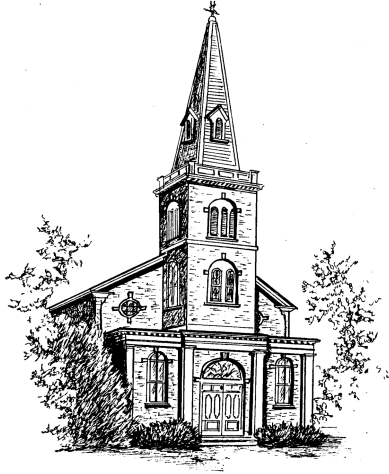


***The First Congregational Church  
of Essex Junction***  
*United Church of Christ*



***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@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)**

**Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)**

**Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC**



The Second Sunday After Epiphany

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 significant 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.*

Musical Introit

*I Will Call Upon The Lord*

Call to Worship

Leader: The Prophet Isaiah invited folks to live within the vision God had for the people of the world, a vision where peace, equality and kindness reign.

**People: The people perish without a vision. Visions, dreams and goals drive us into the future with purpose.**

Leader: Working to bring a vision into fruition requires hard work and sacrifice. Building anything of substance demands a model of servanthood.

**People: We all suffer now so that our lives, children, community and world will be better in the future.**

Leader: Come, let us re-dedicate ourselves to following God's vision for the world in Isaiah during Israel's captivity, Jesus' time and our own. Come, let us worship a God that demands that we create a society of peace and justice.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn

*When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

#572  
[insert, right]

# When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

572

*African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Exod. 3:7-12; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3*

*Unison*

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, Let my peo-ple go,  
2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo-ple go;  
3 No more in bond - age shall they toil, Let my peo-ple go,  
4 Oh, let us all from bond-age flee, Let my peo-ple go,

Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go.  
If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my peo-ple go."  
Nor spill their blood on E - gypt's soil, Let my peo-ple go.  
And let us all in Christ be free, Let my peo-ple go.

*Refrain*

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,

Tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

## Children's Message

*Our Nursery has a speaker for you to listen to the service and is open for children under 3 years. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> service's children's message, PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to follow Laurie for Hands-On Mission time. High School youth are welcome. We will hear about a mission and then do an activity or project that supports it. You are welcome to accompany your child(ren), help them get settled and stay or return to worship.*

**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 ("trespasses")

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.**

Musical Response

*Christ, Be Our Light*

[handout]

Anthem

*Hymn of Promise*

## Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic

Isaiah 49:1-7

[page 526; insert, right]

New Testament Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

[page 19; insert, right]

## \*Hymn of Preparation

*My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

#476

[insert, two pages ahead]

Sermon

*Our Struggle*

Rev. Mendes

## Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

**\*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.***

### *The Servant's Mission*

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
3 And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
4 But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and  
vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God."  
5 And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
6 he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my  
servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the  
earth."  
7 Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

### *The Question about Paying Taxes*

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.  
<sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.  
<sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"  
<sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?  
<sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.  
<sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"  
<sup>21</sup> They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."  
<sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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  
Thomas & Cathy Shearer  
In loving memory of Patricia Shearer*



# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?  
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

# We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -  
2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in  
3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -  
4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;  
hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;  
fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;  
through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.  
we'll go hand in hand some day.  
we are not a - fraid to - day.  
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.



**\*\*\* *IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT* \*\*\***

**WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ESSEX JUNCTION**

**January 26, 2020**

**11:20 A.M.**

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction,

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 11:20 A.M. to act upon the following business:

- Article I:** To hear and act upon the reports of the Church Officers, Committees and Recognized Groups of the Church.
- Article II:** To act and vote upon the proposed budget for 2020.
- Article III:** To elect all church officers and committees required by the by-laws of the Church and others as may be necessary.
- Article IV:** To review and vote on proposed changes to the Church by-laws.
- Article V:** To give authorization to the Finance Committee to borrow money and sign notes pledging the credit of the Church, if needed, to meet the current expenses of the Church.
- Article VI:** To transact any other business which may properly be brought before this Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Church,  
Alison Wermer, Church Clerk

**\*\*\* *IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT* \*\*\***

# FAITH FORMATION (PreK-8th Grade)

*Interested in Volunteering to help our children & youth?  
Contact Laurie Chipman, CED: 878-5745 ext. 103; or lchipman@fcej.org.*

