

FEBRUARY 2020

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First Congregational Church
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
www.fccej.org



SPIRIT@FIRST

monthly newsletter

Your Pastor's Ponderings

"Everybody born comes from the Creator trailing wisps of glory. We come from the Creator with creativity. I think that each one of us is born with creativity."

- Maya Angelou

The Missions Committee just ended, and I have to say how impressed I am. Part of the discussion centered around their budget being cut drastically, so much so that there is little to no money in their yearly budget to support the many organizations that we have been supporting financially for decades. Organizations within our local, state and national communities that do incredible work to spread the good news of Christ's love to all people. Each committee is having just these types of discussions as Council has had to make some difficult decisions to get us to a balanced budget.

Going in to each of the committees with a bit of trepidation, I was worried that each would focus on the negative impact of their particular ministry instead of the possibility of joining with all the other

committees and members to work together in tightening our belts and coming up with ways to have some fun with less money....a tall order.

And tonight, the Missions Committee spent much of their time brainstorming of ways to continue to do Mission work on behalf of the church with less. They spoke about drawing speakers to the church to educate us of issues and happenings going on around us that fit under the auspices of mission. They spoke about doubling down on an advocacy sub-committee so that our church might expend their voice in our community around issues of justice and fairness. They thought of ways to inspire the church to consider their decision and look to the future so that we might move toward a day when our support for worthy causes and organizations might be reinstated. They were invigorated, focused and upbeat.....despite having just lost so much of their budget.

As I have read the minutes, attended meetings and spoken to members, the response has been the same. Okay, what should we do now considering the current tight budget! I think we can raise more money than we have and then brainstorming ideas for the next 45 minutes. Each group has been a little

discouraged but then without exception, they put on their thinking caps and dug deep for some really great, creative ideas. From the Finance Committee to the Church Council, from CE to Missions, from Deacon's to Essex Eats Out, from the Food Pantry to the staff.....everyone without exception is working to make our church continue to be strong, vibrant and healthy.

What is amazing are the ideas that are still being generated. Great work continues to be done with the Capital Campaign, but new ideas surface every week about ways to improve and make our building and grounds even better. Every committee and group, every discussion about the church, formal and informal has people sharing ideas and working together to try to get them to fruition.

Maya Angelou speaks about how that creativity as an innate gift from our God. God created the world and that creativity naturally manifests itself in every fiber of creation from the human body to animal adaptations to naturally correcting / healing ecosystems. There is nothing I love more than seeing your ideas pop during a brainstorming session and then following it up with months and sometimes years of organizational work as whatever the idea is embodied and placed into motion.

I know that some of you are a bit stressed by our financial worries. I am not. I am confident that God's creativity will guide us through. I have

faith in the God that is planted within your hearts and minds. I have faith in all of you and your dedication in making First Church a good place to be and to act in the name of the Divine for the sake of the world.

Blessed to be on this journey of discovery and adventure with all of you, I am

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Mark

Associate Pastor News

When I was in seminary, I dreamed **BIG**.

We're starting our second month in 2020. We just had our Annual Meeting where we elected new and returning members to lead our church council and our committees. We are in for a year of creativity, transformation, and restoration. Many of the new members of the committees have started attending their respective committee meetings already, ready to start their committee term on the ground running. We have started to digest the proposed budget and approved it as proposed or as amended. It's easy to look at the state of the country and the state of religion in America and retreat into complacency and not dreaming big. We need to dream again, and we need to dream BIG. When we dream BIG, we pour our hearts into our idea and make it come alive. We need to imagine BIG. Dreaming big does require participation from nearly every

member we already have. Many hands make light work. And we're not just dreaming, we're taking actions to make our dreams come alive. My big dream for this year is that we renew our Christian fellowship with each other and with the community around us. Here's the big part, I want to talk to anyone within a 10-mile radius and I want them to know what is happening at FCCEJ. I don't want to have to explain to them that we're the big red church. I just want them to know where we are when I say I'm from FCCEJ. I want us to engage with members of the church we haven't seen in a while, and I want us to be known as the church that welcomes everyone to worship on Sunday and celebrates their humanity, AND we're also the church that holds events where people are invited to share a meal with us, listen to music on our front lawn, and more. We're going to love each other more and spread God's love to the community around us. That's just my dream. I want you to dream BIG. If you have an idea, share it with us. If you want to take the lead, we'll help you. Let us dream BIG and let us take action.

