

***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  
October 6, 2019  
*Jamaican Mission Sunday*

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

Order of Worship

Prelude by Finally @ First

*With My Own Two Hands*

Ben Harper

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.....Zach Schmalz

*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.*

Opening Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40.....Read by Nicholas Mendes

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Call to Worship.....Nicholas Mendes, Emma Parker and Caitlin McGeary

Leader: In Jamaica we came together with the community, not just through working side by side on a common goal, but also as we traveled through their community. At the worship service, we all sung the same hymns and talked about the same God. It really brought merits to the song, "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

**People: God calls us to come together into one family of faith.**

Leader: Jesus teaches that we experience God when we welcome a stranger, feed the hungry or visit the sick. In Jamaica we saw God in the kids we helped, the teachers we worked with and the poor folks we fed.

**People: Caring for the least among us unites us in faith, hope and love with our friends from Vermont, Jamaica and the world.**

Leader: The children couldn't believe the new playground was all for them; they were so excited to come back to school. We also saw how even giving a hug or taking a moment to listen could make someone's day so much better.

**People: Whatever we do for the least among us, we do it for you, O God.**

Our Trip in Pictures: Introduction by Sharon Dettenrieder

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Lean on Me*

**Bill Withers [handout]**

Time of Confession.....Pete and Zachary Schmalz

Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Embedded in that command and reinforced throughout his Good News is to care for the least among us. In Jamaica, we saw real poverty and it deeply affected us and re-connected us to everything we have learned in our church.

**People: In our lives and our church community, we strive to treat our neighbors with respect and love those who especially need our help. Come let us remind ourselves that we all fall short of the glory of God.**

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**O God, we loudly ask for your grace and abundance, and quietly complain about what we lack. We don't consider how blessed we are. We dwell on our wants, instead of our needs. We ignore those living in poverty, who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, education, and safety. We accumulate money and belongings without recognizing how insignificant these really are. We forget that your message of love is rooted elsewhere: in our human connections and in our compassion for those less fortunate. We focus on ourselves, instead of sharing our time, resources and talents. We stay ignorant of peoples and**

**cultures beyond our borders, instead of traveling, visiting and learning. In doing so, we fall short of your call for love and compassion. Mend us. Guide us. Teach us. So that we may have our eyes opened, and walk more closely on your path towards justice, equality, mercy and righteousness. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Come, let us re-commit to follow Jesus and his Golden Rule.

**People: Thank you God for loving us despite falling short of your ways. Help us to live into your vision for humanity and the world.**

Children's Message.....Rev. Mark and the Team

*Our Nursery is for children under 3 years and the room has a speaker for you to listen to the service and it is streamed to Fellowship Hall. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> service's children's message, preschool and kindergarteners are invited for a time of Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends. Adults are welcome to accompany the children, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. All will return for Communion.*

**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.**

**Jesus loves the little children,  
All God's children of the world.  
Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through  
Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.**

Sharing Our Stories: Rick Dooley

Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer.....Carolyn Rushford

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.**

Prayer Response: A--men, a--men, a--men, a-men, a-men!

Sharing our Stories: Aliyah Watt and Kaki McGeary

Offering Our Gifts to God / A Stewardship Moment.....Sharon Dettenrieder

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem by Finally @ First

*The Flower*

Michael Franti & Spearhead

**\*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.**

Sharing Our Stories: Nolan Boerger and Pete Schmalz

The Sacrament of Holy Communion.....Rev's Mark Mendes and Josh Simon

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Communion Anthem by Finally at First

*One Love*

Bob Marley

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*Today, we will celebrate communion to honor World Communion Sunday. At both Services, the elements will be passed out to the congregation where we will eat the bread together and then drink the cup separately.*

*Special note: All the bread offered today is gluten free. All juice used is non-alcoholic.*

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

**\*Hymn**

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

**Peter Scholtes**

[insert, below]

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;**

**And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side;**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side;**

**And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

**\*Sung Community Benediction**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!  
With God our Creator, family all are we,  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

\*Postlude:

\* = Please stand if you are able.



