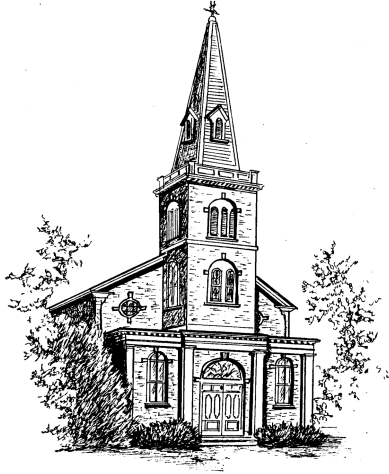


***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***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

Website: www.fccej.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



WORSHIP @ 1ST CONGO

We have two worship services every Sunday morning at 1st Congo.
We have an Alternative Service on 1st Saturday of every month.

The First Service at 8:30 a.m.

- A Bit More Traditional
- Organ and Piano Music
- Traditional Sanctuary Choir
- A Bit More Peace and Quiet
- Professional Nursery Care [birth to age 3]
- A Time of Fellowship & Food Follows

The Second Service at 10:15 a.m.

- A Bit Less Traditional
- The Finally @ First Band Helps Lead Music
- Some Organ and Piano Music
- Faith Formation During Worship [ages 4 & up]
- Professional Nursery Care [birth to age 3]
- A Bit More Energetic and Lively
- A Time for Fellowship and Food Follows

The Saturday Service at 4:30 p.m.

- Informal and Participatory
- Worship NOT in Sanctuary but in Marvin Lounge
- Communion: Sacramental and Community
- Acoustic Guitar

NOTES

- ◆ Communion is on 1st Sunday of Month [all ages]
- ◆ Children / Families Welcome at all Services
- ◆ Everyone Really is Welcome

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
February 2, 2020

COMMUNION 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 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

In Remembrance of Me

Call to Worship

Leader: God made a promise to Abraham that he would have children as numerous as the stars.

People: We are all children of Abraham.

Leader: God made a promise to Moses that the great commandments would bring all people together as equals under the law.

People: God's laws still guide the nations of the earth.

Leader: Jesus came and promised us that God's extravagant love extends to every person on earth.

People: Jesus loves me, this I know.

Leader: From the beginning of time and the foundation of creation until today in this place, God has promised us Divine Presence and love. Come, let us soak these great gifts into our being.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

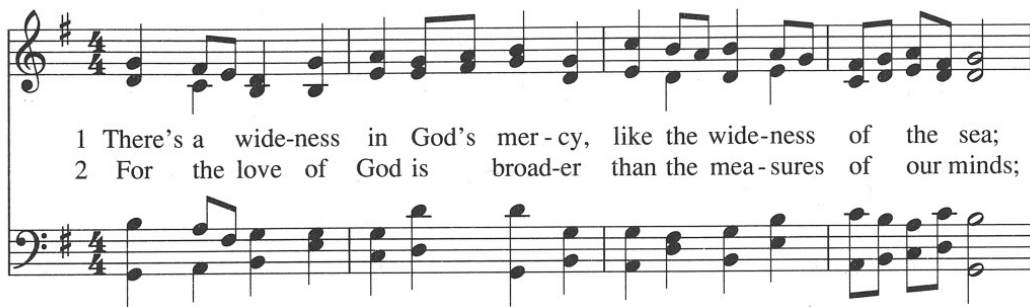
#23

[insert, flip to next page]

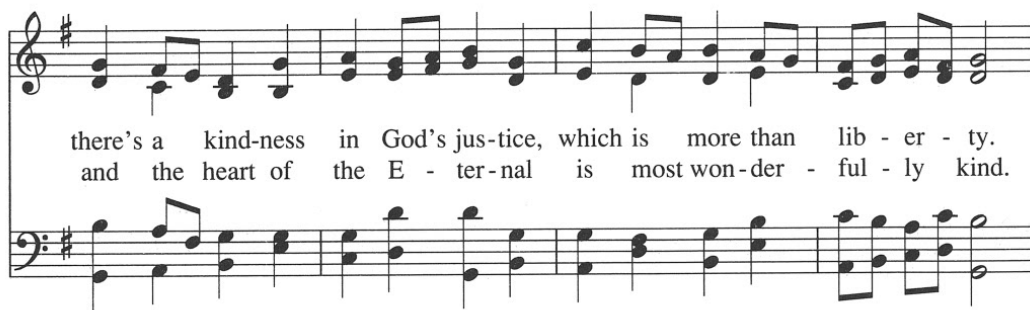
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

