

***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



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

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

**One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

Phone: 802-878-5745

Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fcej.org

Website: www.fcej.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
November 24, 2019

Christ the King Sunday

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

Canticle of the Sun

Marty Haugen

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, is the last day of the church's year. The liturgical year takes us on a journey of time and movement beginning with Advent, then onward through Christ's birth, life, teachings, death and resurrection, then to the building of the church.

Pulpit Side: The story begins in darkness and longing and ends with light and Christ's fulfilling presence.

Lectern Side: The story takes us through the ups and downs of life.

Pulpit Side: We experience the development of human wisdom as first Israel and then Christianity grew toward God's vision of love.

Lectern Side: Like the seasons of earth or our life cycle, the church year gives our spiritual journeys a skeleton to flesh out as we mature.

Leader: Come, let us lift Jesus up on this Christ the King Sunday as we celebrate the journey we make back to God.

***Opening Hymn**

Let Heaven Rejoice

Bob Dufford [handout]

Prayer of Invocation [composed and led by the Deacon on Duty]

Children's Message

Our Nursery is open 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 2nd service's children's message, PreK-12th grade are welcome to follow Laurie for Hands-On Mission time. We will hear about a mission and then to an activity or project that supports it. Adults are welcome to accompany the children, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. All will return for Communion.

**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.**

**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.

Prayer Response

Lord I Need You

Matt Maher

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh God, how I need you.
You're my one defense, my righteousness;
Oh God, how I need you.**

***Hymn**

Beautiful Jesus

#44

Scripture Readings

Old Testament	Prophetic	Jeremiah 23:1-6	[page 561]
New Testament	Epistle	Colossians 1:11-20	[page 155]
	Gospel	Luke 23:33-43	[page 68]

Musical Anthem

Rejoice

Chris Tomlin

Sermon

Following the King

Rev. Mendes

Welcoming our New Members

Gretchen and Edward Owens [Isa & Teddy-kids]

Jessica Wisloski [Alex Martin-husband & Poppy-daughter]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Paul Baloche
and Brenton Brown

***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**

Now Thank We All Our God

#419

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.

***** IMPORTANT WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWER INFORMATION:** The 2020 Flower Chart is posted on the *Mission: Possible* board in the hallway between the Narthex and Fellowship Hall Please, request your flowers by **Sunday, December 15th.**

***** CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Order your poinsettias for Christmas services in memory or honor of a loved one or special event. They will be the same as last year, \$12.95 and come in red, white, pink and a marbled variety. Please place your order by **Sunday December 15th.** Your dedication will be remembered in the Christmas bulletins. Please remember to take them home as well and enjoy them after the Christmas Eve services. ***



*The flowers on the altar are given by
Sharon Dettenrieder
In loving memory of Douglas J. Dettenrieder.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Marion Schneider

Richard Ansell

Karla

Rick Busciglio

John Burnett

Russ Dettenrieder

Bob Ursiny

Jennifer Morse

Tom Gibbs

Robert & Claire Deal

John A

Aidan W

Jeff Noel

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@fcej.org. Additionally, prayer requests will be edited regularly. If you find an unintended error or omission, then please, contact the Church office.

Today's Ushers & Greeters

(1st Service) Greeters: Sylvia Nyhagen

Ushers: Terri Livak, Bart & Paulette Frisbie

(2nd Service) Greeters: N/A

Ushers: Maureen McKenzie, Terri Livak



Interested in ushering/greeting? Register by visiting this link: shorturl.at/LSWZ5

Coats and Shawls

Coat Closet Full? Additional storage is available in the Narthex.

Feeling Chilly? We have a large stock of warm, hand-made prayer shawls to keep you cozy this year, and they are free to keep! Ask our Ushers/Greeters for help.



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

Faith Formation Calendar

PreK – 8th grade

December 1st ~ (on 1st Sundays of
the month) Intergenerational
Worship

PreK – 2nd grade who are
looking for more movement can
join the Spiritual Friends for a
story time and activity. All will
return for communion.