*The flowers on the altar are given by  
Alison & Carl Wermer  
in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary*

**First Church's Prayer Ministry**

Marion Schneider	Russ Dettenrieder	John A
Beth Terry	Bob Ursiny	Aidan W
Richard Ansell	Jennifer Morse	Carlene Lawrence
Pat Seaver	Tom Gibbs	Judy Blackmon
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 regularly. If you find an unintended error or omission, then please, contact the*



**Letters for Beth Terry:** Any well-wishers may mail letters & cards to Beth Terry @  
849 Severance Road  
Colchester VT 05446

***Winter is Coming... take a free prayer shawl!***

~~~~~  
We have a large stock of warm, hand-made prayer shawls to keep you cozy this year, and they are free to keep! Ask an usher to retrieve one for you from our new Deacons closet.



**An update regarding Carlene Lawrence:** “On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you all for your care, concern and prayers for my mom after her fall last Sunday. Miraculously, there were no broken bones. She is now Birchwood Terrace Rehab regaining her strength and mobility. And she turned 92 yesterday! We feel so blessed!” - *Carla Lawrence*

# TODAY @ FIRST

## Berenice Currier's 90th Birthday!

Mrs. Berenice Currier is celebrating her 90th birthday on *Sunday, October 13th*. Her family requested that we all send birthday cards to her on or before her birthday. Please, mail them to Berenice @

4 Pine Court  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

## Hannaford Cards

*Sunday, October 6th & 20th*

Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) OR purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments. The next reload/purchase date is *Sunday, October 20th!*

## College Students: We Need Your Info!

Pastor Josh is looking for college student mailing addresses and emails. Please, email Josh at [jsimon@fccej.org](mailto:jsimon@fccej.org) with your college student's address.

## Support JUMP!

Part of our church's mission to JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Project) is to provide deodorant. 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.) Thank you for donating!

## Meetings @ First

- ◇ **Craft Fest Meeting & Luncheon:**  
*11:30am-1pm @ Marvin Lounge*
- ◇ **Junior Youth:** *11:30am-1:30pm @ Gymnasium, and 2nd & 3rd Floor*
- ◇ **Cub Scout Leader Meeting:** *6-8pm @ Marvin Lounge*

## Want To Host with Hospitality?

*"You look like you are having so much fun!"*  
We have gotten this feedback a number of times and we have had some people ask if they can host Fellowship Time on a Sunday. We would LOVE the help and will help train you, so that you feel comfortable doing it! Sign up at the food table on a Sunday or email [glatzjim@gmail.com](mailto:glatzjim@gmail.com) for details.

## Nursery Worker Wanted

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@fccej.org](mailto:mmendes@fccej.org).

## 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](mailto:cspradling@fccej.org)) for details.

# Love of Children

## Our Faith, Our Voice, Our Vote

***"Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality."*** - Romans 12:12 MSG

In 2018, the Neighbors in Need special mission offering and grant pool committee examined the ways in which it could spotlight, the UCC identity and missional initiative: 3 Great Loves campaign, **LOVE OF NEIGHBOR**. Emmaus United Church of Christ, in Vienna, Virginia, applied and received a \$3,500 NIN grant to aid them to work for justice within their community. They partnered with **VOICE** (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) in hopes of a securing the outcome they desired.

Photos supplied by Emmaus UCC



Emmaus UCC/VOICE public gathering

Emmaus UCC senior pastor, Rev. Kristen McBrayer shares, "In 2018 we set out to listen to our neighbors. We learned that the greatest concerns in our schools this year are student support for mental health counselors as well as the retention of 'good teachers'. From these listening sessions and meetings with key leaders, we set forth an agenda to increase the funding for mental health counselors so that students have a 250:1 ratio. This ratio is the minimum needed to provide basic support for our students. Retaining our best teachers is key to the success of our school system. Increasing teacher pay is essential to this goal."

Additionally, Rev. McBrayer reports, "In October, 1,300 people from our VOICE institutions met with Virginia's Governor and Attorney General to ask for their support on our agenda. Among those present were more than 600 students, parents, and teachers concerned about our schools. The Governor continues to work with VOICE on funding for mental health and good teacher pay and we believe the ground work we did in 2018 has set the stage for some big wins for our students in the 2019 budget cycle and general assembly."