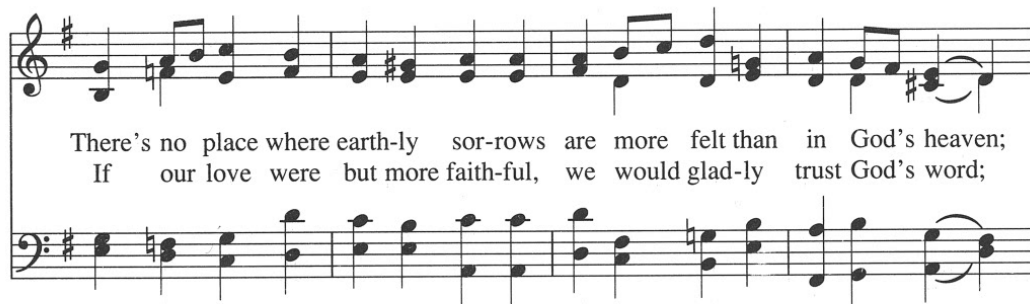
Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.



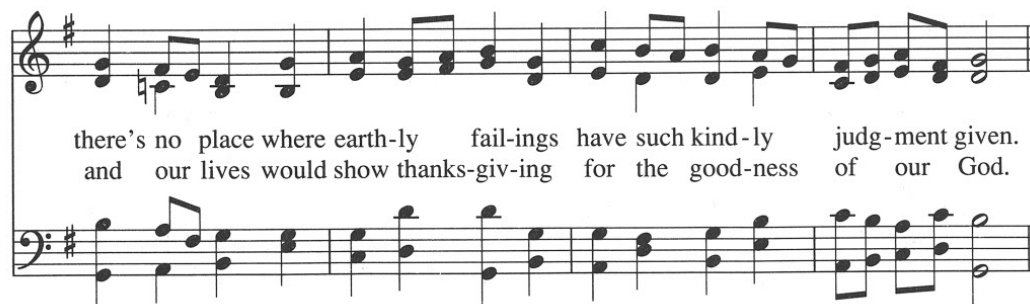
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Children's Message

Our Nursery has a speaker for you to listen to the service and is open for children under 3 years. The After the 2nd service's children's message, PreK – 2nd graders are invited for a time of Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends. You are welcome to accompany your child(ren), 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 ("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

Jesus, We Are Here

[insert, below]

Jesus We Are Here

Je - sus we are here; Je - sus, we are here;

The first system of musical notation is for the song 'Jesus We Are Here'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Je - sus we are here; Je - sus, we are here;' are written below the treble staff.

Je - sus, we are here; we are here for you wel - come Je - sus

The second system of musical notation continues the song. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Je - sus, we are here; we are here for you' are written below the treble staff. The word 'wel - come' is written above the treble staff, and 'Je - sus' is written below it. The system ends with a double bar line.

New Testament Scripture Lessons

Epistle I Corinthians 1:18-31

[page 127]

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

Gospel Matthew 5:1-14

[page 3]

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

Anthem

Table of Plenty

Reflections on the Beatitudes

A Different Law to Follow

During this time, Rev. Mark will introduce some of the most famous lines in the New Testament and then encourage the body to think and reflect aloud on their meaning for our lives today.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Everyone is invited forward to take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup, then return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, please let a Deacon know so that they can bring the elements to you. The bread is gluten free, the juice is non-alcoholic and Jesus clearly welcomes everyone to his movement, so come and partake of these life nurturing gifts.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Taste And See

***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.***

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
Carolyn Toof
In loving memory of Dick.*



Gal. 6:14

John Bowring, 1825

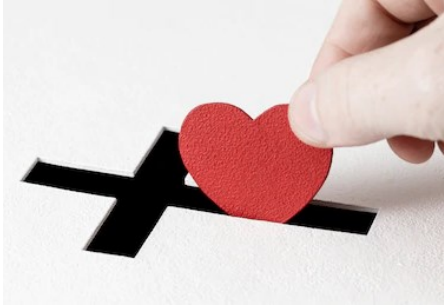
1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, From the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that
 o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers 'round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers 'round its head sub - lime.

DONATE TO OUR CHURCH

We have three ways that you can donate.



Powered by Scansler.com

amazon

smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

1) For cash and check donations, please contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com. We have regular offerings for aspects of our church's ministry and those envelopes are provided at worship. Current members can find the pledge forms at church to increase their pledge. Or, you can place your cash or check in a discrete envelope for our offering plate.

