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY: 12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 4:00 pm Easterseals Clinician Meeting / Third Floor
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store
6:30 – 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review Meeting / Third Floor
- FRIDAY: 12:00 - 1:30 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY: **9:00 – 1:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**
ANNUAL LAWN SALE!
9:00 - 11:00 am Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

* = Tentative

BOLD FONT = FCCEJ Activity

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

July 14, 2019
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Caring Neighbors
Luke 10:25-37

The Good Samaritan story reminds us that Christ calls us to draw a wider circle as we bring compassion, healing, and hope to others. The 3 Great Loves initiative is giving congregations across the denomination a forum for sharing stories about the way that they are practicing being Good Samaritans.

Congregations like Spring Creek UCC in Rockford, IL. Since December 2015, the congregation has provided household goods and supplies to ten families moving from homelessness into an apartment through their Adopt An Apartment Initiative (AAA). “The generosity of the congregation in donating items has been outstanding and we are very grateful to our dedicated group of volunteers who have helped to transport the items and clean & stage the apartments,” the congregation reports.

Hadwen Park Congregational UCC, Worcester, MA reaches out to LGBT people escaping from countries where it is illegal and dangerous to be themselves. These asylum seekers are unable to work or receive public assistance while awaiting asylum, so the congregation gives them a shared apartment, food, cell phone, a small stipend, help finding medical care and legal representation. The asylum seekers are also into the church community for spiritual care and a sense of community and friendship. The congregation has supported as many as two dozen asylum seekers at a time.

Zion United Church of Christ, in Hubbard, Iowa has extended their definition of neighbor to include those living 2000 miles away. The rural congregation is demonstrating love of neighbor by collecting over 1,100 needed items for two UCLA Mobile Health Clinics for the homeless living in Los Angeles. Zion UCC has provided travel sized bottles of shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, as well as underwear, flashlights, shoes, and many other necessary and much needed items to their neighbors.

These congregations, and many others, are redrawing the lines of what it means to be a neighbor, drawing the circle ever wider. How is your congregation a Good Samaritan? Tell your story!

3 Great Loves is the United Church of Christ’s denomination-wide storytelling initiative. Telling the story of how we are living out God’s love and expressing love of neighbor, children and creation, 3 Great Loves demonstrates how our denomination lives out the love of God and creates a just world for all.

Visit www.3greatloves.org and share how you are living out God’s love. And use the hashtag #3greatloves when sharing on social media. No action is too small, and no story is too insignificant to share.

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fcej.org]

Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fcej.org]

Music & Choir Director: *Carol Spradling* [cspradling@fcej.org]

Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fcej.org]

Church Administrator: *Doug Ovitt* [welcome@fcej.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@fcej.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* [238-2713]

Nepali Christian Community Contact: *Dan Raut* [310-4371]

Craft Fest Committee Contact: *Linda Bogardus* [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net]