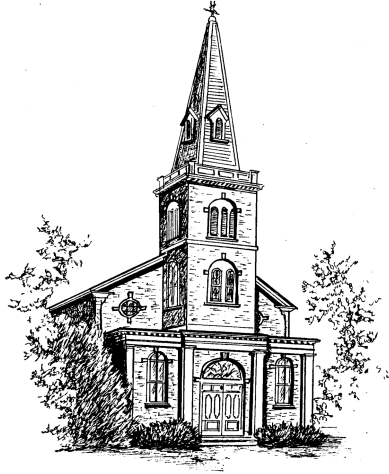


***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***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 & Contemporary Choral Music
- 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 23, 2020

Transfiguration 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 by Finally at First: *If Today* by Ed Bolduc

Call to Worship

Leader: God called Moses up to the mountain to experience the living presence of the Lord and receive guidance on how people should live in peace.

People: Jesus taught from the mountain and retreated there to commune with the Lord. One day he invited his friends to join him. They heard God's voice, saw Jesus' true nature and learned how to follow.

Leader: Living in Vermont, we often look to the hills to experience the divine. And when we climb to the top, beauty, glory and inspiration take place. Come, let us commune with the God of mountaintop experiences.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

Taste and See

Moore
[insert, next page]

Taste and See

Refrain



Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the

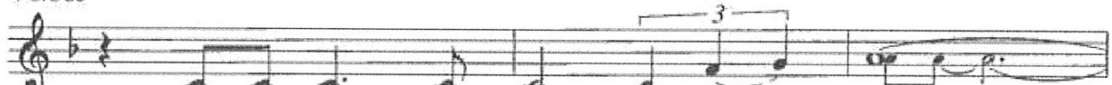


Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the

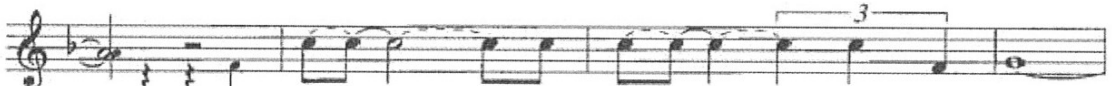


good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verses



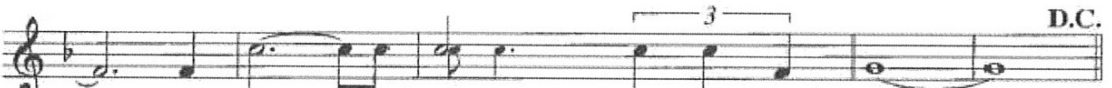
1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.
3. Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple.



Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
You'll want for noth - ing if you ask.



my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord
I called the Lord who an - swered me;
Taste and see that the Lord is good;



for God has been so good to me.
from all my trou - bles I was set free.
in God we need put all our trust.

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 2nd service's children's message, PreK-8th 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: Lord Listen to Your Children Praying by Medema

Choral Anthem

I Will Lift my Eyes

by Norman

New Testament Scripture Lessons

Epistle 2 Peter 1:16-21 [page 185]

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved,^[a] with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

¹⁷ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I[a] will make three dwellings[b] here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved;[c] with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

*Hymn

Be Now My Vision

#451

[insert, left page]

Sermon

God's Word Is Like a Diamond

Rev. Mark Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem: *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever* by Smith

*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.*

*Closing Hymn

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

#610

[insert, next page]

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 me 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.**

My Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Acts 7:55-59; 2 Cor. 5:1-10

Julia Ward Howe, 1861; alt.

1 My eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord,
 2 God has been there in the watch-fires of a hun - dred cir - cling camps,
 3 God has sound-ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 4 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a-cross the sea,

who is tram-pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
 where they built a sa - cred al - tar in the eve - ning dews and damps;
 and is sift - ing out the hearts of all be - fore the judg - ment seat;
 with a glo - ry in whose bo - som that trans - fig - ures you and me;

And has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of a ter - ri - ble swift sword;
 I can read the righ - teous sen - tence by the dim and flar - ing lamps;
 O be swift, my soul, to an - swer and be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As Christ died to make us ho - ly, let us die to make all free;

Refrain

God's truth is march-ing on.
 God's day is march-ing on.
 Our God is march-ing on.
 While God is march-ing on.

Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

*Postlude:

* = Please stand if you are able.

My Eyes Have Seen the Glory (continued...)

Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It contains a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, providing a harmonic foundation with chords and a bass line.

lu - jah! God's truth is march - ing on.

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and clefs as the first system. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords, ending with a double bar line.



The flowers on the altar are given by
Ed & Anita Guild
In memory of their parents.



OUR USHERS & GREETERS

1st	Pat Seaver	2nd	(None
Service:	Ann Gray	Service:	Registered)

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



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.



COAT HANGERS/RACKS are located in several areas so that 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.



PRAYER SHAWLS We have a large stock of warm, hand-made prayer shawls to warm your body and spirit this year, and they are free to keep! Ask our Ushers/Greeters for help.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Marion Schneider

John A & Family

Graham Sicalowski (Lauren Starkey's

Richard Ansell

Rev. Patricia & Rev. Fred

Peter Gallatly (Denise Keating's broth-

Robert & Claire Deal

The Lavallee Family

Judy Janwich (Lori Giannuzzi)

Barb Blanchette

Heather (Catherine Lapierre's

Fletch & Peg Coolidge and Family

George Jackson

Rose Johnson (Doug Ovitt's

Matt & Kaki McGeary and Family

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

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@fceej.org.

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS



February 23rd – All ages will gather to hear about our three offering choices for 2020 (seen below in offering box). After voting we will be putting together ‘Lent in a Bag’, one per family, that they will bring home today. Our hope is that these will help you walk through the days of Lent, spending some time together and getting closer to each other and God.

SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR

- ⊕ **February 23rd** ~ Hands On Mission on 2nd floor
- ⊕ **March 1st** ~ 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.
- ⊕ **March 15th** ~ Peer Group Time

FAITH FORMATION OFFERING

**** 2020 Charity TBD in February ****

Current Total: \$74.20 (as of 2/9/2020)

The 2020 Offering choice voting will take place on February 23rd & March 1st.

Here are the 2020 choices:

Church World Service <https://cwsglobal.org/>

Heifer International <https://www.heifer.org/>

Vermont Adaptive Sports [https://](https://www.vermontadaptive.org/)

www.vermontadaptive.org/

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.

MUSIC TIME

Cherubs ~ Preschool-2nd grade

Joyful Noise ~ 3rd-8th grade

Cherubs will be singing in worship on March 1st during our 10:15am service. Arrive by 10am and meet Jenny & Laura in the Marvin Lounge to practice the song.

YOUTH MINISTRY (5th-12th 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.

JUNIOR YOUTH CALENDAR

5th - 8th graders

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games. *Meal donations and snacks for youth times are appreciated!*

Parent Helper signup for each JY time:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-fccej1>

JY meal signup:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-fccej1>

- ◆ **March 1st** : @ 10:15am: *Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture*; 11:30am – 1:30pm: *JY time*
- ◆ **March 22nd**: @ 11:30am – 1:30pm: *JY time*
- ◆ **April 5th**: @ 10:15am: *Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture*; @ 11:30am-1:30pm: *JY Time*

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.

For details, visit:

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

Cost is \$250 per youth. Fundraising Event in early 2020. **Deposits now due.**

TODAY @ FIRST

CALCUTTA CUPCAKES SIGNUP—The Missions Committee is responsible for providing the cupcakes for Calcutta Night at the Catamount Golf Club in Williston on March 7th. There will be a sign up sheet at the Calcutta Night table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 23rd and March 1st. Please stop by the table to sign up to bake cupcakes for the fundraiser for the Jamaica trip.

THIS WEEK @ FIRST

YOGA: 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, 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!