2) For PayPal and credit cards, you can donate via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to make a credit card payment:

Visit: <http://www.fccej.org/v5/donate-now/>

...or scan this QR Code (right) using your phone.

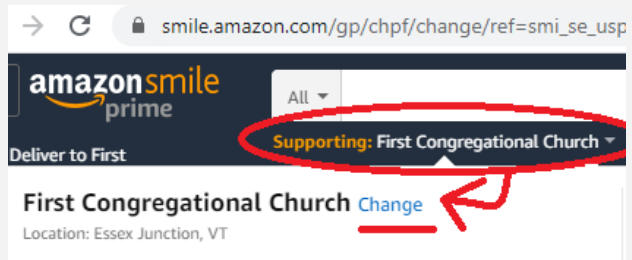
<<<<<<

Note: @ 3% Fee is applied to your PayPal contribution. Consider donating a little extra to help us cover this fee!

3) Shop at Amazon.com using Amazon Smile. We receive 0.5% of your purchases!

Visit: <http://smile.amazon.com>

To change your charity, click the drop-down menu near the search bar and then click the "change" link:



Note: AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

FAITH FORMATION (PreK-8th Grade)

Parents are always welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Laurie Chipman, CE Director: 878-5745 ext. 103; or lchipman@fcej.org.

FAITH FORMATION CONVERSATIONS

PreK – 2nd today with our Spiritual Friends will talk about being helpful, loving, kind, gentle, satisfied, humble, forgiving...the Beatitudes. They will hear the story of One by Kathryn Otoshi.

Conversations will continue through February on Jesus teaching us the BE...Attitudes.



Save
the
Date

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 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.

SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR

- **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 2nd floor



Vacation Bible Camp KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE

Quest for the King's Armor
Armor UP with Truth, Justice,
Peace, Faith & Salvation
August 10th – 14th @ 9am to
11:45am

All ages, families and friends are welcome to attend! (Use one registration sheet per family)

Group Ages:

- You & Me (toddlers accompanied by a parent/grandparent)
- Preschool (three & fours & potty trained)
- Kindergarten & First Grade (grade you are going into in the fall)
- Second & Third Grade
- Fourth & Fifth Grade



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 2020 TBD in February

Current Total: \$17.01 (as of 1/26/2020)

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.

2019 Grand Total — \$692.82

...for Spectrum Youth & Family Services

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 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

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>

- ◆ **February 2nd**~ Super Bowl Sub Sunday making during both services ~ orders picked up.
 - ◆ Arrive Sunday at 8:30am
- ◆ **February 2nd** ~ JY time 11:30-1:30pm
- ◆ **March 1st** ~ JY time ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm
 - ◆ Sunday morning ~ Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship

@ 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!

****Scholarship money available!****

Previous campers ~ Erik Frivoll & Izzy Owens
Vermont Outdoor Ministry Team is now recruiting counselors, lifeguards, 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.**



MINISTRY @ FIRST

USHERS/GREETERS

1st Service: (None Registered[as of 1/30/2020])

2nd Service: (None Registered[as of 1/30/2020])



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

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Marion Schneider

Tom Gibbs

Jeff Noel

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)

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

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.

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

HANNAFORD CARDS

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.



SUPERBOWL SUB

SUNDAY For those who ordered: don't forget to retrieve your sub!

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).

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.)

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.

LOST&FOUND basket is located on the coat rack shelf in our new Foyer entrance. We purge the contents every three months, so do please check! Additionally, we have many dishes and such in the Kitchen that are not Church property. Please, visit the Kitchen to retrieve your items.

ANNUAL CABIN FEVER CALCUTTA

March 7, 2020 @ 5pm-8:30pm:

Catamount Country Club

Tickets on Sale Now!

Tickets for the Annual Cabin Fever Calcutta to benefit the Jamaica Mission Program are on sale now. Tickets cost \$125 and include dinner for two and the chance to win the \$1000 grand prize as well as many great door prizes. There will also be the popular wine pull, raffles, and the Alumni team auction (bid on 2 hours of team time for your spring project). Additional dinners may be purchased for \$20 each. Hope you'll join us for this fun event!

To purchase tickets:

- Visit us at the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.
- Contact Sharon Dettenrieder at dettenriedes@hartwick.edu
- Mail your check to the church.
- Put your check in the Sunday offering.

Please make checks payable to FCCEJ and include "Calcutta," your email address and # attending in the memo line on your check.