## FAITH FORMATION CONVERSATIONS

**Our PreK – 2nd** will be talking about the magi & gifts we can give to Jesus.

**3rd – 8th** will be reminded of Jesus' birth, magi's gift and talking about Jesus' baptism.

*Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.— Colossians 4:6*



**January 26th** ~ One service  
@ 10am

**March 29th** ~ Pretzel Sunday

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR

- **January 26th** ~ Peer Group Time
- **February 2nd** ~ 1st Sundays  
Intergenerational Worship & Spiritual Friends. 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.
- **February 9th** ~ Peer Group Time
- **February 16th** ~ Hands On Mission  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor



High School Youth are encouraged to help during faith formation on Sunday mornings. Connect with Laurie for more information. Be a helper on Spiritual Friends, Peer Group or Hands-On Mission Sundays.



## FAITH FORMATION OFFERING TBD in February

**2019 Grand Total** — \$692.82  
*...for Spectrum Youth & Family Services*

**We will vote soon for Faith Formation's 2020 charity.** 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.

# YOUTH MINISTRY (5th-12th Grade)

## FCCEJ CONFIRMATION CLASS

**Thursdays @ 7:30-9pm**

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 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

**5th - 8th graders**

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

*Meal donations and snacks for youth times are appreciated!*

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

- ◆ **January 19th & 26th** ~ presales for Super Bowl Subs before and after services
- ◆ **February 2nd**~ Super Bowl Sub Sunday making during both services ~ orders picked up.
  - ◆ Arrive Sunday at 8:30am
- ◆ **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** ~ JY time 11:30-1:30pm

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN

**Friday, January 24th @ 6pm—Saturday, January 25th @ 9am**

All students are welcome to come for as long as they can stay. We'll eat food, play games, watch a movie, and have lights out around midnight/1 am, and have breakfast in the morning. It's always a blast to be "locked in" the church. Invite your friends, the more the *merrier!*

**@ the Lake UCC Camp  
at Rock Point:**

**Sunday, July 26 at 2pm to Friday, July 31st at 4pm**

**For those going into 5th – 8th grade in the fall of 2020. Mark your calendars and sign up to go to the really fun week of camp!**

**Previous campers** ~ Erik Frivoll & Izzy Owens

Vermont Outdoor Ministry Team is now recruiting counselors, life-guards, CIT's and a nurse. Interested? See Laurie. Leadership arrives on July 25th at 4pm and departs by 5pm on the 31st.

## 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. We are thrilled to go to NYE for this once in four-year extravaganza! Dee Jay Doc Harris and the Refresh Collective will be there. The Guardians of Taos will speak about nonviolence and protecting our sacred water. You can still sign up to attend.

Visit <http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/> for details.  
Cost is \$250 per youth. Fundraising Event in early 2020.

**Deadline to sign up for this fun trip is January 5th.**

**Deposit due February 1st.**

**Growing  
Together  
in Faith**

# MINISTRY @ FIRST

## USHERS/GREETERS

*1st Service:* Sue & Dennis Conti

*2nd Service:* (None Registered)

Interested in ushering/greeting? Register by visiting this link:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4facae2daafe3-ushergreeter>



## PRAYER MINISTRY

Marion Schneider

Tom Gibbs

Jeff Noel

Richard Ansell

George Jackson  
(Linda Jackson's husband)

Lester Nutting

Robert & Claire Deal

Barb Blanchett

John A & Family

Rose Johnson (Doug Ovitt's mother)

Rev. Fred

The Lavallee Family

Rev. Patricia

Russ Dettenrieder

*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](mailto:welcome@fcej.org). Additionally, prayer requests will be edited regularly. If you find an unintended error or omission, then please, contact the Church office.*

## COAT HANGERS/RACKS

We have several areas you can hang your coat! **Entering on Church Street?** Stop by Pastor Mark's office and use this coat closet. You probably have noticed our main coat rack off in the Foyer as you enter from the main parking lot. If you pass this one by there is one by the glass doors as you enter the front door of the church. After you walk up the stairs to the Sanctuary there is still another coat closet down the side hall to your right, just before walking into worship.



## PRAYER SHAWLS

*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.



## FLOWER CHART



The 2020 Flower Chart is posted adjacent to the *Mission: Possible* board in the hallway between the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Your contribution allows you to dedicate a beautiful bouquet in memory of a special person or important life event while bolstering the Church's Flower Fund. Please, write your request on the chart as soon as you are able. We like to give the florists ample time to artistically convey your sentiments.