February is an exciting month for me. I'm traveling to the Holy Land for the first time. I leave on Tuesday, Feb. 17th. The Free Masons and the Knight's Templar send fifty Christian pastors to the Holy Land every year, sending twenty-five at a time. I return Feb. 27th. I'm traveling there, not on vacation, but I'm using continuing education time. When I return, I will setup a time to present my

pilgrimage. Here is a brief timeline of my trip. I will try to post pictures on Facebook when I have the chance. We spend three days in northern Israel, where Nazareth is located. We'll see where Jesus completed most of his ministry, see where he preached the Sermon on the Mount. For next five days, we will stay in Jerusalem exploring the city and nearby religious sites. An interesting moment in the trip will be to walk the Via Dolorosa (The Way of Sorrow), believed to be the path Jesus walked on his way to crucifixion and burial. We'll also travel into Palestinian territory to visit Bethlehem.

Josh Simon
Associate Pastor

Laurie's Lens



So good to see many of you during January.

We have had some winter weather that has caused some of you to stay home and be safe. Our children and youth programs continue on each week with great volunteers. Many thanks to you all. We had an Epiphany party for Jesus with our Spiritual Friends, we've been recalling the story of the Magi arriving to find Jesus as a toddler living in a home with his parents, Mary & Joseph in class and group settings. We have begun to talk about Jesus' baptism, outreach to our friends close by to use and we will move into February with stories of the Beatitudes, salt &

light ~ you are the light of the world and prayer.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. A time for us all to stop, listen and find new ways to connect with our God. Please watch for Lenten devotions to our weekly emails. Daily devotions can be found online at https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional where you can sign up to receive them by email or you can go this link and click on the reading of the day.

It was great news to hear that the plastering of our new ceiling begun in the Sanctuary. I am hopeful that Pretzel Sunday (*originally on the Faith Formation calendar for March 8th*) will be able to happen on March 29th. Keep your fingers crossed. If we need to move it again it will land on April 26th. Interested in mixing up dough and being the first to roll out pretzels on this fun day? Please connect with me to sign up for the 29th.

Blessing of Peace,
Laurie Chipman
Christian Education Director

Capital Campaign Update

The Sanctuary Restoration Project is in full swing! The old plaster on the ceiling (and curved wall) has been removed. New plaster will be applied to the ceiling and then it must cure for

several weeks. While the ceiling cures, the walls in the sanctuary, narthex and kitchen/choir loft stairwell will be patched. Once that is all done, painting can begin! Check out pictures of our progress on Facebook and our website.

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 IN! Federal security grant funds paid for the new parking lot fixtures. Campaign funds paid for new steeple and sign lights.

Federal Security Grant: 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 system (including keyless locks on exterior doors). We are working to finalize contracts with vendors and get on their schedules.

Next Steps: The Campaign Steering Committee will meet at the end of January to finalize cost projections for our remaining projects and discuss priorities moving forward.

Pledge Payments... Your continued pledge payments are vital to our efforts! We have budgeted for bridge loan financing. While we have not

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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.

Kaki McGeary & Dave Johnson
*Capital Campaign Committee
Co-Chairs*

Youth Ministry

All our First Church Youth Programs are Parent Supported!

- **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

Junior Youth Calendar

5th - 8th graders

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games. Meal donations and snacks for youth times are appreciated! Visit this link to list your meal:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-fccej>

Sub Sunday ~ February 2nd

- Thanks for ordering a sub! We are STILL taking ORDERS up to Wednesday, January 29th.
 - \$6 Half
 - \$10 Whole
 - GF rolls available.
 - Each comes with a small bag chips, a

clementine & a cookie. Many thanks for support our FCCEJ Youth!

Extra Adult Needed for JY Time

Our numbers are growing, and we are looking for another adult to join us for every JY time. Interested? Have a love for our youth? Interested in how they think about God and their faith? You don't need to be able to make every JY time. Contact Josh or Laurie to sign up and for more information.

Mark your calendars Join the FUN!

February 2nd ~ Super Bowl Sub Sunday ~ *youth fundraiser*

- Sunday morning ~ Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship
- 3 shifts to put subs orders together ~ 8:30am, 9:30am & 10:15am
- Youth will make a sub for themselves too. Weather permitting, we will take them with us or eat first and then go sledding. Drivers needed.
- JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm

March 1st ~ JY time ~ 11:30am – 1:30pm

- Sunday morning ~ Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship

UCC NYE trip to Purdue University
July 20-26, 2020

Full cost is \$650 per person.

