

***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
September 8, 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

Call to Worship

Leader: In the creation story, God bent down and created us out of the clay of the ground. God formed us and then breathed life into us. When God's breath entered the human heart, we evolved into human beings.

**People: Thank you God for giving us life and breath, meaning and purpose.
Help us to remain a part of your body and movement.**

Leader: Jeremiah tells us that God continues to shape us and create us anew as we continue to evolve into better people and a kinder society.

**People: Thank you God for never giving up on us, but continuing to mold us
as we strive to become our very best selves.**

Leader: Come, let us worship a God that is alive and well in our world. A God who continues to create and shape humanity into an ever-evolving force for good. Come, let us praise the Living God.

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.

**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

Old Testament Prophetic Scripture Reading Jeremiah 18:1-12 [page 558]

Meditation

Jeremiah and Lectio Divina

Rev. Mendes

During the sermon, Rev. Mark will lead the congregation in the ancient practice of scriptural reflection known as Lectio Divina. The scriptural reading practice includes meditation and prayer to draw out the meaning of the text for you and or the congregation. This is not an exegetical practice but one of the heart where we seek to find out God’s will for our lives. Normally, Lectio Divina is used by individuals but in certain Christian communities around the world, it has been used in corporate worship.

Musical Anthem

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**

There is a Balm in Gilead

#553

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
Kathy Finnie & Kevin Dorn
in memory of their loved ones.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Mary Weltzin

Mike K

Tib T

Marion Schneider

Ryan

Carol Bishard's Family

Serena & Chris Baker

Frank Polanshek

Tom McKenzie & Family

Russ Dettenrieder

Bob Ursiny

Beth Terry

Mark McKenzie & Family

Richard Bamford

Craig

John A

Aidan W

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.



**TODAY!
FCCEJ MARCHES
WITH THE
VERMONT PRIDE
PARADE!**



Meet at the church at 10:45 am
to carpool to the
Hood Plant parking lot
(on King St. between Church St. and S. Winooski).
We can arrive between 11 -11:30 am
to line up.

The parade official starts at 12:30 pm along
Church St.

TODAY @ FIRST

Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Please, donate items! Review the wish list at the black table in the Narthex. Meanwhile, here is this month's calendar:

Preschool – 8th grade

♦ *June 9th – 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

♦ *September 22nd & 29th*

Peer Group & Music time



Junior Youth—5th - 8th grade

♦ *September 22nd*

Kick Off! 11:30am – 1:30pm

♦ *September (Fri-Sat) 27th-28th*

Lock In, 6pm to 9am

♦ *October 6th*

Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship; then meet b/w 11:30am-1:30pm

Sunday School Offering

Total for 2019 — \$305.83

...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.



BELLS ARE RINGING... AGAIN!

After a hiatus, our team of handbell ringers will begin practicing every Wednesday night @ 6:30pm in our Sanctuary and playing at services throughout the year. No experience or musical training is necessary and all are welcome! If you are interested, email Organist Carol Spradling (cspradling@fccej.org) for details.



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 @ FIRST

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.

Heavenly Food Pantry

Mon, Sept. 9th @ 5:30-7:30pm

The Pantry would appreciate these donations: spaghetti sauce, juice, cereal, and chicken noodle soup! Volunteers are also appreciated! See our September newsletter for more information @ volunteering; or contact Val Gabert directly @ val.gabert@gmail.com. Next Pantry opening is...

Thur, Sept. 26th. @ 2-6pm

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!**

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!

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. Current reading: *Fear of the Other* by William H. Willimon. Books available @ the Church office.

JOY (Just Older Youth)

1st Thursday @ Noon

Meets on Thursday, September 5th

If you are 55+ please consider joining this active church group in the Marvin Lounge. We strive to present programs that foster learning, fun, or service. 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.

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Come support the Church's thrift store! Enjoy vintage clothing; embark on some antique archeology; shop and make friends!

(More Inserts @ This Week's Events on the following pages!—>)

Capital Campaign Update

By Kaki McGeary

The vestibule project (including new ADA bathroom & second floor closet) is wrapping up! The bathroom is available for use and the Deacons are designing shelves for the new storage closet. The parking lot renovations are also done, with the exception of the installation of new lighting around the property. We are awaiting final approval of a federal grant that would pay for the new light fixtures and installation. We need to wait until we have a grant contract in place before we can use those funds, so the lighting portion of the project will take a bit longer than expected. We are aware that this causes some inconvenience, but the delay will save us about \$10,000 if we can use federal funds for that work instead of paying for it with Campaign funds.