# TODAY @ FIRST

## JUNIOR YOUTH OVERNIGHT

*Friday-Saturday, January 17th-18th*



Our JOY group (Just Older Youth – anyone 55 and older) is invited to join the fun Friday night from 6-8pm for pizza & SCAT. Please RSVP to Laurie

lchipman@fccej.org

## SUPER BOWL SUB SUNDAY

*Sunday, February 2nd*

Place your order TODAY and support our youth programs!



\$10 for a whole.

\$6 for a half.

Includes chips, cookie, clementine.

## 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.)

## CHURCH BYLAWS & ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT

*Between 1st & 2nd Service*

Copies of the pending Bylaws updates with rationale are available for members. Please, participate if you are a member as this process is an integral component of our beautiful institution. Additionally, copies of the Warrant are posted throughout the church on orange paper; and there is a copy in this bulletin following the Order of Worship (page 8.)

**Love Baskets** made from recycled t-shirts by our Church's children & youth are available in our Marvin Lounge. Bring them to friends & family who are ill or otherwise unable to attend church.



## 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 **Laura Marthaler** (laura.marthaler@gmail.com).



## ANNUAL CABIN FEVER CALCUTTA

*March 7, 2020*

**Tickets on Sale Now!**

Tickets for the Annual Cabin Fever Calcutta to benefit the Jamaica Mission Program are on sale now. Tickets purchased by January 15<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a drawing for \$100. To purchase tickets, see us at the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, contact Sharon Dettenrieder at [dettenriedes@hartwick.edu](mailto:dettenriedes@hartwick.edu), mail your check to the church, or put your check in the Sunday offering. Please make checks payable to FCCEJ and include your ball # (if assigned) as well as "Calcutta" in the memo line on your check. Also, let us know how many people will be attending. Tickets cost \$125 and include dinner for two. Additional dinners may be purchased for \$20 each. Hope you'll join us for this fun event!



## BUDGET REVIEW

*After 1st & 2nd  
Worship Service*





# TODAY @ FIRST (cont'd)

## Urgent Need for Meals on Wheels Volunteers in Chittenden County



Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a meal. The moment you knock on that door, you make a connection. The friendly visit, safety check and nutritious meal are a lifeline to many. We need your help; Age Well is currently in need of volunteers in Burlington, South Burlington and surrounding towns. Time commitment is based on your availability, deliver once a week or once a month - whatever works best for your schedule (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Laura Need, Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator at lneed@agewellvt.org, 802-662-5254 or visit

<https://www.agewellvt.org/>

*Support Meals on Wheels, deliver a meal and affect a life!*



## Essex Rotary to Honor Val Gabert

*\*\*\* Dinner Tickets Now Available \*\*\**

*Wednesday, February 12th @ The Essex*

The Essex Rotary Club will honor Val Gabert with its coveted "Service above Self" award. Val will be recognized for her wonderful work with the Heavenly Food Pantry. She started as a volunteer ten years ago and for the past eight years she has been its coordinator. Our own Food Pantry serves over 800 families representing 2500 individuals per year.

The award will be presented at the annual Essex Rotary Club Service above Self dinner to be held at The Essex on February 12. There will be a social hour beginning at 5:30pm followed by the dinner and award presentations.

It would be wonderful for Val's church family to surround her with love and congratulations at the dinner. All are welcome to attend the dinner. Please contact **Dave Johnson** at mdjkiln@gmail.com or 879-8863 before February 5 to purchase dinner tickets.



# TODAY @ FIRST (cont'd)

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Kaki McGeary

**UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION**

**The Sanctuary Restoration Project has begun! Scaffolding is up and work to replace our plaster ceiling will begin soon.** As we shared before, our plaster ceiling must be totally removed and replaced. 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 while the sanctuary is closed for restoration** (Sunday Dec. 29 through Palm Sunday). We look forward to worshipping with you in our new temporary space while construction is underway. Thank you for your patience and flexibility!

\*\*\*\*\*

Let there be (energy-efficient) light! New LED parking lot light fixtures (and new LED lights for the signs and steeple) are finally being installed! Federal security grant funds will pay for the new parking lot fixtures. Campaign funds will pay for the new sign and steeple lights.

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 need to secure a bridge loan in order to complete the Sanctuary Restoration. As always, early pledge payments are welcome to minimize interest expenses.