8th ~ Peer Group Time

15th ~ Pageant Sunday at both
worship services

22nd ~ Intergenerational Worship
– Carol sing

29th ~ Intergenerational Worship
in Fellowship Hall

January 5th ~ (1st Sundays):
Intergenerational Worship &
Spiritual Friends

Faith Formation Music Time

Cherubs ~ Preschool-2nd grade

Joyful Noise ~ 3rd-8th 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 2nd grade need to be signed
out by an authorized person. Older
children will be excused at 11:30am.
Parents can update their list of
authorized persons by emailing
Laurie.

Our Nursery

*Sunday morning Nursery hours are
8:15am to 11:30am*

*Kelsey Carpenter, our Nursery staff
worker, will help you and your little
one get settled into our Nursery.*

Feel free to stop by on your way up
to worship. Parents/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. Please help
us hold to our Safe Conduct
Guidelines of a ratio of 2 infants
(under 2 years) 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.*

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!

Pageant Rehearsal for all Ages!

Sunday, December 8th at 11:30am

Preschool – 4th grade are encouraged
to attend the first 20-30 minutes of
pageant rehearsal and sign up to be
an angel, shepherd, or to take a part
and follow the youth and learn their
part. Rehearsal continues for youth
until 2pm.

December 16th ~ Christmas Pageant
Sunday during both our worship
services. Youth arrive at 7:30am.

2019 Faith Formation Offering

Spectrum Youth & Family Services

Current Total: **\$538.82** (as of 11/17)

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY (5th-12th Grade)

FCCEJ Confirmation Class

Thursdays @ 7:30-9pm @ Marvin Lounge

Confirmation is an intentional time in a person's life, usually a young person, to learn more about Christianity, the Bible, faith, etc. During this time, they start to intentionally form what they believe and how they want to engage society. The confirmands attend other faith tradition's worship services, participate in community service projects, and participate in some capacity at church whether if it's through helping with faith formation, reading in worship, etc. It ends with confirmation Sunday when confirmands who want to join the church publicly do so. Anyone in 8th grade or above is welcome to join the Confirmation class. It is a one-year program. Confirmation class will take place most Thursdays, 7:30-9pm, between now and May 31st on Confirmation Sunday.

Junior Youth Calendar

Mark your calendars & join the FUN! These events are tailored for 5th-8th graders. The focus is on our faith, missions, and friendly games to boost fellowship.

High School Youth Group

See Pageant Rehearsal Dates for more details.

Donations

Meal donations and snacks for youth times are appreciated! Visit this link to list your contribution:

shorturl.at/tBEPZ



Rehearsal Schedule for JY & HS Youth

November 24th ~ 5 to 7pm

December 1st ~ 5 to 7pm

December 8th ~ 11:30 to 2pm

*December 14th ~ TBA (between
1pm and 6pm)*

*December 15th ~ Pageant Sunday @
both services.*

Pageant Rehearsal Helpers

If you enjoy the pageant here at First our youth could use your help. Starting on November 24th 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.

National Youth Event *July 20-26, 2020*

Calling all youth ages 12-20 by July. Travel with Pastor Josh & Laurie to Purdue University. Four (4) days of worship, music & service project. We need at least 5 youth to make trip happen. Sign up by December 1st with Pastor Josh or Laurie.

<http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>

Cost is \$250 per youth
Fundraising Event in early 2020.

@ the Lake UCC Camp at Rock Point

For those going into 5th - 8th grade in the fall of 2020. ***Sunday, July 26 at 2pm to Friday, July 31st at 4pm.***

Recruiting now for counselors, lifeguards, CIT's and a nurse.