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** and invited to receive ashes on either your forehead or your wrist.

LENTEN STUDY: Thursdays @ 10-11:30am — **February 27th-April 9th:** "WE ARE BE-LOVED" is the title of a book to be used to help

us understand that, just as God called Jesus "beloved", each and every one of us is also beloved by God. The seven-week study will begin on Thursday, February 27 and the last gathering will be on Maundy Thursday, April 9. We will meet in Marvin Lounge from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30. Books will be available in the church office. Better hurry; there are only twelve books.

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. Anyone in 8th grade or above is welcome to join the Confirmation class. May 31st is Confirmation Sunday.

COFFEE CLATTER: 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!**

SAVE THE D@TES

JOY (Just Older Youth): Thursday, March 5th @ 12:30pm— If you are 55+ please consider joining our JOY (Just Older Youth) group. We are meeting a half hour later because we need to use the Fellowship Hall but can't get in there until 1. Join us at 12:30 with your lunch and conversation. We'll move into Fellowship Hall at 1pm.

ANNUAL CABIN FEVER CALCUTTA: March 7, 2020 @ 5pm-8:30pm, Catamount Country Club—**Tickets on Sale Until February 28th!** Benefits the Jamaica Mission Program. Tickets: \$125, include dinner for two; chance to win the \$1000 grand prize; many great door priz-

es; wine pull, raffles, and the Alumni team auction (2hrs team time for spring project). Additional dinners available @ \$20/ea.

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 payable to FCCEJ.
 - ⇒ Include “Calcutta,” your email address and # attending in the memo line on your check.

SATURDAY WORSHIP: *Saturday, March 7th @ 4:30pm: 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.

PUBLIC FORUM: FAIR & IMPARTIAL POLICING: *Wednesday, March 18th @ 7-8:30pm*—Captain Garry Scott of the Vermont State Police will lead a public forum regarding critical issues. **All members of the public are welcome and invited to attend!** (See flyer near end of bulletin for more details.)

NOONTIME BOOK GROUP: *Monday, March 16th @ 11:30am, Marvin Lounge*— We are reading Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich. The author is a social activist and an investigative reporter. In response to the welfare reforms in the 1990's, she went underground and worked in quite a few minimum wage jobs She tried to live the life of those she worked with. In this book she shares her experiences and gives us a look into that period of prosperity from the perspective of those trying to make ends meet on \$6.00 an hour. The story seems very pertinent to

our world today. Come join us for an interesting discussion and bring a brown bag lunch. See you on the 22nd!

PRETZEL SUNDAY: *Sunday, March 29th*—**** Volunteers Needed **** Looking for volunteers to help mix up dough and roll out pretzels. Hopeful that we will be back in the Sanctuary by the 29th, if not this great fellowship day will be moved to April 26th.

Something Missing? We had to change the bulletin to make space for worship details and save paper. Check our new “Faith In Action” section (ahead) for more details....

FAITH IN ACTION



'Faith in Action' section syncs with the physical church wall bulletins.

HEAVENLY FOOD PANTRY

Hours [Monthly]:

2nd Monday @ 5:30pm-7:30pm;
4th Thursday @ 2pm-6pm

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.

Donations: The Pantry would appreciate these donations: *spaghetti sauce, cereal, and chicken noodle* soup. We currently do not need 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.

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 (anitalguild@gmail.com) for more details.

ESSEX EATS OUT

1st Friday Each Month @ 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 Essex Eats Out website to view all participating church information and menus; or visit our website for menus of dinners hosted at FCCEJ:

- ◆ <http://www.essexeatsoout.org>
- ◆ <http://www.fccej.org/v5/category/essex-eats-out/>

FLOWER CHART



The 2020 Flower Chart posted on the bulletin 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. We like to give the florists ample time to artistically convey your sentiments. Please, write your request on the chart as soon as you are able.