**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.

# THIS WEEK @ FIRST

**FCCEJ Offices  
Closed for Holiday  
Monday, January 20th  
MLK Jr. Day**



**Dessert & Discussion with the Three  
Junction Clergy  
Wednesday, January 22nd @ 7-8:30pm  
Holy Family Fellowship Hall**

Have you ever wondered what Catholics think about the afterlife or homosexuality? Or have you ever wanted to know how Episcopalians walk the tight rope between Catholic like practices in worship and the Protestant's or how our shared story grounded in the English Reformation departed from one another? How do Father Charlie of Holy Family, Priest Kim Hardy and Rev. Mendes differ in how they spend their days and appropriate the Christian faith into their particular tradition? Each clergy will have some opening statements and then most of the time will be saved for questions and answers. So come, bring a friend and your toughest questions.

**Noontime Book Group  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each Month)  
Monday, January 20th @ 11:30am**

The Noontime Book Group will meet in the Marvin Lounge. Linda Lou Parker will lead the discussion of our first book of the New Year which is *The Secret Wife of Aaron Burr* by Susan Holloway Scott. It is the story of Mary Emmons, who was sold into slavery in India as a child, brought to America during war torn times and eventually became a servant to the woman who would become Aaron Burr's wife. The story is historical fiction, well researched and the characters right out of the American revolutionary time. It's described as the passionate, tangled story of one of the complex, but brilliant founders of our country and the women who stood beside them. Bring your lunch and come enjoy an hour or so of great conversation and friendship.

**Coffee Clatter Fridays  
Fridays @ 8-9am**

This may seem like a foolish question, but if you like to talk and drink coffee, then come down to Martone's for open conversation. Rev. Mark and/or Josh are there every week and talk about everything from camping to politics; from deep theological questions to silly jokes; from village life to great vacation spots; from business deals to the best restaurants in town. We laugh, get serious and support each other. **Everyone is invited!**

**Yoga @ First  
Mondays, 5:30pm-6:45pm**

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

**Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop  
37 Main Street in Essex Junction**

**\*\*\* January Sale: All men and women outerwear, jackets and boots are only \$3.00!!! \*\*\***

**Hours:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm; Thursdays 4pm-8pm; and **Saturdays, 9am-1pm!** The shop will be closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 7<sup>th</sup> for the Holiday Season.

**Phone:** 879-6552.

**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!

**News:** We are pleased to be giving back to the community with \$1200.00 donations to each of the following organizations: Essex Senior Center, Essex Community Justice Center, Katie Currier Scholarship Fund, Steps to End Domestic Violence, COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter), Age Well Meals on Wheels and JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Project).

**Questions?** Contact Elaine Raymond @ 879-7350 or [ebraymond@gmail.com](mailto:ebraymond@gmail.com).



# SAVE THE D@TE!

## Annual Meeting Sunday:

**Ask the Pastor**  
**Sunday, January 26th**  
**Worship @ 10am**  
**Meeting @ 11:20am**

The power and authority of the First Congregational Church is grounded in its people when they officially meet each year. In 2020, that occurs on Sunday January 26th and we want as many people present as possible for there are some significant issues to be determined by the membership. Due to the importance of our form of church governance, we only have one worship service when we schedule the Annual Meeting so that everyone can stay and attend the meeting without having to make two trips. So, on Sunday January 26th at 10 a.m., we will worship as one body and then after worship move right into our Annual Meeting. As a way for the congregation to check in with their clergy, Annual Meeting Sunday is also the day when we schedule the “Ask the Pastor Sunday” so come prepared with some good questions to ask Reverends Mendes and Simon.

## Hannaford Cards

**Sunday, February 2nd**



Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) **OR** purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments. **FCCEJ** receives \$5 for every \$100

worth of cards it sells.

## JOY (Just Older Youth)

**Thursday, February 6th @ 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.

## High School Youth Lock-In

**Friday, January 24th @ 6pm—**  
**Saturday, January 25th @ 9am**

All students are welcome to come for as long as they can stay. We'll eat food, play games, watch a movie, and have lights out around midnight/1 am, and have breakfast in the morning. It's always a blast to be “locked in” the church. Invite your friends, the more the *merrier!*

*[Flip to the “Youth Ministry” section of this bulletin to learn about more youth activities...]*

## Heavenly Food Pantry

**Thursday, January 27th @ 2-6pm**

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](mailto:val.gabert@gmail.com).