Youth pay \$250.

Sub Sunday Fundraiser will help support this trip. More NYE information can be found on the web link below. It will be a great trip that will include a bus ride, service projects, worship, music and much more! Thought you couldn't go and now you can. See Pastor Josh or Laurie ASAP.
<http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>

Stay active and lend a helping hand! Help a neighbor or a friend

If you earn an allowance? Have a job? Practice dividing your money 3 ways:

- Save (in a bank)
- Give to the church/offering
- You (spend/save/give to an organization)

Find ways and places to connect with your God & have spiritual time ~ a walk in the woods, quiet time without an electronic device in your hands and maybe praying in color, etc.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Calendar

PreK – 8th grade

- **February 2nd** ~ (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.

- **February 9th & 16th** ~ Peer Group Time
- **February 23rd** ~ Hands On Mission Activity
- **March 1st** ~ 1st Sundays ~ Intergenerational Worship & Spiritual Friends

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. Helping so far this program year: Makaylah, Caitlin, Courtney, David & Sam

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 at 11:30am. All PreK through 2nd grade need to be signed out by an authorized person. Older children will be excused at 11:30am also. Parents can update their list of authorized persons by emailing Laurie.

2020 Faith Formation Offering

Voting soon for an organization
February 23rd ~ be present and vote for your choice
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.

2019 Offering total

Spectrum Youth & Family Services
\$692.82

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. 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.

Volunteer



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 sign up sheet on the bulletin board down in the hallway on your way up to worship to see if someone has already signed up. Thank you.

Camps

@ 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

VT Outdoor Ministry Team is recruiting 2 male and 2 female volunteer counselors, 2 paid lifeguards (at least one needs to be 18yrs), and a paid nurse. Interested? See Laurie.

Volunteer Leadership arrives on Saturday, July 25th at 4pm and departs around 5pm on the 31st.

Help us continue this very important ministry. Wonder how else you can help ~ see Laurie for recruitment information to help us spread the word.

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Vacation Bible Camp: KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE



August 10th –
14th from
9am to
11:45am

Quest For the King's Armor
Armor UP with Truth, Justice,
Peace, Faith & Salvation

Our leadership team is shaping up! Bible Drama ~ Allison VanSteensburg; Games ~ Jessica Moos; Science/Discovery ~ Justin King; Snacks ~ Judy Allen & Ginny Coe; Media/Photos ~ Doug Olufsen; Co-Music Leader ~ Laura Cunningham Firkey

Recruiting for:

- Decorating assistant (planning ahead- do not need to be present for event),
- Decorators (creating items ahead, decorating the weekend before),
- Mission Coordinator
- Co -Music Leader
- Group Leaders
- Snack helpers
- Station Assistants
- Youth Helpers (6th grade and older)
- For questions and more information ~ contact Laurie.

VB Camp Wish List – *Coming soon!*

Missions

Dismas House

"Your Good Deed Will be Much Appreciated"

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

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

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

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

Questions? Please contact Ed Steele, the current facilitator for the Dismas House Mission.

His contact information is: (802) 871-5897 or edwardmsteele@msn.com



February Sale! All men and women sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves, nightwear are on sale. Shop has a new section filled with fabric and patterns. Especially looking for donations of men's wear including shirts, heavy socks and sweaters.

Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm; Thursday, 4pm-8pm; and **every Saturday**, 9am-1pm.

Donations: 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.

Bridget Meyer, Sue Wood, Linda Bogardus, and Elaine Raymond

Annual Cabin Fever Calcutta

Saturday, March 7th, 2020

5:00-8:30 pm @

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.

