

***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

July 21, 2019

*Sixth 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

*Blessed Be Thy Name*

Traditional

Call to Worship

(Inspired by Luke 1 and 1 Samuel 2)

*Congregational responses are in bold*

Deacon:

Like Jesus' mother, Mary, our souls magnify the Lord,

**and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,**

We give thanks for Mary's song of praise to God

**for God has looked with favor on the lowliest servant.**

**God's mercy is for those who live in awe of God**

Like Hannah, the mother of Samuel, praise God

**God knows what's going on.**

God takes measure of everything that happens.

**God restores people who are poor on their feet again;**

God rekindles burned out lives with fresh hope,

**Restoring dignity and respect to their lives—a place in the sun.**

Come let us worship God.

Invocation

Deacon

The Sacrament of Baptism.....Isabelle Josephine Owens

*Be sure to give a warm welcome to Isabelle today as she joins Christ's Universal Church. Isabella's proud parents are Edward & Gretchen Owens, and her God-parents are Rebecca Lilja & Patrick "Taco" Owens.*

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 under the age of three are welcome use the Nursery staffed by Jennifer.*

**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

*Danish Amen*

David Kraehenbuehl



Musical Anthem

*Let It Go* (Frozen)

Robert Lopez  
& Kristen Anderson-Lopez

Scripture Readings

*Old Testament Song of Songs 1: 1-11*

page 483

*New Testament Luke 10: 38-42*

page 55

\*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

*"Women: Hear them Roar!"*

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Memory (Cats)

Andrew Lloyd Webber  
& Tim Rice

\* 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

*Called as Partners in Christ Service*

#495

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:

*All special music this week by Heavenly Harmony*

\* = Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Betsy Weischedel;  
and George Beach in honor of his 56th Wedding Anniversary*

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	Cathy Inglese	

*Please, let the office know if you would like a name added to our Prayer Ministry. You may write it on the Friendship Pad; call the office @ 878 5745; or email at [welcome@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org). Additionally, prayer requests will be edited quarterly. If you find an unintended error or omission, then please, contact the Church office.*

**\* \* \* 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.

**Heavenly Cents Thrift Store—Annual Lawn Sale RESCHEDULED**

*..to Saturday, August 17th, 9am-1pm.*

Due to construction, the thrift store's annual lawn sale has been postponed. Originally set for Saturday, July 20th, it is now being offered in August.

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

**Hannaford Cards Purchases & Reloads**

Today, you may reload your Hannaford Gift Cards.

We sell preloaded gift cards at \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 values.

This will be your last chance to buy Hannaford cards/reloads in July!

**Former Bell Ringers**

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

\* \* \* **TODAY (Cont'd)** \* \* \*

**Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar**

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

**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 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Welcome Back Sunday*

\*\* Date Changed! See “Save the Dates” section. \*\*

Picnic & Bouncy House on the Lawn!

*2019-20 Faith Formation Family Calendar will be available in September*

**2019 Faith Formation Sunday School Offering:**

*Total thus far — \$263.33*

**...for 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 your donations! Please, find the red tent in the church’s Marvin Lounge.

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

**SPECIAL EVENT: Book Reading & Signing of *Pass the Paddle***

*Tuesday, July 23rd @ 7-8:30pm*

FCCEJ is hosting a book reading and signing of Pass the Paddle, an adventure memoir written by Rev. Dr. Gerald ‘Jerry’ Schumm. Pastor Mark and Rev. Schumm would be most elated if people would attend to celebrate his great work.

**Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback**

*Tuesdays @ 8:30-10am*

Gather with us for coffee, baked goods, and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) delivered on Sunday. Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!

\* \* \* **THIS WEEK (Cont'd)** \* \* \*

**Yoga @ First This Week**

*Tuesdays @ 5:30-6:45pm*

Jonah teaches a yoga class in our 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.

**Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality**

*Wednesdays @ 7pm*

Starting Wednesday, July 10 and going through Wednesday, August 14, Pastor Josh is leading a Christian based spirituality group. The Christian tradition offers 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.

**Heavenly Food Pantry**

*Thursday, July 25th, 2-6pm*

We are in need of egg cartons and chicken noodle soup; in addition to fruit juice, spaghetti sauce and sample size toothpaste tubes. Please, ask your dentist the next time you have your teeth cleaned to donate a case!

**Coffee Clatter Fridays**

*Fridays @ 8-9am*

This may seem like a foolish question, but if you like to talk and drink coffee, then come down to Martone's for an open conversation. Rev. Mark and/or Josh are there every week and 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 DATES + VOLUNTEERING** \* \* \*

**Essex Eats Outs 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. FCCEJ hosts *Essex Eats Out* on the first Friday of each month.

**Vacation Bible Camp 2019**

*August 5-9<sup>th</sup>*

**THEME:** *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

**\*Donation Needs: All Men's Clothes\***

The Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work every other Thursday, 6pm-8pm beginning August 1. The staff is happy to show you the ropes of manning the shop. The activities (e.g. running the cash register) are quite easy. It's a fun, rewarding place where both staff and church members mingle. Our mission is to support local groups such as JUMP and COTS. If the thrift shop is someplace you've been hoping to work, you may contact Elaine Raymond <ebraymond@gmail.com> or Sue Wood <suewood@myfairpoint.net> for more details. Additionally, you may call P# 1 802 879 6552

**Vermont PRIDE Theater @ Chandler**

*Friday-Sunday, July 26th-August 4th*

VPT's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Theater Festival presents the world premiere of Growing Up LGBTQ in Vermont: 15 Vermonters telling their personal stories on stage. Plus Vermont premieres of *two full length plays*, *All Together Now* and *A Late Snow*. All three deal with mature themes and contain mature language. For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to [www.chandler-arts.org](http://www.chandler-arts.org) or call (802) 728-6464 on Tuesday-Friday, Noon-4pm.

**Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program**

*August 2019*

During August, each time a \$2.50 reusable "Fight Hunger Bag" is purchased at the Hannaford located in Williston, VT, \$1 will be donated to First Congregational Church's food pantry! (Essex Junction's store was not selected as FCCEJ's host store this year.) This is a great way to raise awareness, support the environment and fundraise for our cause.

Visit this link for more details: <http://hannaford.bags4mycause.com>



\* \* \* **VOLUNTEERING & SAVE THE DATES** (Cont'd) \* \* \*

**Eastern Chittenden Affordable Housing Coalition**

*Thursday, August 8th, 6:30pm-8:30pm*

The Village of Essex Junction and the Town of Essex will soon release a study titled “Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan.” With the release of this report, the time for affordable housing advocacy in our locale is nearly ready! Time and folks like yourselves preparing to help advocate for the implementation of the plan is needed. Folks from Jericho and Underhill are welcome, too. Join us at FCCEJ in the Marvin Lounge!

**VIA Statewide Convention**

*Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm*

Join Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) for its annual Statewide Convention at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 43 Hebard Hill Road in Randolph, Vermont. Features former State Representative Kiah Morris as keynote speaker and Rev. Alvin Herring, Executive Director of the Faith in Action national network as special guest. Explore the intersection between class and race in social justice as we hear reports from our organizing committees on various issues and engage in interfaith worship. Breakfast and lunch are provided; cost is \$20 per person. To register, go to [www.viavt.org](http://www.viavt.org); or call (802) 651-8889; or email [office@viavt.org](mailto:office@viavt.org). Deadline is August 13.

**Vermont PRIDE Parade**

*Sunday, September 8th*

*Parade @ 12:30pm, Church Street — Festival @ 1pm, Battery Park*

Sponsored by the Vermont UCC Conference to celebrate and support Vermont’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community of all ages, as well as educating and to serving as a bridge to create alliances with each other and with the greater community as a whole.

For more details, visit <https://pridevt.org/>

**FCCEJ Worship Services & ‘Welcome Back Sunday’**

*Sunday, September 15th ... continuing through June 2020*

Following FCCEJ’s participation in the aforementioned Vermont PRIDE event on September 8th, *Welcome Back Sunday* sees our church returning to two Sunday services (8:30am and 10:15am.) Holy Communion services return on Saturday, October 5th, and repeated on the first Saturday of each month thereafter. For the summer, Communion coincides with our Sunday worship services.

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

July 21, 2019

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Word and Work

Luke 10:38-42

Martha speaks:

“I knew the minute I saw Jesus that what he’d been trying to say was true. He would not be with us much longer. This might be the last time he visited my home, ate at my table. This might be the last time that I could give him what he needed and appreciated: a hot meal, cool water, warm company. The knowledge of it plunged a knife into my heart. As he crossed the threshold, I felt my knees go weak, felt the keening of the funeral procession already beginning in the back of my throat. Better to keep busy than to have him see me like this. My hands in the dough, cutting the dates into pieces just so, cooking the fish just as he liked it. I flew around the house. I knew that doing something – anything – was the only way to keep myself from the truth of the loss that lay ahead.”

Mary speaks:

“I knew the minute I saw Jesus that what he’d been trying to say was true. He would not be with us much longer. I had never seen the depth of sorrow I saw in his eyes that day, although he was as kindly gracious as ever. As he settled in the house, the others gathered around as always, asking questions or reaching out for healing or just offering a raucous welcome. I was immediately curious about this new sorrow that I saw in him, that I felt reflected in my own heart. Where did it come from? Where would it lead him? I felt I just had to know more. Maybe if I understood, I could meet him in that place. Maybe if I knew more, I could help him somehow. So I knelt at his feet as close as I could. I absorbed every word he spoke, drank in every movement. Soon, the flurry and bustle of the room faded, as I focused on his face, his voice.”

We imagine what Jesus’ friends, the sisters Mary and Martha, might have felt when they saw him soon after he predicted his own death to his disciples. Mary and Martha each sense Jesus’ grief, and each feels their own. Martha distracts herself from her feelings and is able to channel her emotions into hospitality; Mary stays present and curious to her emotions, but is unconcerned with her own physical needs, as well as those of her guests.

These are two ways to respond to strong emotions. There are many others. Take a few minutes to share with a friend or spiritual guide or in a journal how you respond when grief enters your home and sits down at your table. Now consider your response. Is that how you’d like to respond? Or is there another way that feels more authentic for you? Ask Jesus to help you meet your emotions the way you would most like to.

## MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

Church Administrator: *Doug Ovitt* [welcome@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]

**July 22, 2019 -  
July 28, 2019**

**Sunday, July 21**

- 9:00am - 10:00am Owens Baptism
- 9:00am - 10:00am Summer Worship Service (Sanctuary) ☉
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉

**Monday, July 22**

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking (FH & Gym) ☉
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) ☉
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scout (Fellowship Hall)

**Tuesday, July 23**

- 8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back (ML) ☉
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga w/Jonah (Fellowship Hall) ☉
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Trustees Meeting (Marvin Lounge)
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Book Reading-Signing/Jerry Schumm (FH)

**Wednesday, July 24**

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉
- 2:00pm - 4:00pm Crafty Time Out (ML) ☉
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality (Marvin Lounge) ☉
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) ☉

**Thursday, July 25**

- 8:30am - 6:30pm Food Pantry (FH) ☉
- 9:00am - 10:30am NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS (ML) ☉
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals Clinician meeting (Third Floor) ☉

**Friday, July 26**

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm Grange (FH) ☉

**Saturday, July 27**

- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary) ☉
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (FH) ☉