

NOVEMBER 2019



# SPIRIT@FIRST

## monthly newsletter

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First Congregational Church  
1 Church Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
[www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)

### Pastoral Ponderings

*In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, etc.:*

*Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another; covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.*

*In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620.*

***Mayflower Compact, 1620***

These words were written in the waters off Cape Cod to organize the people together into a body politic. The first official organizing document in the New World is grounded upon everyone signing the document and for the purpose of the community's well-being. We often see this document as a predecessor to the constitution and this early document fed into the stream of thought that led to our current system of government. However, this document was written 150 years before the fervor of revolution and a new government and was intended to organize the early community of faith stepping into a new world order.

Similar seeds of protest grew in mainland Europe as other reformers sought ways to purify the Roman Church and set it aright with what they knew to be God's Holy will as found in scripture. From Germany to Switzerland, from France to Bohemia, from England to the New World, a movement emerged called the Protestant Reformation. It not only changed the Church but the world as well.

Perhaps the key change of the Protestant Reformation was to bring God and the Church

closer to the people. The Bible was translated into the vernacular so that everyone could read Jesus' words; no longer did priests have to translate and tell the people what the Word meant but people could read it for themselves. The Separatists in Plymouth Colony had small bibles in tiny silver boxes with a built-in magnifying glass so that they could read the Word in the field as they were pleased to do. The Pilgrims and the Congregationalists that followed them shifted the focus of worship away from the mystery of the sacrament to the reading and understanding of the Word. The altar and the sacrament, always separated by height and distance from the people, was brought down below the raised pulpit and bible and turned into a communion table and placed at the same level as the people. Stained glass windows were replaced with clear windows symbolizing that faith was found not only in the church but out in the world. The split pulpit and lectern was combined into one raised pulpit always with a bible open upon it symbolizing the truth found only in the Word and not in the dogmas and liturgies of the Roman Church. Even the governance of the faith community was invested in the members of the church where everyone had a vote and a voice as lifted up in the aforementioned Mayflower Compact. Instead of trained choirs with huge organs, the congregation sang/lined hymns together very simply.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther continued a

movement that freed God's Spirit for all people, a movement that found its spiritual fulfillment in Congregationalism and its political fulfillment in North American Democracy. Let us celebrate this powerful movement of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate Reformation Sunday and the freeing changes it opened up to us.

Mark Mendes  
Senior Pastor

### Associate Pastor News

The high school youth group went to Sam Mazza's Maze. We traveled together to find the twelve post in the maze. One of our youth led us through the maze to each of the twelve post. Life is like a maze. We travel in the maze knowing where we are going but not knowing the right path. God helps guide us through the maze of life, giving us a map, even if we don't completely understand it. God also ensure that we have people with whom we travel the maze of life. Could we really make it through this life without family, friends, and mentors? I don't think so. I became a pastor, in part, because I believe the church is an apparatus for bringing people together to journey through life together. The end of this month, November 27, marks my two years here, at FCCEJ. I have been grateful over the last two years to serve as your associate pastor. Over the last two years, we've worshipped together, ate together, fancied up the church and grounds together, provided

support to each other, and more. Half my time is focused on youth ministry and other half is focused on general ministry. I am very fortunate to be here to witness a healthy, vibrant church with great leadership on many levels leading many different ministries. I want to say thank you for your support especially this year since my Crohn's disease reached the point of surgery. Recovery is still on going. Most days I feel way better. For the future, I look forward to seeing what happens with a revitalized sanctuary, what happens once the capital campaign projects are complete, what happens to our confirmation program, what happens with our commitments towards acts of kindness and towards social/economic justice, what happens with our new logo, and what happens with our responsibility as a leaders in the faith. Let us work together through the maze of life.

I'm organizing a service project trip to Puerto Rico. Please see the Missions Committee's page for more information.

**Holy Hikes Vermont** is part of Aman Cara Sojourners, an emerging ministry the purpose of which is to explore connections between faith, nature, and Celtic

High School Youth Group  
will take place at church.  
**Date:** TBA

Young Adult gathering at the  
parsonage @ *Friday,*  
*November 22, 7-9pm*

spirituality. The hikes are not strenuous and are for people of all ages. The steepest incline is about 5 or 6 feet, and that is an overestimation. We read scripture, reflect together, and end our time with communion. Please, join us for our November excursion at the Intervale ([180 Intervale Rd. Burlington, VT 05401](#)) on **Saturday, November 9th**. We will meet up at 9:50 a.m. If you go to Gardner's Supply in Burlington, you continue down the road and the parking lot will be on the left (it is the larger lot)—someone will be outside of it to mark it. We will leave the lot at 10:00 a.m.