Essex Rotary to Honor Val Gabert Wednesday, February 12th @ 5:30pm: The Essex

*** Dinner Tickets Available ***

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



The Jed Foundation

"From everyone at the Jed Foundation, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your \$500 donation to support our work protecting the emotional and mental well-being of teens and young adults." Adele Shepen, *Chief Development Officer*

RIP
MEDICAL
DEBT

"Thank you so much for your \$500 donation. Your gift will abolish 100 times its cash value in debilitating medical debt, giving recipients and their families a fresh start and empowering them to embark on a new path of greater financial stability." Scott G. Patton, *Director of Development*



VERMONT
ADAPTIVE
Ski & Sports

"Thank you so much for your donation of \$250. Your contribution helps us accomplish our mission of promoting independence and furthering equality for people with disabilities through access and instruction to sports and recreational opportunities." Erin Fernandez, *Executive Director*



"The new year often brings new beginnings, and that is exactly what you have given families around the world! Your \$250 gift has already given parents and children the life-changing gift of animals and training they need to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Forever." Pierre U. Ferrari, *President & CEO*

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 5th** to purchase dinner tickets.

Fellowship & Learning

Yoga @ First

Mondays, 5:30pm-6:45pm

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

Sermon Talkback Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 8:30-10am

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

JOY (Just Older Youth) Thursday, February 6th @ Noon Marvin Lounge

If you are 55+ please consider joining our JOY(Just Older Youth)

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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.

Essex Eats Out

Friday, February 7th @ 5:30pm

This ongoing service project offers free, community-wide dinners open to all (with a special invitation to the needy & lonely) every Friday night throughout the Essex area. Donations to help subsidize the cost of these meals are solicited but not required of all dinner patrons. FCCEJ hosts Essex Eats Out on the first Friday of each month. Visit our website for a tentative menu during the 2020 calendar year:
<http://www.fccej.org/v5/category/essex-eats-out/>

Bridge

Friday, February 21st @ 1:30pm

Do you like to play bridge? Do you like to eat cookies and have some fun with other like-minded card players? If so, then come and play bridge at church! You are welcome to bring a friend. We try to get in three rounds and the winner gets one of Rev. Mendes' famous jams.

Coffee Clatter

Fridays @ 8am

Martone's in Essex Junction. This may seem like a foolish question, but if you like to talk and drink coffee, then come down to Martone's for open conversation. Rev. Mark and/or Josh are there every week and talk about everything from camping

to politics; from deep theological questions to silly jokes; from village life to great vacation spots; from business deals to the best restaurants in town. We laugh, get serious and support each other. Everyone is invited!

Women's Spirituality Group

3rd Saturday of each month @

9:30am, Marvin Lounge

Next: Saturday, February 22nd

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.

Noontime Book Group

Monday, February 17 @ 11:30am,

Marvin Lounge.

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 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.

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.

The Heavenly Food Pantry is open to residents of Essex Junction, Essex Town, and Westford. Clients will need an ID for each member of the household and a utility bill to prove their residence. Clients may only visit the Pantry once per calendar month.

Dates & Hours

2nd Monday (February 10th)

@ 5:30pm-7:30pm

3rd Thursday (February 20th)

@ 2pm-6pm

Volunteers Needed!

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

Special Services

Communion is February 2nd



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 26th @ 7pm

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent; the Church for hundreds and hundreds of years has marked the occasion with a service that draws our attention to the journey to Jerusalem and the Cross. In recent years, the service has moved away from focusing on our abject unworthiness and instead focuses on the power of Christ's journey to Jerusalem and what it means for our lives today. Lent is a time to reflect on significant aspects of the faith and prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter. Everyone is welcome to come to this Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday February 26th starting at 7:00 p.m. Everyone will be invited to receive ashes on either your forehead or your wrist.

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.

February Birthdays

BLANCHETTE, Barbara	02/01
SARGENT, Rusty	02/01
RUSSELL, Clint	02/02
BENTON, Ethan	02/04
HAINES, Jo	02/04
FINNIE, Kathy	02/06
GOEDKEN, Ethan	02/09
GRAY, Peter	02/12
BENTON, Mark	02/14
EVANS, Abigail	02/14
LONGWELL, Cindy	02/15
EHLER, Emily	02/16
POTTER, Allen	02/16
BEEBE, Sharon	02/17
GARRAPY, Betty	02/19
MAUGER, John	02/19
PAUL, George	02/19
EHLER, Duke	02/22
HOLDEN, Sue	02/22
AHOKAS, Cheryl	02/24
DETTENRIEDER, Sharon	02/24
DAVIS, Robert	02/25
GABERT, Valerie	02/26
MCGEARY, Matt	02/26
MARSHALL, Connie	02/28



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!