As people of faith, we are encouraged to advocate for all those who are marginalized by institutional systems as well as individuals. Being able to use one's voice, even at the ballot box, is a key to fulfilling that biblical missional mandate. We are proud to have been a partner with Emmaus UCC as they embarked to make a difference in their community to aid their neighbors in need.

*Please join us in supporting the*

**2019 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. THANK YOU!**

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy programming and grants.

One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM. [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin).

*For more information about this event contact:*

**Emmaus UCC: <https://emmausucc.org/> or VOICE: <http://www.voice-iaf.org/>**

*To learn about the UCC's positions on Disabilities and Mental Health contact:*

**Rev. Sarah Lund, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice,  
(216) 736-3230, [lunds@ucc.org](mailto:lunds@ucc.org)**



# FAITH FORMATION

*Interested in Volunteering to help our children & youth?*

Contact Laurie Chipman, CED: 878-5745 ext. 103; or lchipman@fccej.org.

## 2019-2020 Recruitment

Many opportunities to volunteer and support First Church children & youth:

- **Nursery** – Be a friendly face to the parents and the littlest ones among us during 1st or 2nd service. We strive to follow our Safe Conduct guidelines for a 2:1 ratio in the Nursery.
- **Spiritual Friends** – 1st Sundays of the month, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Read a story, have snack and great conversations with PreK & Kindergarten children. Then a little Godly playdough time before returning to worship for communion.
- **Peer Group Leaders & Helpers** – PreK-8th grade meet 2x/month during 2nd service. You receive a weekly email with the lesson and activity. All items are gathered for you. You don't need to feel like you have all the answers. Leader and helpers learn right alongside the children and youth. It's OK for all to ask questions.
- **Hands-On Mission Sunday Helpers** – PreK-8th grade are together building community while doing a mission activity. Last year's: shirt baskets for our Easter breakfast tables; Church World Service Hygiene Kits; sorting donations for JUMP; Thrift Store tour; Vacation Bible Camp décor; planting seeds for Earth Day...just to name a few.
- **Youth Group Helpers** – Be an adult helper and get to know our Junior (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) or High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) youth.

## Sunday School Offering

### Spectrum Youth & Family Services

*Total for 2019 — \$401.83 (as of 9/22)*

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.

## Sunday School Calendar

### Pre K – 8th grade

*1st Sunday of each month (starting October 6<sup>th</sup>):* Intergenerational Worship. Children & youth help greet, usher, and read scripture! Also, Spiritual Friends w/ PreK & K.

*October 13<sup>th</sup>:* Peer Group Time

*October 20<sup>th</sup>:* Hands-On Mission– all peer groups gather together to hear, talk, and do mission work.

*October 27<sup>th</sup>:* Bible Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade & Up) & Peer Group Time.

*11:30am-12:30pm: Halloween Party to follow in Fellowship Hall*

### Junior Youth Calendar

*5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders:*

*Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship & Games.*

*Junior Youth October 6<sup>th</sup>:* 11:30am-1:30pm, help greet, usher, and read scripture during our 10:15am worship

*Crop Walk October 20<sup>th</sup>:* 11:30am-1:30pm

*Halloween Party October 27<sup>th</sup>:* 11:30am-12:30pm, help set up party and stay to clean up.

## Peer Group Leaders

- ♦ **PreK:** Paula Sargent, Makaylah Moos, Kaki & Caitlin McGeary, Marlene & Courtney Frank
- ♦ **Kindergarten:** Jenny Bourn & Laura Marthaler
- ♦ **1st & 2nd Grade:** Sue Conti & Lisa Clark
- ♦ **3rd & 4th Grade :** Barb Smith & Allison VanSteenburg
- ♦ **5th-8th Grade:** Pastor Josh & Laurie

High School youth are encouraged to help with a Peer group during Faith Formation time. Junior and Seniors can also opt to be a paid helper in the Nursery.

# THIS WEEK @ FIRST

## Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

- ◆ **Sat, 19th:** Open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