Josh Simon  
Associate Pastor

### **Laurie's Lens**



*Where do you see God? Where do you go to connect with God? Do you stop and listen for God's still small voice? Do you know that God is with you everywhere you go? Are we disciples too? How are we supposed to act? How do we care for our neighbors? Does God love everyone?*

These are just a small sample of the questions that I ask our children and youth as we talk about our God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We have enlightening and inspiring conversations. Some of our children and youth here are just getting to know God and others have an ongoing relationship that keeps growing deeper and deeper. Yes, they ask questions. Many questions. And they enjoy it when Pastor Mark

roams through the rooms and stops by to answer their questions that they have placed on the 'Ask the Pastor' sheets that are in every room. We can be thankful that we are a part of a church where children and youth are encouraged to feel comfortable asking and feel good in this safe place where no matter who they are, they are welcome here.

Our faith formation time here at church is an important time for the children and youth to come together in community and help each other continue working on our faith and helping it grow. Families and friends do help us grow in our faith every day, but our church helps bring a community of peers together that can support each other and reassure each other that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are alive and within us all. Our community here at church help keep God's love alive as we learn and grow, talking about how to act towards each other, talk to each other, and what to do with the feelings we are having, hearing the Bible stories, how they relate to us today, and what can we learn from them. Building our faith never stops. We change, grow older and usually our questions change. Having a group of faith peers is so key in helping us handle lives ups and especially life's downs, talk things though. We build this as we grow as little children to youth and then adults. The church will always be here for you, but we need you to keep building our peer groups and surrounding each other with support, comfort and helping us be open to new ways of connecting with God.

In these busy times of schedules, calendars and all the things that tug at our time, let us not forget that we can always choose church. Research tells us that church helps us feel better and helps us stay happier throughout our week. It also tells us that church folk spend more time in social situations verses non-churchgoers spend more time in passive activities such as watching TV. Spending time in social rituals that reinforce our faith helps build meaning and positive coping skills (*data from a 2010-2013 American Time Use Survey*). All their data highlighted the importance of religion as source of social and psychological resources that protect people from stressful daily events and helps us manage our emotions.

So, the questions keeps going through my mind is ... what would the stress and pressure that sits with our children and youth today look like if all our children and youth attended church on a regular basis, faith formation and youth group? Faith in the home is SO important too, but is it enough? Can our children and youth of today function and thrive without a church they can call home and attend regularly? I agree with many Christian educations ... faith is not taught, faith it is caught! The study also stated that it's not enough to pray and meditate in private, faith needs to be supported by actually going to church and sharing in these rituals to keep it meaningful. Hoping to be able to start a weekly e-news this month for families.

*Blessed to be in ministry*

*With you all!*  
Laurie Chipman  
Christian Education Director

## **Deacons' Corner**

### **Reformation Sunday**

This event will be celebrated on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It commemorates a 500-year old date: *October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517*. This is the day when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. He posted his 95 Theses in protest to the Catholic doctrine of indulgences and formally began the Protestant Reformation. He argued that scripture alone is the basis for Christian faith and doctrine. Over time, Reformed churches did not formulate one universal creed, and instead have focused on the belief that the most important aspect of our faith is the written word as found in the scripture and that everyone should be able to access the truths in scripture.

As we move into the busyness of the holiday seasons, let us reflect on the wonder and power of scripture.

*Peace,*  
Betsy Weischedel  
Deacons Co-Chair

## **Carol's Corner**

This month marks the return of our glorious bell choir to the worship schedule, so I've invited the leaders of the bell choir to give us a little history of the bell choir and how it came to be. This history was provided by Laura

Marthaler, co-director of the Bell Choir.

### **Does any of THIS ring a bell?**

*By Laura Marthaler*

Once there was a man at First Church named Bob Courier. Bob had a beautiful voice. He was a bass in the choir for many years, and would give the gift of his singing at worship services on Easter and Christmas Eve. While he, sadly, passed away of cancer, his gift of music never did. In his name and in his memory, money was donated by his loving wife, Bernie, to purchase a set of handbells for First Church. That was the first "octave" (set of 12 bells) that our church had in modern memory. Bernie played the bells for many years, and the group was directed by Cynthia Myer. Carolyn Harris recalls joining the bell choir 18 years ago. Carolyn's first time attending FCCEJ was the Sunday after the events of 9/11 in 2001. After the service, she spoke to Mary Richter who was greeting folks as she left the sanctuary. Carolyn said to her, "I really enjoyed the service. Do you happen to have a bell choir?" And Mary responded, "Yes! Would you like to direct it?" And she's been the director ever since.

*Thanks to Carol Daigle, Carolyn Harris, Mary Richter, Beth Volker for sharing pieces of history,*

Laura Marthaler

## **A Beautiful Legacy**

It is a beautiful legacy that we have this beautiful set of 3 octaves of handbells, many active ringers this year, musical leaders to select our songs and help us learn them. We've been merrily ringing away our Wednesday evenings, and are really looking forward to sharing this music with everyone on Sunday, November 17, as guest musicians for both services at worship. Elsewhere, the other musical groups are also active. Heavenly Harmony blew everyone away at services on October 13, and we welcome Men At First to lead worship on November 3.

The full lineup for November is:

**November 3:** Men At First

(Men's choir) - both services

**November 10:** Sanctuary Choir

(first service) - Finally@First  
(2nd service)

**November 17:** Courier Bell

Choir (handbells) - both services

**November 24:** Thanksgiving

week - Sanctuary Choir (first service); Finally@First (2nd service)

Many wishes that everyone is staying warm and enjoying this beautiful Vermont fall.