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]

February 2020

This is not a complete list of events. Visit our website to scour the church schedule:
<http://www.fccej.org/v5/calendar/>

February 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
						<div>9:00am Thrift Store Open</div> <div>9:00am Nepali Community Worship</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>2:00pm St. Andrews Pipe</div> <div>4:30pm Worship Service</div>
<div>2</div> <div>8:30am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>10:15am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>11:30am Music</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>6:00pm Cub Scout Leader</div>	<div>3</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>1:30pm Food Pantry</div> <div>5:30pm Yoga @ First (2nd)</div> <div>5:30pm Group Victory</div> <div>7:00pm BSA Troop 624</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge)</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>5:30pm Finance</div> <div>7:00pm Church Council</div>	<div>5</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>1:00pm FCCEJ Staff</div> <div>5:30pm Finally@First</div> <div>6:00pm BSA PLC (3rd)</div> <div>6:30pm Handbells Choir</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8:30am Essex Art League</div> <div>12:00pm JOY (Marvin)</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>3:00pm Easterseals (3rd)</div> <div>6:00pm Music@First</div> <div>6:00pm Cub Scouts</div>	<div>7</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>5:00pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen)</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:00am Nepali Community Worship</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>2:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band (3rd Floor Youth)</div>
<div>9</div> <div>8:30am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>10:15am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>6:00pm Venture Crew</div>	<div>10</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>1:30pm Food Pantry</div> <div>4:00pm Food Pantry (FH)</div> <div>5:30pm Food Pantry</div> <div>5:30pm Yoga @ First (2nd)</div> <div>5:30pm Group Victory</div>	<div>11</div> <div>8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge)</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>7:00pm Deacons (Marvin Lounge)</div>	<div>12</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>3:30pm Heavenly Food</div> <div>5:30pm Finally@First</div> <div>6:30pm Handbells Choir</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>13</div> <div>8:00am Jamaica Bound</div> <div>9:00am Jamaica</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>3:00pm Easterseals (3rd)</div> <div>6:00pm Music@First</div> <div>6:30pm Lion Den #10</div>	<div>14</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>7:30pm Grange (Fellowship Hall)</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:00am Nepali Community Worship</div> <div>9:30am Women's</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>2:00pm St. Andrews Pipe</div> <div>4:00pm Weber Family</div>
<div>16</div> <div>8:30am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>10:15am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div>	<div>17</div> <div>11:30am Noontime Book</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>1:30pm Food Pantry</div> <div>5:30pm Yoga @ First (2nd)</div> <div>5:30pm Group Victory</div> <div>6:30pm Scouting Alumni</div>	<div>18</div> <div>8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge)</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>7:00pm CE Meeting</div> <div>7:00pm Missions</div>	<div>19</div> <div>8:00am Food Shelf</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>1:00pm FCCEJ Staff</div> <div>5:30pm Finally@First</div> <div>6:30pm Handbells Choir</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>20</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>3:00pm Easterseals (3rd)</div> <div>6:00pm Music@First</div> <div>6:30pm Wolf Den (2nd)</div> <div>6:30pm Tiger Den #9 (3rd)</div> <div>7:30pm Confirmation</div>	<div>21</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>1:30pm Bridge Club (Marvin Lounge)</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:00am Nepali Community Worship</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>2:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band (3rd Floor Youth)</div>
<div>23</div> <div>8:30am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>10:15am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>6:00pm Venture Crew</div>	<div>24</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>1:30pm Food Pantry</div> <div>5:30pm Yoga @ First (2nd)</div> <div>5:30pm Group Victory</div> <div>6:30pm Joe's Big Band</div> <div>7:00pm BSA Troop 624</div>	<div>25</div> <div>8:30am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge)</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>7:00pm Stewardship</div> <div>7:00pm Trustees (Marvin)</div>	<div>26</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>2:00pm Crafty Time Out</div> <div>5:00pm Ash Wednesday</div> <div>5:30pm Finally@First</div> <div>6:30pm Handbells Choir</div> <div>7:00pm Boy Scouts</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8:30am Food Pantry</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag</div> <div>3:00pm Easterseals (3rd)</div> <div>6:00pm Music@First</div> <div>7:30pm Confirmation</div> <div>8:15pm Music @ First</div>	<div>28</div> <div>12:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>7:30pm Grange (Fellowship Hall)</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9:00am Nepali Community Worship</div> <div>1:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall)</div> <div>2:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band (3rd Floor Youth)</div>

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