We need Donations for winter coats, winter boots, hats, scarfs & sweaters for both men and women; and volunteers needed now for Thursday shifts at 4pm-6pm and 6pm-8pm. Please, contact Elaine Raymond @ **879-7350** or [ebaymond@gmail.com](mailto:ebaymond@gmail.com).

## 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.

## 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 delivered on Sunday, and much more! 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.

## 2019 Church Holidays:

Church offices will be closed on these dates.

- ◇ *Indigenous Peoples' Day:* Mon, Oct. 14
- ◇ *Thanksgiving:* Thu-Fri, Nov. 28 & 29
- ◇ *Christmas:* Wed, Dec. 25

# Capital Campaign Update

*By Kaki McGeary*

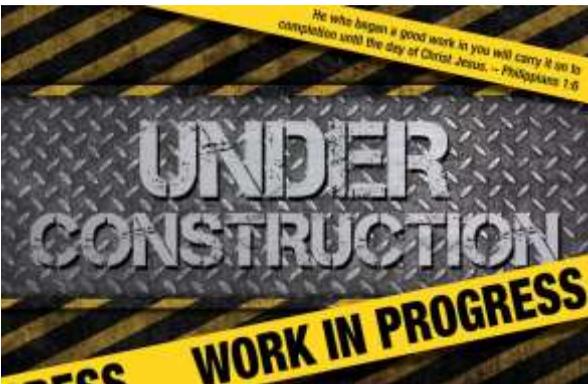
Thank you to the volunteers who spent a few hours last Saturday working on the gardens around our NEW sign out front! *Cathy Shearer, Carl Wermer, Kevin & Sena Meilleur, Lester & Muriel Nutting, Francis Gravel & Gary Hartmann, Josh Simon & Kaki McGeary.*

We are awaiting final approval of a federal grant that will pay for the new exterior light fixtures. We need to wait until we have a grant contract in place before we can use those funds, so this has delayed installation of the new lighting. We anticipate that the lights will be installed some time in November. We are aware that this causes some inconvenience, but the delay will save us about \$10,000 if we can use federal grant funds for that work instead of paying for it with Campaign funds.

Work on the historic windows continues. The new custom storm windows look beautiful (and they work!) and we are eagerly awaiting the re-installation of the refurbished windows and shutters some time this month. We have also had a crew of volunteer painters working throughout the church to give things a face lift... perhaps you have noticed the fresh coat of paint in the foyer outside Fellowship Hall and in the hallway upstairs outside the elevator. Thank you John and Donna Burnett, Laurie Chipman, Mark Mendes, Carolyn Rushford and Kaki McGeary for working on this. And thank you to Cathy Shearer for painting in the Sawyer House. I hope we haven't forgotten someone!!

We now turn our attention to planning the Sanctuary plaster repair/painting, the Marvin Lounge and the Kitchen.

*...Stay tuned for more details!*



**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.

# SAVE THE D@TE

## **Women's Spirituality Group**

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

*Next meeting is Saturday, October 19th*

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).

## **Shaw's Flu Shots @ FCCEJ**

*Sunday, October 20th*

The CDC advises to get flu shots as soon as possible but optimally before the end of October. Therefore, FCCEJ is hosting flu vaccinations in our Fellowship Hall between **1st & 2nd worship @ 9:15-10:45am only**. Most insurances cover shots for free, so bring your insurance card!

## **Essex Eats Out**

*Friday, November 1st @ 5:30-6:30pm*

A free, community-wide dinner open to all (with a special invitation to the needy & lonely) every Friday night throughout the Essex area. FCCEJ hosts Essex Eats Out on the 1st Friday of each month. Donations (to help subsidize the cost of these meals) are solicited but not required.

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

*Thursday, November 7th @ Noon*

If you are 55+ please consider joining this active church group. JOY meets at noon on the first Thursday of the month. We strive to present programs that foster learning, fun, or service. Our very own Reverend Mark Mendes will be joining us. Share your thoughts and bring those questions you've been eager to ask. Don't forget your lunch.

## **Bridge Club**

*Friday, October 18th @ 1:30*

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!

## **Heavenly Food Pantry**

*Monday, October 14th @ 5:30-7:30pm*

The Pantry would appreciate these donations: spaghetti sauce, juice, cereal, and chicken noodle soup! We now have plenty of egg cartons, so thank you! Also, we have several volunteering opportunities! See our church's newsletter for more details; or contact Val Gabert directly @ val.gabert@gmail.com.

## **FCCEJ New Member's Class**

*Sunday, October 20th, following 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Worship (~11:30am), Marvin Lounge*

Do you like what is going on at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction? Do you like the opportunities to join a book group or a joyful senior group or to help the hungry? Do you appreciate all the programming and focus on our children and youth? Do you like the sermons and the way they make you think? Do you like our prophetic voice in the wider community? There is quite a bit to like here and if you want to become a full partner in our ministry, then come find out what it means! Lunch will be provided and if you need child care, please let Doug know at the church office @ 878-5745.