***The craft Fest committee would like to thank
the following volunteers and donors
who assisted with the success of the Silent Auction:***

Volunteers

Alison Wermer
Amanda Palmer
April Field
Carolyn Toof
Cathy Shearer
Chris Dewey
Gary Hartmann
Gordon and Lauren
Starkey
Jen Dooley
Jess Wileski
Jim Glatz
Kaki McGeary
Laura Marthaler
Liday Sievers
Marianne Carlson
Maureen Evans
Maureen Mckenzie
Muriel Nutting
Nancy Milne
Peter Schmalz
Phyllis Willey
Wendy Wark

Donors

Advanced Auto Parts
Ann Gray
Arnd Sieveas
AutoZone
Bagel Market
Bouchard-Pierce Appliances
Bushey Auto
Carol Daigle
Central Beverage
Clean & Clear Auto Detail
Dave and Marie Johnson
Dave Whitcomb's Service
Center
Elizabeth Scott
Essex Cinemas
Essex Equipment Rental
Essex Family Dental
Essex Family Fun &
Entertainment Center
Finest Image
Fit2Excel
Fleet Feet
Gadue's Dry Cleaning
Grand Buffet
Green Mountain Harley
Davidson
Jan Hopper
Jazzercise Williston
Jon Boyd
Jon's Darkroom & Frameshop
Judy Larrabee Pomainville
Judy Roy
Maplehurst Florist

Donors (Cont'd)

Mary Gratton
Maureen McKenzie
McDonalds
MetroRock Vermont
Northfield Savings Bank
Pam Blake
Park Place Tavern
Penny Williams
People's United Bank
Peter Scmaltz & Christine
Catterton
Phyllis Willey
Price Chopper
Purple Sage Salon
Red Clover Salon
Robert Vincent
Rocky's NY Pizza & Ice Cream
Sam's Scoop Shop
Sue Conti
Sue Wood
Sweet Clover Market
Terri Livak
The Edge Total Health Network
The Links at Lang Farm
Tom James
Turn Style Salon
TwinCraft
UVM Athletics

TODAY

Revised Music Director Position!

The Warren United Church, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, is seeking a part time, paid Music Director/pianist to prepare and lead music during worship and special services and lead a small, but experienced choir. Bring your musical skills to this enthusiastic congregation in an acoustically rich sanctuary. Extensive music library available. Directing a choir on Sunday during rehearsals and worship a plus. Knowledge of diverse church music genres preferred. Hours and pay negotiable. Please respond to: Rev. Erin Reardon: esr1250@hotmail.com

The Giving Tree is here!

Perhaps you noticed the Christmas tree that is set up in the narthex. It holds tags for approximately 55 children in Essex Junction, Essex Town and Westford. The tags identify a gift for a child and for each child there are three tags. Two of the tags ask for gifts of clothing that the child needs and the third tag asks for a book, game, toy or gift card for the child. There will be a group of tags with red ribbons that combine all three gift tags for one child, as requested by several people in the congregation. All of the other tags have white, green or blue ribbons. Please consider taking a tag or two to bring a smile and some Christmas cheer to a local youngster. If you do take a tag(s), be sure to sign your name on the sheet by the tree identifying the tag number(s) that you have taken. Wrapped or bagged gifts, with the tags securely attached, need to be returned to the church no later than Dec. 12. We will be distributing the gifts on Dec. 18. Families that we help have expressed how much they appreciate the gifts we give their children and the joy that abounds on Christmas Day.



Advent Decorating Event

Join us following 2nd service. Nativity set craft. Make the next one in the set. Sign up with Laurie. lchipman@fcej.org Decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas season. Lunch time snacks provided. Many hands make light work.

*Many hands
make light work*



Adult Mission

Trip to Puerto Rico! Anyone 18 or older is welcome. PR needs our helps with repairing cement roofs. We'd work five days, two days for travel, and one for Sunday worship at a local church. Looking to do this over the course of one week. Potential dates are April 18th-25th; or April 25th-May 2nd. Cost will be \$800-850 per person.

Talk to Josh for more information.

REQUEST TO CHURCHES



United Church of Christ

The Disaster Response Committee of the Vermont Conference was created to be a part of the recovery process following disasters. A significant role for local churches is that of creating lists of volunteers from among members. The volunteers would be called upon to provide clean up to homes and land; to make meals for families without electricity. Perhaps also, to babysit children while parents deal with re-organizing their lives and homes.