*Blessings,*  
Carol Spradling  
Music Director

## Youth Ministry

All our First Church Youth Programs are Parent Supported!

High School Youth are encouraged to help during faith formation on Sunday mornings if they like. Connect with Laurie on Peer Group and Hands-On Mission Sundays.

### Junior Youth Calendar

Mark your calendars & join the FUN! These events are tailored for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. The focus is on our faith, missions, and friendly games to boost fellowship. Meal donations and snacks for youth times are appreciated! Visit this link to list your contribution:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-fccej>

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm. Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm

### Young Adult Gathering

**Friday, November 22, 7-9pm**  
 Young Adult gathering at the parsonage.

### High School Youth Group

**Date: TBA**

This event will be hosted at the Church. Stay tuned for more details.

*"God helps guide us through the maze of life, giving us a map, even if we don't completely understand it."*

**Rev. Josh Simon**  
*....read more in Associate Pastor News (page 2)*

### Christmas Pageant

**Rehearsal Schedule for JY & HS Youth**

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ 5 to 7pm

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** ~ 5 to 7pm

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ 11:30 to 2pm

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ TBA (between 1pm and 6pm)

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pageant Sunday @ both services.

### Pageant Rehearsal Helpers

If you enjoy the pageant here at First our youth could use your help. Starting on November 24<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm (see schedule in youth section) we need adult helpers to assist with learning lines, collecting prop, organizing costumes and maybe helping with scenery. Interested? Please speak with Pastor Josh or Laurie. Thank you!



**Hours:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10am-3pm; Thursdays 4pm-8pm. and 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 9am-1pm.

**Donations:** We need donations for winter coats, winter boots, hats, scarfs & sweaters for both men and women.

**Volunteers:** Needed now for Thursday shifts. The shifts are 4pm to 6pm and 6pm to 8pm. Please, contact Elaine Raymond @ 879-7350 or [ebraymond@gmail.com](mailto:ebraymond@gmail.com)

**Porch Sale Extravaganza:** I am happy to report today's porch sale extravaganza was a HUGE success! Our total sales came to \$569.76. Our sales outside was \$318.26 and inside (at half price) was \$251.76. We are so grateful for all those who helped us today. Many, many thanks to: *Peter Frankenberg, Josh Simon, Terri Livak, Gail Cromie, Mary Gratton, Allie Gratton, Marsha Duell, M.J. Allen, Linda Bogardus, and Kirsten Wiley.* It really takes a village! We made many new friends and were greeted by old friends who told us they missed coming to see us during the past month.

*Thanks again for such a successful day,*

## Faith Formation

### Peer Group Leaders

*Preschool* ~ Paula Sargent,  
Makaylah Moos, Kaki & Caitlin  
McGeary, Marlene & Courtney  
Frank

*Kindergarten* ~ Jenny Bourn &  
Laura Marthaler

*First & Second Grade* ~ Sue Conti  
& Lisa Clark

*Third & Fourth Grade* ~ Barb  
Smith & Allison VanSteensburg

*Fifth ~Eighth Grade* ~ Pastor  
Josh & Laurie

## Calendar

### Pre K – 8th grade

November...

...3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays

Intergenerational Worship -  
Spiritual Friends with PreK  
& K: *children/youth help  
greet/usher/read scripture*

...10<sup>th</sup> ~ Peer Group Time

...17<sup>th</sup> ~ Peer Group Time

...24<sup>th</sup> ~ Hands-On Mission— *all  
peer groups gather together to  
hear/talk/and do mission*

December 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Intergenerational &  
Spiritual Friends

December 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Pageant  
Sunday during both our worship  
services.

**Children & Youth name tags**  
are now on the welcome table in  
Fellowship Hall by the Name  
Board.

## Music Time

*Cherubs* ~ Preschool ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

*Joyful Noise* ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Music time takes place on peer  
group Sundays. Children and youth  
then move to peer groups until  
11:30am. On these days we  
encourage parents to move from  
worship to coffee hour and then up  
to collect the children. All PreK  
through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade need to be signed  
out by an authorized person. Older

children will be excused on their  
own. Parents can update their list of  
persons by emailing Laurie.