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

October 6, 2019

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Free to Grieve**

Psalm 137

*Neighbors in Need Offering*

*World Communion Sunday*

Some years ago, there was a bumper sticker popular with members and friends of the United Church of Christ, “To believe is to care, to care is to do.” This slogan was a reminder that love is not passive. Love is an action word. Those bumper stickers aren’t around anymore, but we are still encouraged to focus on active love as we lift up Three Great Loves – love of neighbor, love of children and love of creation.

According to [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin), Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and this year will focus on one of the #3greatloves, love of children.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Local Church Ministries (JLCM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants, which are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

There are many ways for individuals and organizations to be inspired to work with these types of programs and projects. There are many paths toward justice. One of these is the path of grief born of love.

Parents whose children have been lost to school gun violence may become local or even national advocates for gun safety. Others grieving the destruction of a favorite wetland to unfettered development may become climate rights activists. Still others experience the pain of racism against those they love and become Black Lives Matter activists.

Of course, sometimes, as in the psalm today, the action born of our grief and love can be destructive. Jesus modeled for us another way. Jesus shows that action originating in loving grief can be generative, creative, and sustainable.

On this World Communion Sunday, we recall our connection with Christians around the world. As we do so, let us remember that communion was an act originated by Jesus that grew from his love and his grief. As he ate with his friends for what he knew would be the last time, he broke bread and took up the cup.

Those actions anticipated the justice of the reign to come, when all will gather at the table of plenty. Those actions, born in a moment of grief, remain one of the most powerful ways those who live in this name can continue to recall that love is an action word.

# CHURCH 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: *Jenny Bourn* [jennybourn4@gmail.com] & *Laura Marthaler*  
[Laura.marthaler@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]

**October 7, 2019 -  
October 13, 2019**

# WEEKLY C@LENDAR

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

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

## Monday, October 7

- 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) ☞
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm **Craft Fest EG Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **BSA Troop 624** (Third Floor) - Douglas Ovitt ☞

## Tuesday, October 8

- 8:30am - 10:00am **Sermon Talk Back** (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☞
- 5:45pm - 6:45pm **Finance Committee** (Marvin Lounge)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Deacons** (Marvin Lounge) ☞

## Wednesday, October 9

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☞
- 3:30pm - 5:30pm **Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting** (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) ☞
- 6:30pm - 8:15pm **Bell Choir** (Sanctuary) ☞
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Wednesday Night Searchers** (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) ☞

## Thursday, October 10

- 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) ☞
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm **Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge) ☞
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm **Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall) ☞
- 8:30pm - 9:30pm **Men @ First** (Fellowship Hall) ☞

## Friday, October 11

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☞
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm **Grange** (Fellowship Hall) ☞

## Saturday, October 12

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

## Sunday, October 13

- 8:30am - 9:30am **Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ☞
- 10:15am - 11:30am **Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ☞
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☞