Recently, following the torrential rain and high winds, a number of homes in Franklin and Lamoille County were damaged and/or basements flooded. The Williston UCC basement was also flooded. The response by the State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) has been to seek assistance from the Religious Community. It has been slow in coming because we do not have that volunteer base in place. Any who would like to be on a volunteer list are welcome. Please send Rick Cochran, the coordinator an e-mail at vtvoadpresident@gmail.com or to vtcarrs@gmail.com. Or call Adrienne at 391-7777

Meanwhile, one of our association churches is in need. Can you folks help? Paul Eyer needs us.

We Committee members, Barbara Purinton, Peter Plagge and myself are happy to assist churches in creating the lists and also in recruiting new members for our committee.

We are also developing a working relationship with the Episcopal Diocese Disaster Response Committee.

Adrienne Carr
802 391 7777
802 863 6184

THIS WEEK

Yoga @ First

**** CANCELED Monday, 11/25 ****

**** RETURNS Monday, 12/2 ****

(Typically meets Mondays, 5:30pm-6:45pm)

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

Sermon Talkback Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 8:30-10am

Gather with us in the Marvin Lounge for coffee, baked goods, and a lively discussion of the sermon delivered on Sunday, and much more! Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!

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!**

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

37 Main Street in Essex Junction

Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm; Thursdays 4pm-8pm; 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm. Phone : 879-6552.

News: The shop will now be open every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. A Big Thanks to our volunteers for making this happen. Spread the word to your family, co-workers, friends and neighbors. The Shop has been receiving many requests for more men's

clothes. Please think about the Thrift Shop when cleaning out your closets. and volunteers needed now for Thursday shifts at 4pm-6pm and 6pm-8pm. Please, contact Elaine Raymond @ **879-7350** or ebraymond@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Searchers



FCCEJ Staff Offices Closed

Thursday & Friday

November 28th & 29th

In Observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Offices reopen on *Monday, December 2nd.*



SAVE THE D@TE!

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Thursday, December 5th @ 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.

1st Annual Holiday

Pet Remembrance Service

Sunday, December 8th @ 4pm

Our animal friends are integral members of our families and teach us about love, loyalty and compassion. They ease our anxieties, draw us into loving relationships and are always there for us when we need a soothing purr or exuberant home welcome. John Workman at A.W Rich Funeral Home approached the church last month to see if we would like to co-sponsor a Pet Remembrance Service and we wholeheartedly agreed. So on Sunday December 8th at 4:00 p.m. we will gather to remember our pets who have died. There will be music, scripture a brief message and a reception. John has also created a way to receive a Christmas Ornament with your pet's picture in it to bring home; simply send him a picture via the computer to service@awrfh.com and there will be an ornament for you to retrieve at the service.

Heavenly Food Pantry

Thursday, December 9th @ 5:30-7:30pm

The Pantry would appreciate these donations: ***spaghetti sauce, cereal, and chicken noodle soup, and one-dozen egg cartons.*** Also, we have several volunteering opportunities! See our church's newsletter for more details; or contact Val Gabert directly @ val.gabert@gmail.com.

Hannaford Cards

Sunday, December 1st

Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) OR purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments. Next reload is Sunday, December 16h.



Essex Eats Out

Friday, December 6th @ 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. Visit essexeatsout.org for more details.

Saturday Worship

Saturday, December 7th @ 4:30pm

Our alternative Saturday afternoon worship service continues on December 7th. We gather in Fellowship Hall at 4:30 and discuss the scripture and figure out how it applies to our lives. We pray for each other and light candles for those we mention. Then we have a time of fellowship and or communion with each other as we break bread AND enjoy some goodies to eat. We would love to have you come join us.

Capital Campaign Update
By Kaki McGeary

COMING SOON: The Sanctuary Restoration Project!

Our historic windows are in the process of being put back - hooray! The big Sanctuary Restoration Project will begin January 1. As we shared before, the plaster ceiling must be totally removed and replaced. This work will require temporary scaffolding and we will not be able to use the sanctuary during this time. The entire project should take about 2 months, assuming no major hiccups. The ceiling work will be done first and then it must cure for several weeks, during which time the walls will be patched. Once that is done, painting can begin!