TODAY @ FIRST (cont'd)

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

**** Volunteers Needed ****

August 10th – 14th

Volunteer – Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 12n

Recruiting for:

Mission Coordinator

Co -Music Leader

Group Leaders

Snack helpers

Station Assistants

Youth Helpers (6th grade and older)

Volunteer Behind the Scene:

Decorating assistants – help plan

Decorate/Projects - home or church

Decorate days ahead

For questions and more information ~ contact Laurie.

VB Camp Wish List – Coming soon!



DISMAS HOUSE

**** Volunteers Needed ****

Wednesday, April 22nd

We need a volunteer to make an entree for the dinner at Dismas House on *Wednesday, April 22nd*. For information, please contact the Church's coordinator for the Church's Dismas Mission:

Ed Steele @ (802) 871-5897;
or edwardmsteele@msn.com.

Thank you for your support.



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 NEWS

By Kaki McGeary



The Sanctuary Restoration Project is in full swing! The old plaster on the ceiling (and curved wall) has been removed and new plaster has been applied. While the plaster on the ceiling cures for 4 weeks (all of February), the walls in the sanctuary, narthex and kitchen/choir loft stairwell will be patched. The painters are also getting a head start by beginning to sand the pews and do other prep work on the trim. Check out our website and Facebook for pictures!

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!

Upcoming Campaign Projects: We are moving forward with plans to add new interior door locks on classrooms and offices, as well as plans for a new controlled-access security systems (including keyless locks on exterior doors). These improvements will be paid for with funds from our \$47,000 federal grant. The Church Street Entrance will also be updated with new, wider doors to accommodate the new technology. Campaign funds will be used for that portion of the project.

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.

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

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

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.

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!

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Thursday, February 6th @ Noon

If you are 55+ please consider joining our JOY (Just Older Youth) group. We strive to present programs that foster learning, fun or service. Janne Giles will lead a fun activity with a huge Vermont map. "Come see and interact with the biggest Vermont map you have ever seen (24 feet by 18 feet). Share some things you know about Vermont and/or learn some new, cool things about Vermont!" Come join us for this light-hearted and entertaining venture.

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!**

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 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/>

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

37 Main Street in Essex Junction

***** February Sale: All men and women sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves, nightwear are on sale. *****

Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm; Thursdays 4pm-8pm; and Saturdays, 9am-1pm

Phone: 879-6552.

News: Shop has a new section filled with fabric and patterns. Especially looking for donations of men's wear including shirts, heavy socks and sweaters.

About: Doing business at Heavenly Cents, whether making donations or purchasing goods, strengthens our connections with each other and is good for your wallet, the environment and our community. The Thrift shop accepts new and gently used clothing, jewelry, table linens, bedding and household items. Clothing and linens should be clean, free of stains and tears and household items should be safe, in good working condition and contain all pieces and parts.

Questions?

Contact Elaine Raymond @ 879-7350 or ebraymond@gmail.com.

SAVE THE D@TE!

The Renewal of Wedding Vows

Sunday, February 9th

Are you thrilled to still be married to the love of your life even after all these years? Is your spouse the most important person in your life and you rarely tell him/her? Are you looking for a special way to commemorate your anniversary? Well, have we got a treat for you! After each worship Service, there will be a service where you can renew your vows before God. We will renew vows immediately after the worship service. We will re-state our vows, listen to an appropriate scripture and then have the opportunity to embrace and or kiss your partner. We will seal the deal with a gift to commemorate the occasion. So be sure to come to either service on February 9th, the Sunday before Valentine's Day.

Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Karen Mendes

Sunday, February 16th

It is a unique situation to have our Senior Pastor's spouse be an ordained American Baptist Minister serving the First Baptist Church of Burlington. Over the years, Rev. Karen Mendes has blessed us by her preaching. In the last couple of years, she and our own Rev. Mark Mendes have exchanged pulpits so that when Rev. KAREN Mendes is here, Rev. MARK Mendes is preaching at the First Baptist Church. This will happen on February 16th at both services. You do NOT want to miss this. Rev. Karen is a great preacher and brings gifts beyond measure.

**FCCEJ
Offices
Closed for
Holiday
Monday,
February 17th**



Noontime Book Group

(3rd Monday of each Month)

Monday, February 17th @ 11:30am

The book for February is THE POSTMISTRESS by Sarah Blake. It is the story of two women. One is the postmistress in a small town, and the other is a radio broadcaster from Europe as the Nazis bomb London. The author looks at people caught in the tide of history, and at what we tell to each other and what we choose to keep to ourselves. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us for friendship and conversation as we explore this fascinating book and the ideas it makes us think about.