## Our Nursery

Sunday morning Nursery hours are  
8:15am to 11:30am. We are excited  
to say we have hired our new  
Nursery staff worker. Please stop  
by the Nursery and welcome Kelsey  
Carpenter to First Church. Kelsey,  
who started work on October 27<sup>th</sup>,  
will help your little one get settled  
into our newly painted Nursery on  
Sunday mornings. Parents and  
guardians should feel comfortable  
staying with their little one or return  
to worship. Services can be heard  
from the Nursery room by way of a  
speaker. You can also step out into  
Fellowship Hall and watch the  
service on the screen. We want you  
to feel comfortable here. Children  
are welcome in worship and  
throughout our space. We do ask  
you to help us hold to our Safe  
Conduct Guidelines of a ratio of 2  
children to 1 adult and volunteer to  
stay in the Nursery if needed.  
Thank you for your cooperation. *HS  
Juniors & Seniors who are  
interested can also be a helper to  
the Nursery staff worker. Contact  
Laurie for an interview and you can  
be our paid second hands in the  
Nursery.*

## Volunteering Opportunities!

### Acolytes

Every Sunday we carry in the light  
of Christ and light the worship  
candles. Then during our sung  
benediction we carry out the light of  
Christ to remind us all that God,  
Jesus and the Holy Spirit are with us  
everywhere we go, not just here at  
church. Ushers are asked to help  
and assist the acolytes by lighting  
the taper, then walking with them if  
they are new to acolyting or would  
like a partner. Older children or

youth are also encourage to be  
acolytes. Families who are ushering  
or greeting can acolyte. Please  
check the signup sheet on the  
bulletin board down it the hallway  
on your way up to worship to see if  
someone has already signed up.  
Thank you.

### Ring the Bell

All children and their families are  
welcome to ring the church bell 15  
minutes before each worship  
service. Signup sheet is located on  
the bulletin board before you walk  
up the steps to worship (beside the  
Acolyte signup). Please check this  
first to see if someone has already  
signed up to ring the bell.  
Instructions are at the top of the  
sheet as to which rope to pull and  
how many times to ring the bell.  
It's fun to ring the church bell ring!

## Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

*Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at  
11:30am*

Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grade are  
encouraged to attend the first 20-  
30 minutes of pageant rehearsal  
to take a part and follow the  
youth and learn their  
part. Rehearsal continues for  
youth until 2pm.

## 2019 Faith Formation Offering:

*Spectrum Youth & Family Services  
Current Total \$483.33 (as of 10/20)*

Remember just a \$1 a week can go a  
long way! So bring your offering  
each week for Spectrum! Just think  
what you spend a \$1 on each week.  
Are you willing to give that amount  
to help a youth at Spectrum?  
PLEASE use the Bible story  
envelopes in the pews so your  
money goes to Spectrum and it will  
not be confused with the regular  
offering for the church.



## Missions

### **Missions Committee**

Puerto Rico needs our help. Repairing homes in PR is still necessary. The UCC's Disaster Ministries and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) sponsor efforts to repair concrete roofs. There is money until the end of June for this work to continue. They hope to have enough money to extend the project beyond June 2020, but they won't know for another month or so. I'm working on organizing a 7-day (5 days of work) service trip to Puerto Rico. There is availability in April after Easter until the end of month and then in the first three weeks of June. We need people who can use ladders to repair roofs. If you can't climb a ladder, there are options to help paint or work on projects on the ground. We could also use a designated cook. So, there are plenty of opportunities to participate in this trip even if climbing ladders isn't possible. We would work from early in the morning to about 1pm, before it gets too hot, and then we can explore PR and enjoy the beach. The cost of the service trip is \$800-850 per person.

### **Dismas House**

*"Your Good Deed Will be Much Appreciated"*

**What is Dismas House?** Across Vermont there are four Dismas Houses that provide shelter and support for men and women who have served prison terms and are making the transition from life in prison to life outside.

For several years now, on the fourth Wednesday of each month, three folks who attend our Church have been preparing dinner for the residents and staff of the Dismas House in Winooski. One of us prepares an entrée, another a salad, and a third a dessert. The three of us usually stay to enjoy the meal with the Dismas House residents and staff. They are friendly and appreciative of our help. By participating in the program, we help to lessen the feelings of estrangement that burden folks who have served prison terms.

**Want to volunteer?** If you have never been to Dismas House and would like to volunteer, at least one person from the Church who has already been to Dismas House will be going there on the Wednesday you sign up for. There is a sign-up sheet that's on the bulletin board in the hall leading to the Church's social hall.

**How many?** Attending the meal are typically ten residents, two paid staff members (a Director and Associate Director who work there during weekdays), and the three of us from the Church who have prepared the food.

**Questions?** Please contact Ed Steele, the current facilitator for the Dismas House Mission. His contact information is: (802) 871-5897 or [edwardmsteele@msn.com](mailto:edwardmsteele@msn.com)

### **U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants**

"Inspired. Grateful. Humble. That's how your generosity makes us feel. In today's climate of ugly and false rhetoric, it's not easy to be an immigrant or a refugee. To be uprooted from your home and then to feel unwanted in your new country. **But it's people like you who inspire us every day.** Thank you for your generous \$1,200 donation in support of our Vermont field office! It will be made available to emergency needs. With your help, refugees and immigrants are building new lives, learning job skills, opening businesses, and going to school. They are living with dignity and achieving more than they ever dreamed possible."

