

***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@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)**

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

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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
A United Church of Christ  
August 4, 2019  
*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Order of Worship

Prelude

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.*

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome in this place.*

Introit

*My God and I*

I.B. Sergei

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. Here we lift up the Divine Presence among us and look to love to guide our actions in the world.

**People: In both testaments the heart of God's commandments for our lives is to love ourselves, love our neighbors and to love our God.**

Leader: When we love we come into contact with the divine. Come, let us share a meal of love, listen to words of love, enjoy love songs and learn how we can best love each other. Come, let us lift up God's love.

\*Opening Hymn

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#25

## A Time of Confession

### Call to Confession

Leader: Christ calls us to repentance. Christ calls us to make our relationship right with our neighbors. Christ calls us to stand before our God and confess our sins.

**People: Come, let us confess our sins before God and one another.**

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and Merciful God, you created and are creating still. In your presence our limits lie stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One. We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given. We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods. We have used each other. We have loved power more than people. Forgive us, O Holy One. Cleanse from us the illusion of innocence. Come into our hearts, and make us new again. We pray in the name of Jesus, amen**

### The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

**People: Alleluia and Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### 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.*

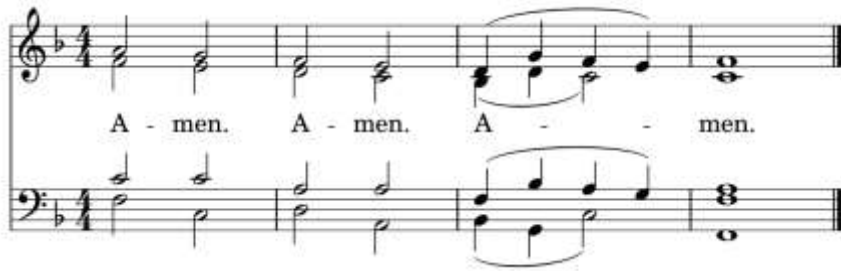
**God has made us all a rainbow.  
Colors dancing 'round and 'round.  
In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,  
God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.**

### 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.**



### \*Congregational Hymn of Choice

Anthem

*Perhaps Love*

John Denver

New Testament Scripture Reading

Luke 12:13-31

page 57

Summer Meditation

*"Where are Your Treasures?"*

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*Today, we will celebrate communion by intinction which means that everyone is invited to come forward to receive the bread and juice. Each person will be invited to dip their gluten free piece of bread into the cup and then eat it immediately. People are invited to approach either the minister or Deacon as individuals, families or groups of friends....then return to your seat. A Deacon will direct the flow of people.*

*Special note:* *ALL the bread used today is gluten free and all juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

***Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!***

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

*The Flower that Shattered the Stone*John Jarvis/  
Joe Henry

**\*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

*Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

#448

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...* Beth Volker (vocalist)  
& Carol Spradling (piano)

\*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Phyllis Willey in memory of her loved ones.*

**First Church's Prayer Ministry**

Carol Janwich  
Mary Weltzin  
Mike K  
Judy  
Nancy Hunt's Family  
Marion Schneider

Richard Ansell  
Serena & Chris Baker  
Frank Polanshek  
Mark McKenzie & family  
Tom McKenzie & family  
Cathy Inglese

Joe Phenix  
Linda Dudley  
Carolyn  
Tib T  
Richard Bamford  
Russ Dettenrieder

*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@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.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 STAFF** \* \* \*

Yay!

Welcome Back and Happy Birthday to  
Pastor Mark Mendes (8/1)  
& CE Director Laurie Chipman (8/2)!



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

### **HannaFord Cards**

Today, you may reload your HannaFord Cards (up to \$500!) Additionally, the Church sells cards in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments.

The next reload/purchase date is  
Sunday, August 18th.

### **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 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*

*Picnic & Bouncy House on the Lawn!*

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

### **Faith Formation Sunday School Offering:**

*Total for 2019 — \$298.33*

**...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.

### **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** \* \* \*

## **Vacation Bible Camp 2019**

**Monday-Friday, August 5th-9th**

THEME: To Mars and Beyond:  
Explore Where God's Power Can  
Take You! 47 Campers signed up so  
far this year! Looking for a few more  
youth & young adult helpers from  
8:30am to 11:45am. Text Laurie @  
802-881-3691; or email her ASAP  
<lchipman@fccej.org>

## **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,

## **Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop**

***Reopens Tuesday, August 6th***

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

## **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.

## **Hannaford 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>

## **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.

## **Affordable Housing Coalition**

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

Essex Junction & Essex Town will soon  
release a study titled "Housing Needs  
Assessment and Action Plan." 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!