Vacant dates (as of 2/13/2020):

31-May	30-Aug	4-Oct
21-Jun	6-Sep	25-Oct
5-Jul	20-Sep	1-Nov
26-Jul	27-Sep	15-Nov
2-Aug		

HEAVENLY CENTS THRIFT SHOP

37 Main Street in Essex Junction

Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm;
Thursdays 4pm-8pm; and Saturdays, 9am-1pm
Phone: 879-6552.

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

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.

FAITH IN ACTION (Continued...)



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.)



DISMAS HOUSE:

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.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE



Quest for the King's Armor
Armor UP with Truth, Justice, Peace, Faith & Salvation
August 11th – 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

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!



HANNAFORD CARDS:

(On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of Each Month)—Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) OR purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments. **FCCEJ receives \$5 for every \$100 that it sells.** Next purchase date is March 1st.

DONATE TO OUR CHURCH



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

<http://smile.amazon.com>

Search “**First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**” in the “Charities” section.



For PayPal and credit cards, 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!



Please, consider adding a donation to our offering plate during worship. Or, you can drop off your donation at our church office Monday-Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm. Our church administrator can issue a receipt. For larger sums of cash and check donations, please contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS



The Sanctuary Restoration Project is on track to wrap up by Palm Sunday – we cannot wait to welcome everyone back to the sanctuary for Holy Week!

Worship services are being held in Fellowship Hall while the sanctuary is closed for restoration (Sunday Dec. 29 through Palm Sunday). If you haven't been able to come to a service in Fellowship Hall, we hope you will come check it out soon! Many people have commented that they love the cozy feeling and enjoy the chance to

experience worship in a different setting.

The old plaster on the ceiling (and curved wall) was completely removed down to the lathe. This process involved hauling away 11 THOUSAND pounds of old plaster! The new ceiling weighs about the same as the old one... it consists of 5,500 pounds of sand, 4,300 pounds of gypsum, and 1,200 pounds of lime and "gauging plaster" in the new ceiling. We used so much sand that Trowel Trades actually ran out for a short time! The new ceiling will last another 100+ years.

While the ceiling was drying and curing during the month of February, Ron Bisson and his crew patched the many cracks in the wall in the sanctuary, narthex and stairwells. They chiseled out all of the cracked areas and then filled the voids with solid plaster. The walls will be covered with a joint compound to smooth everything out.

Meanwhile, Steve and Kris Griffiths (Griffiths Electric) have been working to update some of our light fixtures and wiring throughout the sanctuary. And, Norm Senna and his crew have begun painting. It is going to be beautiful!

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 and new locks on all classroom/office 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 security system and locks. 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.

WANT TO HELP? Visit this link to pledge or donate money to our Capital Campaign:

<https://www.fccej.org/v5/capital-campaign/pledge-or-donate/>

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: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580], 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], Shannon McCullen [922-8792]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: Justin King [238-6273], Jessica Moos [399-8068]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Sue Wood [879-6552] woodsusanjane@gmail.com

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

*** Note: As of 2/19/2020, some committees have yet to vote on a committee chair. Thus, this list tentative.

FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Vermont State Police is committed to fair and impartial policing and has developed and implemented a comprehensive program to ensure fair and impartial policing practices at all levels of the state police. These efforts include building relationships of trust with communities of color and other minority communities, diversifying our workforce, and improving our cultural awareness as the state of Vermont becomes more diverse. This office reflects the Vermont State Police's continuing commitment to the importance of fair and impartial policing.

VSP established a Fair and Impartial Policing Committee in 2009. The committee meets four times a year and serves as an advisory group to the Vermont State Police. The purpose of the FIP committee is to discuss critical issues such as addressing bias in policing; addressing anti-Semitism, hate-motivated crime and incidents that affect LGBTQIA+ individuals and groups; building stronger relationships between law enforcement and the public; building trust within communities of color, marginalized communities and any group that has concerns about access to safety services; examination of VSP policies and procedures; training; recruitment and retention of diverse membership within VSP; collection and analysis of traffic stop and other data; and any other related topics that members wish to discuss.