*Our most sincere thanks,  
Eskinder Negash  
USCRI President & CEO*

### **The Giving Tree**

Christmas is coming! Once again, the members of this church will have the opportunity to provide gifts to needy children in our community. The Giving Tree will be set up the Sunday before Thanksgiving (**November 24<sup>th</sup>**) in the narthex with gift tags for about 50 children. Each child receives three tags – two for articles of clothing and one for a toy, book or gift card. There is always great anticipation around the Giving Tree and we hope you will join us again in making this Christmas a season of hope and love for so many children in Essex. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact

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Elaine Raymond at 879-7350 or  
[ebraymond@gmail.com](mailto:ebraymond@gmail.com).

### **Jamaica Service Program**

This month, I wanted to share a poem written by Peter Schmalz [see panel, page 8] in preparation for his participation in the Jamaica Service trip this summer. My experience in Jamaica (and with local service activities), as I know Pete would agree, has taught me that when we give, we receive SO much more in return. We receive human connection and in this, we experience God.

Carolyn Rushford  
Deacon

### **If Done For the Least of These (You Did It For Me) by Peter Schmalz**

*What brings you to Jamaica, you New Englander?  
Why leave your comfortable Vermont June for Caribbean  
swelter?  
Why come help this school, and these children?  
This school will educate  
none of your kin.  
How did you know we needed your help?  
Why give your mission of service to us?  
We are poor and have nothing to give you in return.  
We knew to come, because others of us have  
been here before.  
They told us about you.  
They gave you gifts, yes, but they also brought back your  
gifts.  
Your gifts of friendship, compassion, inspiration, and  
love.  
We give because we are called by God to give, more than  
to receive.  
We come because we are called  
To learn new cultures,  
To grow closer to you,  
and to each other,  
To see beyond our own limited surroundings,  
To share our talents, and learn new talents,  
To celebrate all that is unique, and all that we have in  
common.  
We come to show our love for all of God's people.*



## **Fellowship & Learning**

First Church aims to pique your interest in God & community with these programs:

### **Yoga @ First**

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

Jonah Moos 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!

### **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.

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

***Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> @ 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, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm***

Join us in the Marvin Lounge. Bring snacks and drinks to share. Friends are welcome, too! Join Pastor Mendes in our Marvin Lounge for a rousing game and a chance to win some of his world-famous, homemade jam & salsa!

### **Coffee Clatter**

***Fridays @ 8am***

Martone's in Essex Junction 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!

### **Women's Spirituality Group**

***3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 9:30am. Next meeting: Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>***

All women of the church are invited to be a part of this vibrant group. Our programs will address personal growth, community outreach and having fun. Please consider joining us in the Marvin

Lounge. Our very own Elaine Helmstutler will be our Artist in Residence. In her words, "Think you can't draw? You're wrong! Come to WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY to learn the basics of seeing and drawing."

### **Essex Eats Out**

***Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30pm***

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.

### **November Book Group**

***Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am***

We meet regularly in the Marvin Lounge. Currently, we are reading a novel by Sinclair Lewis called *It Can't Happen Here*. It was written in 1935 while Lewis was in Vermont for the summer. It is a tale about the fragility of democracy and a look at how fascism could take hold in America when it was largely oblivious to Hitler's aggression in Europe. The novel is about the rise of a president who becomes a dictator to save the nation from welfare cheats, crime and a liberal press. In 1935 when it was written, it was called "a message to thinking Americans". It is a novel that remains as fresh and contemporary as today's news.

## **FIVE CORNERS CHRISTMAS CRAFT FEST** ***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9am-3pm***

To make this event a success at our church we appreciate your assistance with the following areas:

**Nearly New:** The following is a quick list of best sellers: *Books, Holiday items especially Christmas; Frames; Games & Puzzles; Dishes; Children's Toys; Accessories – Scarfs, pursues and jewelry*

All Items can be dropped off in Marvin Lounge anytime. The items will then be stored in the Gym.

**Sweet Shoppe:** We welcome your contributions of unique items such as: *gluten free options, donuts, whoopee pies, peanut brittle, home-made candy, Annual favorites such as fudge, cookies, and various types of breads*

We would also welcome a variety of pies this year. Other popular items include jams and jellies, relishes, horseradish, salsa, etc. We really would appreciate Items dropped at the church from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday Nov 8<sup>th</sup> in the Nursey.

**Silent Auction:** Suggestions for Ideas to donate are: *1) Donating Tickets to a theater, arts or sporting event; 2) Giving golf/tennis lessons; 3) Baking a cookie/pie/cake/bread of the month; 4) Sewing/babysitting/cleaning/yard work, 5) Original Artwork; 6) Homemade quilt*

We can pick up donated items, make gift certificates for you, give tax receipts, and more. Items can be dropped off at the Church office or the sign up table on Sundays. **BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE GOING TO BUSINESSES FOR ITEMS.**

All items can be dropped off at the Church office **before Thursday, November 7th**

**Heavenly Spirit Café:** Please assist by making homemade soups,

macaroni and cheese, and chili. Also, consider donating a case of water, soda or paper products. Please make sure the donations are marked craft fest when left in the kitchen. You will have opportunity to sign up for takeout.

### **Volunteer!**

**Decorators:** Volunteers are needed **Sunday Nov 3<sup>th</sup> from Noon-2pm** to decorate Marvin Lounge, Hallways, and Fellowship Hall.