## Saturday Worship

**Saturday, February 1st @ 4:30pm**  
**\* Moved to Marvin Lounge!\***

Our alternative Saturday afternoon worship service continues. Our Saturday services are on the first Saturday of each month. They will continue while the sanctuary is being worked on and the services have moved down into Fellowship Hall. Because of logistical reasons, we will hold the service in the **MARVIN LOUNGE**. Everything else will be the same, just the location.

## Essex Eats Out

**Friday, February 7th @ 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](http://essexeatsout.org) for more details. Additionally, you may visit our website for menus of meals hosted at FCCEJ:

[http://www.fccej.org/v5/  
category/essex-eats-out/](http://www.fccej.org/v5/category/essex-eats-out/)



*Essex Eats Out!*

# 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](mailto:suewood@myfairpoint.net)  
**Heavenly Food Pantry Contact:** Valerie Gabert [879-0109]

# DONATE TO OUR CHURCH



**Our Church is a thriving community with great activity and expanding programs.** We've seen growth in our youth ministry. This year we had 16 youth participate in the Christmas Pageant, over 50 children and youth learn about God's love for them at our Vacation Bible Camp, have seen our Junior Youth program increase to 24 overall youth, and we have 9 youth in confirmation. Last year, we helped send 16 young people and adults to Jamaica to be the hands of Christ. Our Sermon Talk back group had 27 people coming last week and continues to draw over 20 people each week. The Joy Group filled the Marvin Lounge as they listened to Bob Vincent and Ann Gray talk church history. Friday morning Coffee Clatter get upwards of ten people many weeks. Our many musical groups continue to produce magnificent music and inspire us all on a weekly basis. We sponsored more kids through our Christmas Giving Tree program than ever before and continue to be a leader in the community in feeding people. **And in 2020, through the Capital Campaign projects, we're going to have a new ceiling and fresh coat of paint to revitalize our beautiful Sanctuary.**

Because so many of our programs are successful, committees asked for more financial resources to help sustain our many vibrant ministries. We need extra help making sure our budget is balanced and our ministries maintained. **Please consider revising your 2020 pledge by \$2-7 per week to help sustain our vibrant ministries and our ability to spread the love of God in tangible ways.** As many of you know, I've had two surgeries this year and multiple medical bills. I originally was going to lower my pledge. After Mark last week talked about how much a difference an additional \$2-7 per week to my pledge would mean to the ministry of our church and the lives of our members and visitors, I increased my pledge by \$2 per week.

*If you are able to do so, please contact Pat Seaver at [Vtri2@aol.com](mailto:Vtri2@aol.com) or find the pledge forms at church to increase your pledge. If you're like me and do most of your finances online, you can donate via PayPal at <http://www.fccej.org/v5/donate-now/> or scan this QR Code (right) using your phone.*



## Monday, January 20

**HOLIDAY -- FCCEJ Offices Closed**

- 11:30am - 1:30pm Noontone Book Group** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking** (Fellowship Hall & Gym) 🗓️
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga @ First** (2nd Floor Programming Room) 🗓️
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 624** (3rd Floor Youth Room) 🗓️

## Tuesday, January 21

- 8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm CE Meeting** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Missions Committee** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️

## Wednesday, January 22

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm FCCEJ Staff Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- 2:00pm - 4:00pm Crafty Time Out** (2nd Floor Programming) 🗓️
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm Handbells Choir Rehearsal** (Gymnasium) 🗓️
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️

## Thursday, January 23

- 8:30am - 6:30pm Food Pantry** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals** (3rd Floor Youth Room) 🗓️
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Music@First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee** (Marvin Lounge)
- 7:15pm - 8:30pm Finally@First** (Gymnasium)
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm Confirmation** (3rd Floor) 🗓️
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 8:30pm - 9:30pm Men @ First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️

## Friday, January 24

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 6:00pm High School Youth Lock-In** (Church-Wide) →
- 7:30pm - 10:30pm Grange** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️

## Saturday, January 25

- 9:00am High School Youth Lock-In** (Church-Wide)
- 9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship**
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 1:30pm - 5:00pm Card Class** (Marvin Lounge)
- 2:00pm - 4:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band** (3rd Floor)

**WEEKLY  
CHURCH  
CALENDAR**

## Sunday, January 26

- 10:00am - 11:15am Annual Meeting Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:20am - 2:00pm Annual Meeting Session** (Fellowship Hall)
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm Venture Crew** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️