

***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*  
August 25, 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.*

A Musical Introit

*Kyrie*

Antonin Devorák  
arr. By Ruth Elaine Schram

Call to Worship

Leader: Summertime in Vermont is a cherished time and its beauty calls out for us to enter.....

**People: Yet, we choose to be here, praising and thanking God for the beauty that surrounds and greets us each day. God makes the beauty deeper and more profound.**

Leader: Summertime in Vermont is a cherished time when friends and family gather to celebrate life.

**People: Yet, we choose to be here, knowing that with God as a foundation, all of our relationships are more loving and meaningful.**

Leader: Summertime in Vermont is a cherished time when activities and gatherings abound.....

**People: Yet, we choose to be here, knowing that when our life's activities embrace the Loving God, they are richer and filled with the colors of Life.**

Leader: Come, let us unite our hearts as we praise the God of Life.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Sing Praise to God*

**#22**

Prayer of Invocation

[composed and led by the Deacon on Duty]

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 Daniel 3 [page 638]

New Testament Gospel Luke 13:10-17 [page58]

Musical Anthem *We Shall Be Known* Karisha Longaker

Meditation *Out of the Fire and into the Furnace* Rev. Simon

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem *The Lone, Wild Bird* David N. Johnson

**\*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 *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing* #459**

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  
Carolyn Toof in loving memory of Dick; and  
Elaine & Tom Helmstutler in honor of all the teachers and students, with  
our best wishes for a successful, fun filled and safe year.*

### **First Church's Prayer Ministry**

Mary Weltzin	Serena & Chris Baker	Linda Dudley
Mike K	Frank Polanshek	Mark McKenzie & Family
Tib T	Tom McKenzie & Family	Richard Bamford
Marion Schneider	Russ Dettenrieder	Craig
Ryan	Bob Ursiny	John A
Aidan W	Beth Terry	Carol Bishard & Family
Russ Schneider		

*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 \* \* \*

**September Newsletter redaction:** *Bridge Club* was mistakenly advertised for Thursday, September 19th. The correct date is Friday, September 20th. See 'Save the Date' section for details.

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

## 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 8th*

##### *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*

*...Where together we grow a just and  
peaceful world...*

- United Church of Christ Mission Statement



"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God  
through faith,"  
~ Galatians 3:26

## 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 — \$304.33*

**...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**

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

## **Wednesday Night Searchers**

*Wednesdays @ 7pm*

Each week, a group of folks get together in the Marvin Lounge to explore the faith. We do so through books, movies, discussions with members from other religious traditions, TED Talks and anything else we want to do. Books are in the office or with Mark on Sunday.

## **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!**

## **Yoga @ First**

*Mondays, 5:30pm-6:45pm*

Jonah Moos, FCCEJ member, is offering a free yoga class in our Gymnasium! Jonah collects donations on behalf of our Church. All levels from beginner to experienced are absolutely welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's.

## **Sermon Talkback Tuesdays**

*Tuesdays, 8:30-10am*

Gather with us in the Marvin Lounge 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!

## **JOY (Just Older Youth)**

*1st Thursday @ Noon*

If you are 55+ please consider joining this active church group. We strive to present programs that foster learning, fun, or service. Our first meeting is Thursday, September 5 at Noon in the Marvin Lounge. We are planning a Potluck lunch with our own Bob Vincent and Ann Gray. Listen to stories of FCCEJ's history. Bob has been a member the longest (His father was the minister in Bob's youth) and Ann is our church's historian. Don't miss this engaging presentation.

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

# **\* \* \* THIS WEEK (Continued) \* \* \***

## **Women's Spirituality Group**

**3rd Saturday of Every Month, 9:30am**

All women of the church are invited to be a part of this vibrant group. In the hopes of expanding our group we will begin our year with conversation around what should be the groups purpose, and how can we interest more of our church women to be a part of this supportive group. Our programs will address personal growth, community outreach and having fun. Please consider joining us for conversation and goodies. (Bring your ideas for a possible name change.) Next group meets on Saturday, September 21: Fellowship, Coffee & Conversation (we'll provide light food).



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

## **Essex Eats Out**

**Friday, September 6th @ 5:30-6:30pm**

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.

## **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/>

## **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.

## **Hannaford Cards**

**Sunday, September 1st**

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

## **'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!

## **Bridge Club**

**Friday, September 20th @ 1:30-4pm**

Casual potluck-style game of Bridge. Join Pastor Mendes in our Marvin Lounge for a rousing game and a chance to win some of his world-famous jam!

## **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.



## 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](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**  
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

August 25, 2019

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Healing Reign*

Luke 13:10-17

The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one in front of you.

A missionary from the Evangelical Protestant Church of the Ukraine, Louis Nollau was heading for the Pacific Northwest in 1852, when he was somehow waylaid in St. Louis, Missouri. Even by today's travel methods, Missouri is pretty far from Oregon, but Nollau did not let his dislocation stop him from following God's call. Soon he had started a church and began ministering among the German immigrants in St. Louis.

The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one right in front of you. Even if you are two thousand miles from where you planned to be.

When he heard that the local hospital had turned away 200 patients in a single year because of lack of space, Nollau saw another need. He would found a hospital, but not one that would heal only certain people when the conditions were favorable. The Good Samaritan hospital, operating in a pre-Civil War slave state, had a mission statement that stated that "No distinction of creed, race, nationality or color would be made in the acceptance or treatment of patients."

The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one right in front of you. Regardless of "creed, race, nationality or color."

St. Louis in the 1850's was a dangerous place. Cholera epidemics and fires swept the city. When Nollau proposed to the congregation that they meet a growing need by opening an orphanage, he was met with protests that it was not possible. "Pastor," a church member protested, "we don't have what we need to start an orphanage." "Yes, we do," Nollau replied, "We have an orphan." The German Protestant Orphan's Home was formally incorporated just three years later.

The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one right in front of you. Even if you think you are not enough.

When Jesus healed a woman in the temple on a Sabbath day, he brought the wrath of the establishment down upon him. In their eyes, this was not the right time, not the right place, not the right person. Jesus showed them, showed Louis Nollau nearly two hundred years ago and shows us today that this is always the right place, the right time, the right one.

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**August 26, 2019 -  
September 1, 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 26**

- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking**  
(Fellowship Hall & Gym) ☰
- **5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga @ First**  
(Gymnasium) ☰
- **5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **6:30pm - 9:30pm Joe's Big Band**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰

**Tuesday, August 27**

- **8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back**  
(Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **7:00pm - 9:00pm Stewardship**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **7:00pm - 9:00pm Trustees (ML)** ☰

**Wednesday, August 28**

- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **6:00pm - 9:30pm St. Andrews Pipe Band**
- **7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

**Thursday, August 29**

- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag**  
(Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals** (Third Floor) ☰
- **5:30pm - 7:00pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee** (Marvin Lounge)

**Friday, August 30**

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

**Saturday, August 31**

- **9:00am - 1:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 624 Annual Planning Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- **9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community**
- **1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall)

**Sunday, September 1**

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

# **SERMON NOTES**