**"This Week" continues  
on the next page —————>**

\* \* \* **THIS WEEK (CONT'D)** \* \* \*

## **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** \* \* \*

### **VIA Statewide Convention**

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

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 13th!*

### **FCCEJ 'Welcome Back Sunday'**

*Begins Sunday, September 15th*

Following FCCEJ's participation in the Vermont PRIDE event on September 8th, *Welcome Back Sunday* sees our church returning to two Sunday services (8:30am and 10:15am.)

### **FCCEJ Saturday Service**

*Returns Saturday, October 5th*

Starting in October and repeating on the 1st Saturday of each month thereafter, FCCEJ returns to offering a Saturday service with Holy Communion. During the summer, Communion is offered during our Sunday worship services.

### **Heavenly Cents 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!

### **Solidarity Bike Tour**

*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. For more information, contact [melissa@viavt.org](mailto:melissa@viavt.org). To register go to [www.viavt.org](http://www.viavt.org).

### **Vermont PRIDE**

*Sunday, September 8th*

*Parade @ 12:30pm, Church Street*

*Festival @ 1pm, Battery Park*

Sponsored by the Vermont UCC Conference to celebrate and support Vermont's LGBTQ+ 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/>



## MINISTRY AT FCCEJ

### Church Staff

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]

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

August 4, 2019  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
Soul Investment  
Luke 12:13-21

The man in today's story has a perfectly sturdy barn where he stores what he needs. He figures if he tears down this structure, he can make a bigger one, so he can store not only what he needs, but also a pile of extra stuff. If you read the story again, you may notice that there's nothing wrong with the barn, but he's going to knock it down anyway. The Rich Fool (as he is known) is not the first person, nor likely the last, to believe that destruction is the path to abundance. And it's not surprising that this parable was told in response to a dispute between two people over an inheritance. From the squabbling of siblings to wars that ravage the planet, if you scratch the surface of many disputes, it's fair to say that many of them are based in what Jesus calls greed.

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the United States dropped an atom bomb on her home town of Hiroshima. Buildings all around her were destroyed and lives were lost, but the toddler survived, only to contract cancer from radiation poisoning ten years later. In her hospital bed, she became inspired by the ancient Japanese legend that if one were to fold one thousand origami paper cranes, their wishes would come true.

She began folding, with the wish, "I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world." When Sadako became too weak to continue her work, her classmates and family vowed to continue the project she had begun. She became a symbol of the desire for peace that transcends national boundaries, and in the seven decades since her untimely death, thousands of peace cranes have been folded and sent into the world with "peace on their wings."

In 2011, Saron United Church of Christ members in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, folded the cranes on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. But this act of devotion could not be contained. Six months later they were sent to Pilgrim Christian Church UCC in Chardon, Ohio, after a shooting at Chardon High School in February 2012. Later they flew on to Newtown Congregational UCC in Newtown Connecticut, to Old South Church UCC in Boston, to Christ The King UCC in Florissant, Missouri to Everett United Church of Christ in Washington state and beyond. Each of these communities had been wracked by violence. Each was reminded of the fullness of God's abundance and the care of Christ's community by a gift they were able to continue to pass on.

The Rich Fool believed that the path to abundance was destruction. Sadako and those who follow her example teach us another way. The only way to the abundance, the new life, the love and the peace promised by Jesus is creation. Each crane that is folded is an act of creation that connects us to Christ, to one another, and to our own true selves.

# *F* *C* *C* *E* *J* *W* *E* *E* *K* *L* *Y* *C* *A* *L* *E* *N* *D* *A* *R*

**August 5, 2019 -**  
**August 11, 2019**

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

## Monday, August 5

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking (FH & Gym) ☞
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Stewardship Meeting (Marvin Lounge)

## Tuesday, August 6

- 8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back (ML) ☞
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Finance Committee (ML) ☞
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga w/Jonah (Fellowship Hall) ☞
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Church Council (ML)

## Wednesday, August 7

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Boy Scouts-PLC (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) ☞

## Thursday, August 8

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals Clinician meeting (Third Floor) ☞
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Affordable Housing Coalition Meeting (Marvin Lounge)

## Friday, August 9

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 6:30pm - 10:30pm Scrapbooking Journey (ML) ☞
- 7:30pm - 10:30pm Grange (FH) ☞

## Saturday, August 10

- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary) ☞
- 12:30pm - 2:30pm Funeral Service for
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (Marvin

## Sunday, August 11

- 9:00am - 10:00am Summer Worship Service (Sanctuary) ☞
- 10:15am - 1:15pm FCCEJ Bylaw
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (FH) ☞

# **SERMON NOTES**