The **asbestos removal in the preschool wing** is complete, and new flooring has been installed. The new nursery tenant is in the process of painting, and then the flooring company will return to install rubber baseboard moulding. The historic windows & shutters are still being restored off-site. Last but not least, our old sign has been removed, and a new sign will be installed some time in late September/October along with some new landscaping around the peace pole.

As we wrap up a few remaining loose ends on the projects completed to date, the trustees and Capital Campaign Committee will turn our attention to the Marvin Lounge and Kitchen projects, which are the next big projects on our list.



Special Note: For your convenience, charts containing completion date projections for the Capital Campaign's various projects are posted on bulletin boards throughout the church.

History of Constitution Week & Bells Across America

By Ann Gray



This year is the 64th anniversary of Constitution Week and the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution adopted an internal resolution on April 21, 1955, designating September 17-23 as Constitution Week.

Members of the United States Congress received the DAR resolution; and on June 7, 1955, the resolution was discussed in the Senate. The first resolution to observe Constitution Week was made June 14, 1955, by Senator William F. Knowland of California. Following the passage of the resolution by both Houses of Congress, President Eisenhower issued his proclamation on August 19, 1955.

The first observance of Constitution Week was so successful that on January 5, 1956, Senator Knowland introduced a Senate Joint Resolution to have the President designate September 17-23 annually as Constitution Week. The resolution was adopted on July 23, 1956, and signed into Public Law 915 on August 2, 1956.

This year in celebration of Constitution Week, the DAR is spearheading "Bells Across America". DAR Chapters across the county are asking churches, schools, courthouses, fire houses, veterans' homes, city governments, and individuals to ring bells on September 17 at 4 p.m. EST in all time zones so they are heard simultaneously from coast to coast. The local DAR Chapter, Green Mountain, asked us to participate and Council approved our participation. There is no standard number of times the bells are to be rung. We have decided to ring the bell 14 times – 13 for the original 13 states and one for Vermont, the 14th state. Pastor Mark and Dan Petherbridge will be our bell ringers

So when you hear bells ringing from our tower on September 17 at 4 pm, it is in celebration of the 232nd signing of the US Constitution. Everyone is invited to join in by ringing bells from their porches or come by and ring your bell while standing on the sidewalk or parking lot.

Essex Cares, Inc

(Formerly the Mike Malone Classic)

In Memory of:

Mike Malone, Hector Boutin, Dick Lavalley, Bob Lemire, Lou Jarvis and Ken King

Sunday September 15, 2019

FOOD DRIVE

Murray's Starting at 1:30pm After Golf Event

To Benefit:

Heavenly Pantry Food Shelf

ONE
NON-PERSHABLE
FOOD DONATION

=

ONE FREE
RAFFLE TICKET*

* Limit: 1 Free Raffle Ticket per person
Additional tickets can be purchased for \$5-
an arm length.

Bring a non-perishable food donation to Murray's after the golf event and receive one free raffle ticket. Purchase more tickets for a better chance of winning great prizes.



Our Slogan is:

We Won't Forget Because Essex Cares!

Visit our website at: EssexCaresVT.ORG

VT CHRISTIAN

ROCK-TOBERFEST

SEPT 28, 2019 - 7PM

THE

BARRE AUDITORIUM

LOVE IS A LION TOUR

CITIZEN WAY · JASON GRAY · THE YOUNG ESCAPE

TICKET INFORMATION

\$20/EA (GROUP 10+)

\$28/EA (GA)

\$40/EA (VIP)



JASON GRAY

CITIZEN WAY

PRESENTED BY



VTCHRISTIANMUSIC.COM

THE YOUNG ESCAPE



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Nursery Worker Needed!

Our church is looking for a year-round nursery worker for Sunday mornings: \$50/week [~8:15-11:30am, September-May]; \$25/week [~8:45-10:15am, June-August]. If interested, please contact Rev. Mendes @ 878-5745; or email him @ mmendes@fcej.org.

SAVE THE D@TES!

Hannaford Cards

Sunday, September 16th

Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!)

OR purchase new ones in \$25,
\$50, \$100, and \$200 increments.