Heavenly Food Pantry

Monday, February 10th @ 5:30pm-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.

Women's Spirituality Group

Saturday, February 15th

Please, join us for a program that will help you through our long winter and give you incentive to develop an individual plan for staying healthy and active this year. Sue Wood will be presenting a program, "Expanding and Deepening Ones Self Care." She is designing a self-assessment tool we can use for discussion. Sue has taught health and Physical Education for many years at CVU so comes to us with her expertise in health and fitness. Consider joining us for this important program.

Outdoor Ministry Special Offering

Sunday, February 16th

A special offering will go to support our VT Outdoor Ministry week of UCC camping for those going into 5th – 8th grade held at the Episcopal site of Rock Point Camp in Burlington on the shores of Lake Champlain. Campers have come from all around ...VT, NH, CO, ME & MA. Volunteers keep this program alive by signing up to be a dean, a counselor, or a daytime volunteer. Your giving will help support the program by paying for a nurse, two lifeguards, volunteers housing and meals at Rock Point as well as scholarship money for Vermont campers. Please give and help children and youth spend a week in God's creation ... sharing, connecting, making friends, learning and growing in faith. Your support helps keep this vibrant ministry alive, providing them with this opportunity to enrich their spiritual journey with relationships and experiences that can last a lifetime. The 2020 week of VTOM is called @ the Lake, July 26th – 31st, and is listed in the Horton Center NH camp brochure found on our OM bulletin board by Laurie's office or online at hortoncenter.org.

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: Maureen Evans [233-6127]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations:
Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Treasurer & Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]
Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]
Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]
Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]
Christian Education: Jenny Bourn [802-309-7441]
Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580] or Doug Olufsen [482-3064]
Deacons: Judy McCullen [878-9794]
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], Shannon McCullen [922-8792]
Trustees: Kaki McGearly [879-2062]
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]

**** Note: As of 1/30/2020, some committees have yet to vote on a committee chair. Thus, this list is apt to change again soon. ****

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

February 2, 2020
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
The Vision Beautiful
Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed is the family bankrupted by medical costs. Blessed is the elder who stands with a cardboard sign asking for money at the end of the on-ramp.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed is the one who has lost loved ones to preventable illness. Blessed is the one who grieves the loss of a job to retirement or restructure.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed is the one who flees the violence of war in one nation, only to experience the violence of detention in another. Blessed is the one who cannot speak for himself, whose only language is the anguish in his eyes.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed is the one who travels by three busses to find affordable groceries in her city. Blessed is the one whose kitchen is empty, but who can't find a food pantry in his rural area.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed is the one on social media who asks a genuine question rather than starts a fight. Blessed is the one who offers solace to the addict without demanding proof that she is worthy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed is the one who tells the truth, even when a lie would be easier. Blessed is the one who receives the truth with grace and curiosity.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed is the one who marches in the streets for peace in the world. Blessed is the one who sits on a prayer cushion for peace in their heart.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed is the one who is wrongfully accused and imprisoned. Blessed is the one who has served time, only to find himself barred from housing and work upon his release.

These blessings from Christ, known as the Beatitudes, continue to have resonance in our world today. Spend some time in prayerful consideration of the Beatitudes you have witnessed in your community.

February 3, 2020 - February 9, 2020

February 2020

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

March 2020

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, February 3

- 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, February 4

- 8:30am - 10:00am **Sermon Talk Back** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finance Committee** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Church Council** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️

Wednesday, February 5

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm **FCCEJ Staff Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm **BSA PLC** (3rd Floor Youth Room) 🗓️
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm **Handbells Choir Rehearsal** (Gymnasium) 🗓️
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️

Thursday, February 6

- 8:30am - 11:30am **Essex Art League** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 12:00pm - 2:00pm **JOY** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm **Easterseals** (3rd Floor Youth Room) 🗓️
- 3:30pm - 5:00pm **Food Pantry Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm **Music@First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm **Cub Scouts** (Gymnasium) 🗓️
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm **Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm **Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️

Friday, February 7

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 5:00pm - 8:00pm **Essex Eats Out Community Dinner** (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen) 🗓️

Saturday, February 8

- 9:00am - 11:00am **Nepali Community Worship** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 2:00pm - 4:00pm **St. Andrews Pipe Band** (3rd Floor Youth Room) 🗓️

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 9

- 8:30am - 9:45am **Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 10:15am - 11:30am **Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) 🗓️
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm **Venture Crew** (Marvin Lounge) 🗓️