**Greeters:** We especially need volunteers to help all our wonderful shoppers navigate our church. Please consider signing up for a 2 hour shift.

**Setup/Cleanup:** We need help with setting up table Friday morning and cleanup on Saturday afternoon.

### **Notable Crafters**

**Allie Gratton** – knitted dish scrubbies, gift tags, glitter ornaments, crocheted pot holders, dish clothes and baby blankets.

**Emily Houle & Sara Mandeville** – knit & crocheted ornaments, patchwork stuffed toys, project/toiletry bags, maple syrup, crocheted blankets, paintings and canvas board magnet paintings.

**Jen Ellis** -- Vermont Swittens -- Mittens made from re-purposed wool sweaters and lined with fleece made from recycle plastic bottles. Made locally in Essex Junction!

**Terri Livak** -- quilted table runners and toppers, small wall hangings, watercolor and acrylic paintings

**Sandy Plant** – handed knitted hats, mittens, and scarves for all sizes and ages in all colors and types of yarn

**Ginny Coe** – knit hats (toddler and infant), dishcloths, stuffed animals, baby bibs and sweaters, hot mats, hats and mittens

**Carol Wisely** - Time & Tide Creations -- distinctive jewelry made from a variety of natural materials, in particular wire-wrapped sea glass, tagua nut, and copper. The eclectic collection includes earrings, pendants and necklaces for every taste.

**Natalie Sarkisian** - Knit 802 -- hand knitted stunning and elegant shawls, along with uniquely patterned mittens, scarves and hats. Using high quality materials, particularly Merino wool, the products are one of a kind pieces that are highly sought after.

**Penny Williams** - Jewels by Pen -- gorgeous jewelry made mostly of freshwater pearls and hammered sterling silver; you are sure to find striking earrings and necklaces from your favorite color palette.

**Ann Gray** – reversible table runners (holiday themed), flannel and cotton pillowcase, teddy bears, Christmas ornaments, scarves and hats for wine bottles, and dog sweaters

**Holly Halliday** -- Handmade hats, cowls, shawls, fingerless mitts

**Mark, Karen and Margaret Mendes:** Handmade crafts from a Nepali Women's Empowerment Program where women learn skills to allow for economic independence. Program is housed and initiated and all proceeds go to House with a Heart in Kathmandu Nepal.

The committee will have signup sheets after first service and second service for making a donation or signing up to volunteer at one of our amazing areas. We are asking all the volunteers to park in the doctor's office across the street from the church.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Bogardus at 872-8972 or lbogardus@myfairpoint.net.

*Thank you to everyone for your support,*  
Linda Bogardus, Ann Gray, Maureen McKenzie, Cathy Shearer, Elaine Raymond, Wendy Wark, Val Gabert and Mary Gratton

## Save the D@tes!

This is a list of upcoming events at our church and wider faith community:

### Saturday Night Worship

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 4:30pm**

Want to sleep in on a Sunday but hate to miss worship, then come worship on Saturday night on the first Saturday of every month at 4:30 p.m. where you will find a new style of worship that is informal, interactive and in Fellowship Hall. We hear scripture and discuss what it means. We come together for communion through friendship and sacrament. We lift our prayers up as a community and have a chair waiting for anyone who needs specific prayers. Come worship first and then go out for a lovely dinner with your partner: it's a great Saturday Night Tradition.

### Reverend Erin Reardon Installed @ Warren United Church

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Let us all be a little proud that Tom and Suzanne's daughter Erin will be duly installed at the Warren United Church, under the auspices of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ on Nov. 17th, 2019 at the Warren Church [339 Main Street, Warren VT 05674] at 2:00 p.m., with reception to follow. Erin grew up in our church and in ironic but true congregational form, chose NOT to be confirmed here under the able guidance of Rev. Steve Garvey. Yet in that conscientious choice, there was a yearning for more spiritual knowledge and here we are.....! The service will be a great celebration and Rev. Mark will be participating and offering rides if anyone needs one.

### The Giving Tree

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas is coming! Once again, the members of this church will have the opportunity to provide gifts to needy children in our community. The Giving Tree will be set up the Sunday before Thanksgiving (**November 24<sup>th</sup>**) in the narthex with gift tags for about 50 children. Each child receives three tags – two for articles of clothing and one for a toy, book or gift card. There is always great anticipation around the Giving Tree and we hope you will join us again in making this Christmas a season of hope and love for so many children in Essex. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elaine Raymond at 879-7350 or [ebraimond@gmail.com](mailto:ebraimond@gmail.com).

### Guest Preacher Rev. Ron Faux

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

We are blessed to have Rev. Ron Faux [Fox] and his wife Joan coming to our church. They come to Sermon Talkback and volunteer at various functions. The Fauxs retired to Vermont to be close to their daughter and her family. Ron is a retired United Methodist pastor who served in Hawaii, California and Arizona. He comes with a wide experience within the church and within a different part of our country. He is a gifted storyteller, preacher and church leader and you will not want to miss him on November 17<sup>th</sup> at both services.