Worship services will be held in Fellowship Hall starting on December 29.

Our goal is to be back in the sanctuary **BEFORE PALM SUNDAY**, if not before. Our staff and several committees are working on plans to make this temporary move as seamless and comfortable as possible. We ask for prayers that we move through this time of transition and mess with patience, kindness, grace and humor, and that this experience might draw us closer together as one body of Christ. We appreciate your flexibility and patience!

Lighting Update - We are working with the electrician to install parking lot, sign and steeple lights as soon as possible. Federal grant funds will pay for the parking lot fixtures.

Pledge Payments...Your continued pledge payments are vital to our efforts! We have budgeted for bridge loan financing. While we have not needed it yet, our cash balance is getting low and we will likely need to secure a bridge loan for the Sanctuary Restoration. As always, early pledge payments are welcome to help minimize bridge loan interest.

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.

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 Sue Wood [879-6552] suewood@myfairpoint.net

Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]

mission
M O M E N T S
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

November 24, 2019

Reign of Christ

Together in Christ

Colossians 1:11-20

Thanksgiving Sunday

United Black Christians Anniversary

A Prayer for Reign of Christ Sunday

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a park bench on a drafty winter afternoon, whose only occupant is curled up asleep under a pile of paper and blankets. It is You resting there, trying to find a few hours of rest before You are pushed out, told to move on.

Your reign is a home,
where all gather in warmth.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like an uncomfortable plastic chair, pulled close to a hospital bed. The room is quiet except for the hushed sounds of breathing and the steady pulse of machinery. Your hand is the one holding the hand of the sleeping patient.

Your reign is a temple of healing,
where all find comfort.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a scratched and graffitied desk in an impoverished schoolhouse. The class is packed with too many students and too few resources. And yet there You are, crowded into the back row, raising Your hand to ask yet another question no one can answer.

Your reign is a classroom for justice,
where all learn that the last will be first.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a worn and polished pew on a Sunday morning. It seems like there's plenty of room, but the unspoken rules that govern who-sits-where are as strict as any commandment. And there you are, plunking yourself down right in the middle, as if there are no rules at all.

Your reign is a sanctuary of hospitality,
where all experience extravagant welcome.

We want to put you on a different kind of throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

We want your throne to feel plush, to look shiny, to express might and strength. Instead,

You! Ruler of the Earth and the Heavens rest on a park bench.

You! The King of Majesty recline in a hospital room.

You! Messiah squirm in our country's underserved classrooms.

You! The Savior sit right here, right now, right beside me.

Where else will I see you, If only I look? Amen.

**November 25, 2019 -
December 1, 2019**

FCCEJ WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

December 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				

Monday, November 25

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm **Food Pantry Stocking** (Fellowship Hall & Gym) ☰
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm **Group Victory** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm **Finance Committee** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **BSA Troop 624** (Third Floor) - Douglas Ovitt ☰

Tuesday, November 26

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

Wednesday, November 27

- 11:30am - 1:30pm **Religio-Spiritual Leaders' Lunch** (Marvin Lounge)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 2:00pm - 4:00pm **Crafty Time Out** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 6:30pm - 8:15pm **Handbell Choir** (Sanctuary) ☰
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Thursday, November 28

- 12:00am **HOLIDAY -- FCCEJ Offices Closed** →
- Music@First: NO REHEARSAL**
- 10:00am - 9:00pm **Larsen Family Thanksgiving Dinner** (Fellowship & Kitchen)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm **Easterseals** (Third Floor) ☰
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm **Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge) ☰

Friday, November 29

- ← 12:00am **HOLIDAY -- FCCEJ Offices Closed**
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Saturday, November 30

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

Sunday, December 1

- 8:30am - 9:30am **Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ☰
- 10:15am - 11:30am **Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ☰
- 11:30am - 12:30pm **Music Committee** (Choir Loft) ☰
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Sanctuary Choir, Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- 1:30pm - 2:00pm **Heavenly Harmony, Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

More Items...