*This will be the last date to do so
in September!*



VT Christian Rock-toberfest

The 'Love is a Lion' Tour

September 28th @ 7pm

Citizen Way; Jason Gray; The Young Escape
Presented by the VT Christian Music
Organization. Be one of thousands of
participants to attend this affordable,
community-building, spiritually-catalyzing
event! For info @ donating, visit:

VTChristianMusic.com

September is National Hunger Action

Month, and the Vermont Foodbank is putting
together resources that we hope you will find
useful. Visit <http://www.vtfoodbank.org/HAM> to
learn more about this national campaign to raise
awareness about hunger and inspire people to take
action.

'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!

Women's Spirituality Group

3rd Saturday of Every Month, 9:30am

Next group meets on Saturday, September 21

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.) Fellowship, Coffee &
Conversation (we'll provide light food).

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.

MINISTRY @ FIRST

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: *Vacant; Currently Searching...*
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
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 8, 2019

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A New Identity

Philemon 1:1-21

Faith Formation Sunday

Rev. Caela Wood of First Congregational Church in Manhattan, Kansas learned about Blessing of the Backpacks from another United Church of Christ colleague, the Rev. Jennifer Mills Knutsen. Five years ago, Wood's congregation started a regular ritual of backpack blessing on the same day Sunday School re-starts for the fall.

"We wanted to create space for kids to find comfort from their faith community when we know they might be filled with back-to-school jitters," Rev. Wood says. "We encourage adults who are going back to school to bring along backpacks, laptop bags, and briefcases, too. Our congregation has a lot of teachers and professors, so we also bless them on that same Sunday."

"The kids hand out the bookmarks to our many teachers. Lifting up our 'outside work' in the world helps us feel connected to the ways the Spirit journeys with us throughout the week...in classrooms and cubicles and in our homes and everywhere we go."

"We typically put out notecards during fellowship hour for each child/youth/college student who has recently moved away. We ask anyone who feels so moved to take a card and write a note to college students, children and youth who have moved away in the past few years. Then we stick a backpack tag in for them and mail it to them. I have heard from several parents that this is very meaningful to them as the kids are adjusting to life in a new community."

Unlike most other epistles which are addressed to communities, Philemon is a short letter addressed to a single individual. In today's reading Paul sends his adopted child Onesimus forth with this letter of blessing indicating how he would like Philemon to treat the youngster. The message of this letter, that Onesimus is trustworthy and hardworking, is perhaps as much for his student as it is for the man who will receive the letter. Onesimus knows that he has been loved, appreciated and supported and that he will continue to be. The young man has been sent into the world by himself, but he does not go alone. He goes with the knowledge that he has been truly seen and appreciated.

Today, on this Faith Formation Sunday, we celebrate the teaching that happens within our four walls. This day is also an opportunity to remember that the messages we send with our young people into the world teach them as much as any curriculum, maybe even more.

What messages do you give the young people in your congregation as they head out into the world? How can you let them know that they are valued, loved and supported even when they are not within the confines of the four walls of your church building?

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September 9, 2019 -
September 15, 2019

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

Monday, September 9

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking (Fellowship Hall & Gym) ☰
- 4:00pm - 8:00pm Food Pantry (FH & Kitchen) ☰
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga @ First (Gymnasium) ☰
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm Joe's Big Band ((Offsite)) ☰
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Hospitality Meeting (ML) ☰

Tuesday, September 10

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

Wednesday, September 11

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 6:30pm - 8:15pm Bell Choir, Rehearsal (Sanctuary) ☰
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers ☰
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Thursday, September 12

- 8:00am - 9:00am Jamaica Bound Calcutta Committee (ML) ☰
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) ☰
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Music@First (Sanctuary) ☰
- 6:30pm - 7:15pm Lion Den #10 (Third Floor) ☰
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Essex Eats Out Meeting (ML) ☰
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm Music @ First (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Friday, September 13

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 7:30pm - 10:30pm Grange (FH) ☰

Saturday, September 14

- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary) ☰
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Sunday, September 15

- 8:30am - 9:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) ☰
- 10:15am - 11:30am Worship Service
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm Cub Scouts, Parent

SERMON NOTES

* *Special note:* This page prints automatically on all bulletins, so rather than keeping it blank, it has been repurposed for Tuesday Talkback attendees' notes. However, this notes page will be replaced by other content if additional space is required by the Church staff. *