*The Rev Ron Faux is a retired United Methodist pastor. He has served churches in Arizona, Hawaii and California. While in the Air force he was stationed Fort Ethan Allen. He and Joan were married at First Methodist Church in Burlington in 1961. He received his Master of Divinity from Drew University in Madison, New*

*Jersey. They moved back to Vermont last year with their daughter and her family. Ron and Joan recently moved to Williston Place, Independent Senior Living.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Pet Remembrance Service

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm**

Join us to honor your cherished pet who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Register to obtain a personalized memorial ornament with your pet's picture. Reception and refreshments to follow. For more information and to register, email [service@awrfh.com](mailto:service@awrfh.com)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Jamaica Cabin Fever Calcutta

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



The Jamaica Committee is pleased to

announce the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Cabin Fever Calcutta to be held at the Catamount Country Club in Williston on Saturday, March 7, 2020. This is a fun night out with lots of great prizes in addition to the grand prize of \$1000! Tickets cost \$125 each and include dinner for two and the chance to win the grand prize of \$1000 and other prizes awarded throughout the evening. Early Bird ticket sales will begin in December!

**Holy Communion**  
is **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**!



**1<sup>st</sup> Service:** handed out  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Service:** people come up

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!




MCMMASTER, Catherine	11/01
FRANKENBURG, Peter	11/03
IRISH, Ginger	11/03
CARNEY, Tim	11/04
HARRIS, Anne	11/04
HYDE, Marilyn	11/05
LEVANWAY, Malcolm	11/05
ALLEN, Judy	11/09
BUCHSPICS, Lew	11/09
GABERT, Conor	11/11
DEWEY, Sam	11/12
MCCLINTOCK, Holly	11/12
CHIPMAN, Troy	11/15
SMITH, Frank	11/15
TURNER, Sally	11/15
FAUX, Ron	11/18
GROVE, Mary-Ellen	11/18
ISHAM, Easton	11/18
LAPIERRE, Cathy	11/19
PARKS, Kevin	11/20
WARK, Wendy	11/21
OWENS, Edward	11/22
MOOS, Jessica	11/24
SHEARER, Jamie	11/24
PORATTI, Beth	11/26
TALLMAN, Sandy	11/26
DEAN, Linda	11/28
CATE, Jina	11/29
STEIN, Adelaide	11/29

## New Members are Joining our Church!

**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

On Sunday November 24th, we will welcome four new members into our faith community. They have been

coming to our faith community and decided that our church is the place for them. The candidates then attended a New Member's Class where all their questions were answered and the ways of our church and denomination were made known. After hearing who we are, they still expressed an interest to join! We should all be thrilled that these fine people have decided to join our happy band of Jesus' followers. Come and bring your warmest welcoming faces to them. So on Sunday, November 24th, we will welcome the following people into our church....

-  Leon and Ellen Bruno
-  Gretchen Owens
-  Jessica Wisloski

## Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**

Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend the first 20-30 minutes of pageant rehearsal to take a part and follow the youth and learn their part. Rehearsal continues for youth until 2pm. On *December 16<sup>th</sup>*, Christmas Pageant Sunday will occur during both our worship services.

## Heavenly Food Pantry



The Food Pantry is open to residents of Essex Junction, Essex Town, and Westford. Clients will need an ID for

each member of the household and a utility bill to prove their residence. Clients may only visit the Pantry once per calendar month.

## Dates & Hours

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (November 11th)

@ 5:30pm-7:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (November 21st)

@ 2pm-6pm

**\*\* NOT on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday due to Thanksgiving holiday \*\***

## Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for people to help on Pantry days. But, we also need volunteers on other days to assist with a myriad of tasks. Short commitments are OK. Enthusiasm and a fun-loving attitude is desired. We'd love to welcome you into our Missions community. Please, contact Anita Guild ([anitaguild@gmail.com](mailto:anitaguild@gmail.com)) for more details.



*"A big 'Thank You' to the many friends of the Church who sent birthday cards on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Due to the fact that I have a large family and many friends here, I received 70 cards and 4 bouquets of flowers, plus a beautiful yellow rose from the Church that seems to last forever!"*

Thanks to you all,  
Berenice Currier





Join us for The 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
**HOLIDAY PET  
REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2019 4:00pm**  
**First Congregational Church – Essex Junction**

Join us to Honor your cherished pet  
who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge.  
Registration includes a personalized memorial ornament  
with your pet's picture.