Ultimately, the Vermont State Police intends to ensure that we are compassionate, professional and responsive to the needs of all people of Vermont, in part by being well informed by a diverse of group of residents who embody the FIP Committee. Everyone at the table has something to offer toward these goals.

Meetings of the Fair and Impartial Policing Committee are in **March, June, September and December** each year, typically at Vermont Law School in South Royalton. In 2019, the meeting dates are March 18, June 17, Sept. 16 and Dec. 16 (subject to change; updates will be posted here).

The initiatives for fair and impartial policing are overseen by Director of Fair and Impartial Policing and Community Affairs Capt. Garry Scott.

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 18TH

•
7-8:30PM

First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction
39 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
(802) 878 5745

About Captain Scott:



Captain Garry Scott has worked for the Vermont State Police for over nineteen years and is currently the Director of Fair and Impartial Policing and Community Affairs. Previously, Captain Scott was the Commander of the Williston Barracks, Crash Reconstruction Team Commander, and the Traffic Safety Commander. He has also served on the following committees: Attorney General's Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems (ACT 54), State of Vermont Civility and Unconscious Bias Review Committee, Vermont Highway Safety Alliance, Combined Accident Reduction Effort (Operation CARE), Fair and Impartial Policing Committee, Pursuit Committee- Chair, Cruiser Committee- Chair, In-car and Body Worn Camera implementation, eTicket implementation Committee, Chittenden County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force, Team Two Steering Committee mental health board member.

mission
M O M E N T S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 23, 2020

Transfiguration Sunday

Dazzling Reign

Matthew 17:1-9

Seminary Sunday

Church Vocations Sunday

When the disciples went up the mountain with Jesus, they first encountered the past, seeing their transfigured friend alongside the prophets Moses and Elijah. Having glimpsed the past, they were prepared for future ministries and the leadership role they would play in a changing world and a changing church.

Six graduate schools and programs in theology play an especially important role in the preparation of pastoral leaders for the United Church of Christ – both helping student ministers engage with the wealth of our church's tradition and preparing them for ministry of the future. Although there are other institutions where a prospective minister might receive credentialing, these six seminaries of the United Church of Christ have been recognized for their special commitment to and relationship with the UCC.

Today, on Seminary Sunday and Church Vocations Sunday, we give thanks for the generations of new pastors, past and future, who find community, commitment and challenge at these institutions of higher learning.



Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School
New Haven, CT

Chicago Theological Seminary
Chicago, IL

Eden Theological Seminary
St. Louis, MO

Lancaster Theological Seminary
Lancaster, PA

Pacific School of Religion
Berkeley, CA

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
New Brighton, MN

Monday, February 24

- 9:00am - 9:00pm **150th Anniversary Quilt Committee** (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** (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm **Joe's Big Band** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **BSA Troop 624** (3rd Floor Youth Room)

Tuesday, February 25

- 8:30am - 10:00am **Sermon Talk Back** (Marvin Lounge)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Stewardship** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Trustees** (Marvin Lounge)
- 7:30pm - 8:30pm **OA Meeting** (2nd Floor Programming Room)

Wednesday, February 26

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm **Handbells Choir Rehearsal** (Gymnasium)
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **Ash Wednesday** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **Boy Scouts** (3rd Floor)

Thursday, February 27

- 8:30am - 6:30pm **Food Pantry** (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00am - 11:30am **Lenten Study** (Marvin Lounge)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall)
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm **Easterseals** (3rd Floor)
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm **Music@First** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm **Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge)
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm **Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, February 28

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30pm - 10:30pm **Grange** (Fellowship Hall)

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday, February 29

- 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)
- 4:30pm - 6:30pm **Deacons: Setup for Worship**

Sunday, March 1

- 8:30am - 9:45am **Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:15am - 11:30am **Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:30am - 12:30pm **Music Committee** (Marvin Lounge)
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm **Cub Scout Leader Meeting**