

***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

Website: www.fcej.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
Aug 18, 2019
Tenth 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

Heavenly Sunlight

H.J. Zulley
& G.H. Cook
arr. Beryl Reid

Call to Worship

Congregational responses are in **bold**

Deacon: We are called into this place to worship God
who comforts us when we need to be comforted
who challenges us when we need to be challenged
who leads us to new life when our previous life no longer works
How joyous it is to worship our God?
God's love does not depart from us.
Nothing separates us from the love of God.

Invocation

Deacon

The Sacrament of Baptism.....Sebastian James Sievers

Be sure to give a warm welcome to Sebastian today as he joins Christ's Universal Church. Sebastian's proud parents are Libby and Arnd Sievers. His God-parents are Taylor Cooper and Daniel Barnes.

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11 1-3, 8-16, 24-31, and 12: 1-3

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Musical Anthem

Swing Down Low

Spiritual
arr. Patsy Ford Simms

Sermon

Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

***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**

For all the Saints

#299

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
Nancy Ferris-Engle in loving memory of Marion Ferris;
and Sylvia Hyhagen in loving memory of Ed Nyhagen*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin	Serena & Chris Baker	Linda Dudley
Mike K	Frank Polanshek	Carolyn
Judy	Mark McKenzie & family	Tib T
Tom McKenzie & family	Richard Bamford	Marion Schneider
Cathy Inglese	Russ Dettenrieder	David Sicalowski
Craig	Ryan	Bob Ursiny



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 * * *



Welcome back to our **Music@First** groups! They are diligently rehearsing this week to the aural edification of all!

* * * TODAY * * *

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*

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 Offering:

Total for 2019 — \$300.33

**...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 * * ***

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 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 Food Pantry

Thursday, August 22nd @ 2-6pm

Families may visit the pantry once in any calendar month. Proof of residency is required each month (current paid utility bill) as well as identification for each family member, including children. Please, do not arrive on church property prior to 1:30pm.

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

****Open this Week!* Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs; & 1st & 3rd Sat, 9am-1pm.***

Heavenly Cents Annual Lawn Sale!

Saturday, August 24 @ 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!

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 Gymnasium (on the 2nd floor.) 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!**

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

* * * **Capital Campaign Update** * * *

Capital Campaign Update

Parking Lot construction began on **Thurs, Aug. 15th**. The lot is barricaded as the it cures. Sunday mornings only, the adjacent doctor's office parking lot is available with contingent access via Church Street. Overflow parking available on Railroad Street, East Street, and Ivy Lane. **Vestibule project** (including ADA bathroom & 2nd floor closet) finishes @ early September. **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** * * *

Wednesday Night Searchers

Returns in September

An interdisciplinary class that utilizes modern texts (e.g. TED Talks, novels, blogs) to frame faith-based discussion. Typically meets on Wednesdays @ 7pm in our Marvin Lounge.

Essex Cares

Sunday, September 15th

Local Non-profit 501(c)3 that formed from a group of friends at the Essex Country Club. They will be donating non-perishable foods to our pantry in memory Mike Malone. More information to be posted on bulletin boards throughout the church.

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/>

Hannaford Cards

Sunday, September 1st

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

Saturday Services

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.

'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 18, 2019

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Restore Us

Luke 12:49-56

In 2015 a group of youth including Kiran Oommen, the son of a United Church of Christ pastor, filed a constitutional climate lawsuit, *Juliana v. U.S.* against the United States government. According to their website (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>), "Their complaint asserts that, through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources."

"I signed on as a plaintiff because climate change haunts me every day, and all I can think to do right now is speak out," Oommen said in an interview with the United Church News. "We have built a platform to have our voices heard, and I feel pride, honor, and a great responsibility to use it for the betterment of our world... Whether we're protesting in the streets, singing songs of rage, arguing in the courts, or simply talking to each other, I cannot imagine following any other path. When your home is going up in flames and you know why, putting your head down and covering your ears doesn't feel like an option."

Kiran is supported in his activism by his mother, Rev. Melanie Oommen. "My message to the wider church is 'The learning from this lawsuit is what we have been doing as the church for 2000 years,'" Rev. Oommen said. "Building loving and justice-seeking communities of resistance to the Empire has prepared us well for this moment. Draw closer, sing louder, pray more, open the doors and windows and hearts of our communities of faith and let us work together with all people of faith and goodwill. The courts may or may not solve climate change, but a Spirit-led people surely can!"

Jesus' challenging words from two thousand years ago continue to ring in our ears today, mingling with the shouts and cries of our youth. The message our Christ proclaims will sometimes be hard to hear. Those who follow him may sometimes come in conflict with family and friends. But the signs are clear – our beautiful earth is burning. It is not too late. As Christ's followers, how will we respond?

You can read Kiran and Melanie's quotes, and a full story about them at:

http://www.ucc.org/news_delays_dont_deter_young_plaintiff_in_landmark_climate_lawsuit_11112018.

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**August 19, 2019 -
August 25, 2019**

August 2019							September 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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 19

- 10:00am - 3:00pm American Red Cross Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (ML) ☺
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 6:30pm - 9:00pm Scouting Alumni & Friends Committee (Marvin Lounge)

Tuesday, August 20

- 8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking (Fellowship Hall & Gym) ☺
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga w/Jonah (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm Eagle Scouts BOR
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm CE (FH) ☺
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Missions Committee

Wednesday, August 21

- 8:00am - 11:30am Food Shelf Delivery (FH) ☺
- 9:00am - 10:30am Nominating Committee (Marvin Lounge)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Book Discussion Group (ML) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship)

Thursday, August 22

- 8:30am - 6:30pm Food Pantry (FH) ☺
- 9:00am - 10:30am NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS (ML) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) ☺
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm Private Appointment 🔒

Friday, August 23

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☺

Saturday, August 24

- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary) ☺
- 9:30am - 12:30pm Card-Making Class
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship)

Sunday, August 25

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

SERMON NOTES