Remembrance Service followed by Reception & Refreshments.  
For more information and to register- email: [service@awrfh.com](mailto:service@awrfh.com)



Sponsored by Island Memorial- Loving, Dignified pet  
cremation services, a member of the A.W. Rich Family. 802.316.2284



# November 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Oct 27</b> 8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 9:30am Craft Fest Silent Auction Volunteer Signup (Fellowship) 10:15am Worship Service 11:30am Junior Youth "Halloween" 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship) 2:00pm Holiday Cardmaking Class	<b>28</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Food Pantry Stocking (Fellowship Hall & Gym) 5:30pm Yoga @ First (Gymnasium) 5:30pm Group Victory (Marvin) 5:45pm Girl Scouts (3rd Floor) 7:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third)	<b>29</b> 8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:15pm PRC Meeting (Marvin Lounge)	<b>30</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers (Marvin Lounge) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship)	<b>31</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) 6:00pm Music@First (Sanctuary) 7:30pm Confirmation (Marvin Lounge) 8:15pm Music @ First (Fellowship) 8:30pm Men @ First (Fellowship)	<b>Nov 1</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Essex Eats Out (Prep Time) (Kitchen & FH) 5:30pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen)	<b>2</b> 9:00am Thrift Store Open 9:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm Worship Service (Sanctuary)
<b>3</b> 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Craft Fest Silent Auction 10:15am Worship Service 11:30am Craft Fest 11:30am Junior Youth (3rd Floor) 11:30am Craft Fest Decorating 11:30am Music Committee (Choir) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship)	<b>4</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Food Pantry Stocking 5:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third) 5:30pm Yoga @ First (Gymnasium) 5:30pm Group Victory (Marvin) 6:30pm Joe's Big Band (Fellowship) 7:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third)	<b>5</b> 8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Finance Committee (Marvin Lounge) 6:30pm Three Rivers District 7:00pm Church Council (Marvin)	<b>6</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm FCEEJ Staff Meeting 5:30pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm BSA PLC (Third Floor) 6:30pm Eagle Scout BOR (3rd) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship)	<b>7</b> 8:30am Essex Art League 10:00am Craft Fest, Setup (Marvin Lounge, Fellowship Hall, Gym) 12:00pm JOY (Sanctuary) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) 6:00pm Music@First (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 630 7:30pm Confirmation (Marvin)	<b>8</b> 10:00am Craft Fest, Setup (Marvin Lounge, Fellowship Hall, Gym) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)	<b>9</b> 9:00am 11th Annual Five Corners Craft Fest (All Church) 9:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)
<b>10</b> 8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 9:00am Craft Fest Sale (Gym) 10:15am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 4:00pm Food Pantry (FH & ) 5:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third) 5:30pm Food Pantry (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Yoga @ First (Gymnasium) 5:30pm Group Victory (Marvin) 7:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third)	<b>12</b> 8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Deacons (Marvin Lounge)	<b>13</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers (Marvin Lounge) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship)	<b>14</b> 8:00am Jamaica Bound Calcutta 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) 6:00pm Music@First (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Lion Den #10 (Third Floor) 7:30pm Confirmation (Marvin) 8:15pm Music @ First (Fellowship) 8:30pm Men @ First (Fellowship)	<b>15</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Bridge Club (Marvin Lounge)	<b>16</b> 9:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall) 9:30am Women's Spirituality (Marvin Lounge) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)
<b>17</b> 8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:15am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Junior Youth (3rd Floor; 2nd Floor Program Room; Gym) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)	<b>18</b> 11:30am Noontime Book Group 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Food Pantry Stocking 5:30pm Yoga @ First (Gymnasium) 5:30pm Group Victory (Marvin) 5:45pm Girl Scouts (3rd Floor) 6:30pm Joe's Big Band (Fellowship) 7:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third)	<b>19</b> 8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Missions Committee (Marvin Lounge)	<b>20</b> 8:00am Food Shelf Delivery (Fellowship Hall) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm FCEEJ Staff Meeting 5:30pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship)	<b>21</b> 8:30am Food Pantry (FH) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Marvin) 3:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) 6:00pm Music@First (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Wolf Den (2nd Floor) 6:30pm Tiger Den #9 (Third Floor) 7:00pm EEO Meeting (Marvin) 7:30pm Confirmation (Third Floor)	<b>22</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Grange (Fellowship Hall)	<b>23</b> 9:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)
<b>24</b> 8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:15am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary; 3rd Floor; 2nd Floor)	<b>25</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Food Pantry Stocking (Fellowship Hall & Gym) 5:30pm Yoga @ First (Gymnasium) 5:30pm Group Victory (Marvin Lounge) 7:00pm BSA Troop 624 (Third)	<b>26</b> 8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Stewardship (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Trustees (Marvin Lounge)	<b>27</b> 11:30am Religio-Spiritual Leaders' Lunch (Marvin Lounge) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 2:00pm Crafty Time Out (Marvin) 5:30pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Wednesday Night Searchers 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship)	<b>28</b> HOLIDAY -- FCEEJ Offices Closed 10:00am Larsen Family Thanksgiving Dinner (Fellowship) 12:00pm Brown Bag (Marvin Lounge) 3:00pm Easterseals (Third Floor) 7:30pm Confirmation (Marvin Lounge)	<b>29</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)	<b>30</b> 9:00am Nepali Community Worship (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)



# MINISTRY DIRECTORY

## 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]

**First Congregational Church of EJ**  
**1 CHURCH STREET**  
**ESSEX JCT, VT 05452**  
**Phone: 802-878-5745**  
**Fax: 802-872-8236**  
**Email: [welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)**  
**Web: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)**

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