

***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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Website: www.fcej.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

A United Church of Christ

July 28, 2019

Seventh 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

Shine on Me

Traditional

Call to Worship**

Congregational responses are in bold

Deacon: We come abounding in thanksgiving:

**For in Christ we find in all fullness
the holiness
the justice
the hope of God.**

We come abounding in thanksgiving:

**To feel God's life in us
flowing through our roots in Christ
and establishing our faith.**

We come abounding in thanksgiving:

**To celebrate the mystery of God-with-us:
Christ, who lives fully in us
and in whom we fully live.**

Anthem

Tomorrow (Annie)

Strouse/Charnin

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Psalm 138

page 448

New Testament Luke 11: 1-13

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

"Persistence through Prayer"

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Climb Every Mountain

Rodgers & Hammerstein

*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

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

#476

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

*Postlude:

Special music this week is provided by...

Tessa Nowell

Jim Coates, and Carol Spradling

***Alive with God in the Mystery of Christ: Service Prayers for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost* was written by the Rev. Catherine Rolling.

* = Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Norma Edwards
in loving memory of her mother, Ruth Curtiss*

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	Russ Dettenrieder
David Sicalowski		

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

* * * **TODAY** * * *

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 in the Narthex.

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 15th ~ 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

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

2019 Faith Formation Sunday School Offering:

Total thus far — \$295.33

...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** * * *

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!

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.

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

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

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!

Essex Eats Outs Community Dinner

Friday, August 2nd @ 5:30pm-6:30pm

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.

*** * * SAVE THE DATES + VOLUNTEERING * * ***

Vermont PRIDE Theater @ Chandler

Friday-Sunday, July 26th-August 4th

VPT's 9th 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, visit www.chandler-arts.org;
or call (802) 728-6464 on Tuesday-Friday, Noon-4pm.

Vacation Bible Camp 2019

Monday-Friday, August 5th-9th

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!

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>

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 16th 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; or call (802) 651-8889; or email office@viavt.org. Deadline is August 13.

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Annual Lawn Sale! Saturday, August 17, 9am-1pm

Lots of books, holiday stuff, dishes and small furniture. All sales are by donation.

Inside shop will have the annual summer sale with 50% off all clothes.

Come and check out the bargains!

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

* * * FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE * * *

Solidarity Bike Tour for Immigrant Justice

Wed-Sat, August 21st-24th

Frustrated at what's happening at our borders but not sure what to do? Vermont Interfaith Action is sponsoring a Solidarity Bike Tour totaling 160 miles total from Montpelier to Dover, NH. The ride ends in a 5-mile walk to the Strafford County Jail in Dover, NH. Walkers may join us for the last few miles of the journey. Immigrants arrested by ICE and awaiting deportation are held at this jail. Cyclists will ride 40-50 miles each day, stopping in towns along the way and staying at supportive faith communities in the evenings. Every morning will begin with an overview of the route and a time of reflection on what our migrant neighbors are facing. In the evenings we will hold educational or prayerful discussions open to the public.

For more information, contact melissa@viavt.org. To register go to www.viavt.org.

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 on Sunday, September 15th (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.

"Crafty Time Out" (formerly Ladies Night Out) *POSTPONED*

Returns on Wednesday, September 25th @ 2pm-4pm

Due to the hot weather, Crafty Time Out will not meet in July or August. It returns on September.

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 28, 2019

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Shaped by Prayer

Luke 11: 1-13

Conversation with God is a two-way street. You talk some, and you listen some. Then you listen some more and talk some more. When we say “God is still speaking!” we remember the importance of listening to what God has to say. But what about the other half of the conversation, the part where we are speaking back?

Maybe you just don’t know how to talk to God. Luckily, if you are at a loss, Jesus gave you a formula in the prayer found in the scripture reading today.

First: say God’s name, second: give thanks and praise, third: acknowledge that which must change, fourth: express hope for the future.

First, say the Divine name. Jesus begins with “Our Father,” but there are lots more. Mother, Creator. Sophia, Spirit. Beloved, Comforter. Rock, Eagle. Prayer is about building relationships and you call the people you want to have relationships with by name. So start with a Name.

Second, give thanks and praise. Jesus continues with “Hallowed be your name.” With these words Jesus praises God’s name. We can give God praise by offering our gratitude, too. What do you have to be thankful for? Start a list. Your list can be short, just gratitude or two, or it can go until you run out of paper, or breath, or ideas.

Third, reflect on what needs improving. Jesus prays, “Lead us not into temptation.” We wouldn’t have to have this one if we hadn’t already encountered temptation. God loves us just as we are and loves us too much to let us stay like that, the old slogan goes. So whether it’s your own relationship blunders or the deep failures of your nation, say them out loud.

Fourth, hope for the future. Jesus asks that “Your kingdom come.” We are co-creators in the reign of God. As you imagine what could be, you are taking the first step toward living into it. Let your imagination lead you toward the actions you are going to take to make the changes you know must come.

Immediately after teaching the prayer in today’s scripture, Jesus tells a tiny parable. A man goes to his neighbor late at night and, pounding on the door, asks for bread to feed some unexpected guests. Although the neighbor and his family are already asleep with the doors locked, finally because of (what is usually translated as) persistence, the neighbor gets the bread. But the word that’s translated as “persistence” actually means “impudence” or “shamelessness.”

The neighbor finally got up to give the man the bread he needed because of the man’s shamelessness. So don’t be ashamed. Speak, holler, or whisper. However you do it, take part in your half of the conversation. Yes, God is still speaking. And, God is most definitely still listening.

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

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 29, 2019 -
August 4, 2019**

July 2019							August 2019								
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		
		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31						25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Monday, July 29

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking (FH & Gym) ☺
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm Joe's Big Band (Fellowship Hall) ☺

Tuesday, July 30

- 8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back (ML) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga w/Jonah (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Eagle Scout Board (Third Floor)

Wednesday, July 31

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Eagle Scout Board of Review (BOR) (Third Floor)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) ☺

Thursday, August 1

- 8:30am - 11:30am Essex Art League (FH) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals Clinician meeting (Third Floor) ☺

Friday, August 2

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 1:30pm - 8:00pm Essex Eats Out (Prep Time) (Kitchen & FH)
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner (FH & Kitchen) ☺

Saturday, August 3

- 9:00am - 1:00pm Thrift Store Open ☺
- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary) ☺
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺

Sunday, August 4

- 9:00am - 10:00am Summer Worship
- 11:30am - 12:30pm Music Committee
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm Cub Scout Leader