

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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
August 11, 2019

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.

Musical Introit

Precious Lord, Take My Hand Thomas A. Dorsey

Call to Worship

Leader: "There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period that the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was the thermostat that transformed the mores of society."

(Letter from the Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963)

People: Come, let us put our religious rituals within the realm of a God established firmly and concretely in the history of the nations and the lives of all God's children.

Leader: Come, let us worship God and learn to put our faith into action.

Prayer of Invocation [composed and led by the Deacon on Duty]

The Sacrament of Baptism.....Lillian Claire Deal

It is with great joy we welcome Lillian into Jesus' family of faith at First Church today. She and her family Robert, Claire and Langston have blessed us with their presence for years. Today we offer her God's grace through water and we wish them well as they begin a new journey in New Jersey and a new position. May God's blessings and our love be with you all.

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.

Musical Response

Gospel Amen

Traditional



*Congregational Hymn of Choice

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	[page 488]
New Testament Gospel	Luke 12:32-34	[page 57]
	James 2:14-26	[page 180]

Musical Anthem

Count Your Blessings

E.O. Excell
arr. Harold DeCou
...Whitney Noel, Hillary Keating
& Denise Keating

Summer Meditation

From the Word to the Window

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

What A Wonderful World

George Weiss
& Bob Thiele
...Hillary Keating (vocal)
w/ Denise Keating (piano)

*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.**

*Closing Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

#436 [vrs 1,3,5]

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:

*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Lorinda Button
in loving memory of Max Elliott*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin
Mike K
Judy
Nancy Hunt's Family
Marion Schneider
David Sicalowski
Bob Ursiny

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

Linda Dudley
Carolyn
Tib T
Richard Bamford
Russ Dettenrieder
Ryan

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.

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 * * *



Happy Birthday to
Carol Spradling (8/11),
Our Music Director!

Kudos to our Vacation Bible
Camp “To Mars & Beyond” staff
and volunteers for their *stellar*
performance!



* * * TODAY * * *

FCCEJ Bylaw Meeting

10:15am to 1:15pm @ Marvin Lounge

After today’s worship service, relevant committees and staff will gather in the Marvin Lounge to review the church’s bylaws.

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

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 — \$299.33

**...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 or Fellowship Hall (depending on construction.)



* * * **THIS WEEK** * * *

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 the Church’s food pantry!

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

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 *Last Class**

This is the last class in this series!

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.

Bridge Club

Friday, August 16 @ 1:30-4pm

Join Pastor Mendes in our Marvin Lounge for a rousing game of Bridge!

**“This Week” continues
on the next page —>**

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

* **TBD: See “Save the Date” section.** *

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 the church.

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 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!**

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!

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

Capital Campaign Update

Vestibule project (including ADA bathroom & 2nd floor closet) finishes @ early September. **Parking Lot** construction continues to mid-August. On Sunday mornings only, the adjacent doctor's office parking lot is available with contingent access via Church Street when paving begins @ Aug. 15th (which finishes after additional cure time and weather permitting.) **Asbestos Abatement** is nearly complete. New flooring coming @ Aug. 19th preceding new nursery/preschool's debut. **Historic windows & shutters** remain off-site for restoration. **Organ repairs** continue. **Old Sign** has been removed to accommodate the **New Sign** (TBA September/October). Landscaping about the **Peace Pole** is pending.

* * * **SAVE THE DATES** * * *

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, August 19th 10am-3pm

Join us at FCCEJ's Fellowship Hall. Please, call 1 800 RED CROSS; or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter 'ECC' to schedule an appointment.

Hannaford Cards

Sunday, August 18th

Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) OR purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments.

Yoga @ First

Times are a Changin'

Starting Monday, August 26th, Yoga @ First's schedule changes. It will meet regularly on Mondays, 5:30pm-6:45pm

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, as well as educating and bridging people to create interpersonal and community alliances.

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

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. To register go to www.viavt.org.

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.

FCCEJ 'Welcome Back Sunday'

Begins Sunday, September 15th

This fun event sees our church returning to two Sunday services (8:30am and 10:15am.) There will be food, drinks, and a bouncy castle!

FCCEJ @ MINISTRY

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fccej.org]
Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fccej.org]
Music 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]

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

August 11, 2019
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Living into the Promise
Luke 12:32-40

In today's reading, Jesus gives several commands to his disciples and followers. Spend some time each day of the coming week meditating on one of the commands that Jesus offers in this short reading. As you try to put these commands into practice, ask yourself which (if any) seem easy and obvious, and which (if any) seem too difficult to undertake.

- ◇ **Monday:** "Do not be afraid."
The passage begins with what is perhaps one of the often repeated commands in the Bible, "do not be afraid." Why do you think this is such a common greeting in the Bible? Consider the things you fear. Are there any fears that you might be ready to outgrow or put behind you?
- ◇ **Tuesday:** "Sell your possessions and give to the poor." You may have heard it said that what you own ends up owning you. How are your possessions coming between you and a deeper relationship with God or neighbor? What would it take for you to give of your own abundance to someone who has less than you?
- ◇ **Wednesday:** "Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail." In this passage, Jesus invites you to put your confidence in God's promise, rather than the false promises heaped on you by advertisements and media. What do you put your confidence in? What would it take for you to know that you could rely on God?
- ◇ **Thursday:** "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning." Sometimes an opportunity to serve God or neighbor passes by just because we are not expecting such an opportunity to arise. How can you prepare for service's call, and how can you respond to it when it comes?
- ◇ **Friday:** "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Just as we sometimes miss an opportunity to serve, so too do we miss opportunities to recognize the face of Christ. Can you think of a time that you recognized Christ when you were not expecting to?

In the United Church of Christ, we often say that we take the bible "seriously but not literally." How does reading this passage in this deliberate way, over the course of a week, help you take the Bible more seriously? Are there other passages you might want to approach this way? How can slowing down in your Bible study help you slow down in the rest of your life?

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**August 12, 2019 -
August 18, 2019**

August 2019						September 2019							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th		
				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 12

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking (FH & Gym) ☺
- 4:00pm - 8:00pm Food Pantry (FH & Kitchen) ☺
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm Joe's Big Band (Fellowship Hall) ☺

Tuesday, August 13

- 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 Deacons (ML) ☺

Wednesday, August 14

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 3:30pm - 5:30pm Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting (ML) ☺
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First, Rehearsal (Sanctuary) ☺
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Practicing Traditional Christian Spirituality (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts (FH) ☺

Thursday, August 15

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals Clinician meeting (Third Floor) ☺

Friday, August 16

- 8:00am - 9:00am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Bridge Club (Marvin Lounge) ☺

Saturday, August 17

- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary) ☺
- 9:30am - 11:30am Women's
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (FH) ☺

Sunday, August 18

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

SERMON NOTES