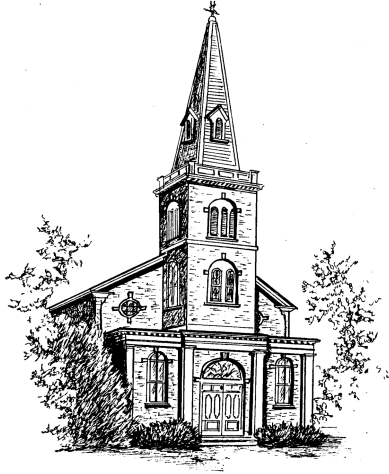


***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***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 9, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to raise significant celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or a friend as a guest. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Book.

Musical Introit

He Has Made Me Glad

Leona Von Berthorst

Call to Worship

Leader: We are a welcoming community, accepting and serving all, in the spirit of Christ. We strive to be a place where everything we do emanates from the spirit of Christ.

People: God has called each one of us to be here today. Today we are here to dream, together with God.

Leader: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, church is a place where dreams come alive. Let us worship our God, who has called us to dream and to come alive.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn

This is the Day

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[insert, next page]

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 Faith Formation with music & peer group time. High School youth are welcome. You are welcome to accompany your child(ren), get them settled, stay, or return to worship. Reminder, all children in PreK-2nd need to be signed out an authorized person when peer group time ends at 11:30am.

**Jesus loves the little children,
All God's children of the world.**

Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.

St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison
E \flat B \flat 7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

E \flat

God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

A \flat E \flat A \flat

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

E \flat E \flat /B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

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

Jesus We Are Here

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

wel - come Je - sus

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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Hebrew Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 58: 1-12

[insert, next page]

New Testament Scripture Lessons

Gospel Matthew 5: 13-20

[insert, next page]

Anthem

Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me

Traditional

Sermon

Dream God's Dream

Rev. Simon

Isaiah 58: 1-12 (NRSV)

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator[a] shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I
am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually,

and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 5: 13-20 (NRSV)

Salt and Light 13 “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.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, [a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks[b] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

I've Got Peace Like A River

Spiritual

***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**

Here I am Lord

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[insert, next pages]

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 both by
Carolyn Toof
In loving memory of Dick;
and Ginny Coe
In loving memory of her son, Tom.*



Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I who made the stars of night,
I have heard my people cry.
I will make their darkness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I will break their hearts of stone,
I have borne my people's pain.
Give them hearts for love alone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
Finest bread I will provide
I will tend the poor and lame,
till their hearts be satisfied.

1.

All who dwell in dark and sin
Who will bear my light to them?
my hand will save.

I have wept for love of them.
I will speak my word to them.
They turn away.

I will set a feast for them.
I will give my life to them.
My hand will save.

2.

Refrain (Harmony)

Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

USHERS & GREETERS

1st Service:

Sue Conti;
Dennis Conti

2nd Service:

Linda Bogardus;
(Empty Registration)

Interested in ushering/greeting? Register by visiting this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4fcae2daafe3-ushergreeter>

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Marion Schneider

Tom Gibbs

Lester Nutting

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)

George Jackson
(Linda Jackson's husband)

John A & Family

Robert & Claire Deal

Barb Blanchette

The Lavallee Family

Rose Johnson (Doug Ovitt's mother)

Rev. Fred

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.

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

Feb. 9th & 16th our PreK – 8th grade will be hearing and talking about the beatitudes or the be...attitudes during peer time.



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 9th & 16th ~ Peer Group Time
- 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.



Vacation Bible Camp KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE

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

FAITH FORMATION OFFERING

** 2020 Charity TBD in February **

Current Total: \$17.01 (as of 2/6/2020)

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

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.



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 16th**
⇒ @ 11:30am-1:30pm: JY time
- ♦ **March 1st & 22nd**
⇒ 11:30am – 1:30pm: JY time
- ♦ **March 1st**
◇ @ 10:15am: *Help Greet/ Usher/Read Scripture*



@ 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 as well as Deposit date are soon.

TODAY @ FIRST

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



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.



ANNUAL CABIN FEVER CALCUTTA

*March 7, 2020 @ 5pm-8:30pm
Catamount Country Club*

Tickets on Sale Now! Benefits the Jamaica Mission Program. Tickets: \$125, include dinner for two; chance to win the \$1000 grand prize; many great door prizes; 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.

THE RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

Today, 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.

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. 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. These are the dates that require sign-ups:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 8-Mar-20 | 5-Jul-20 | 30-Aug-20 | 4-Oct-20 |
| 19-Apr-20 | 19-Jul-20 | 6-Sep-20 | 1-Nov-20 |
| 31-May-20 | 26-Jul-20 | 20-Sep-20 | 15-Nov-20 |
| 21-Jun-20 | 2-Aug-20 | 27-Sep-20 | 20-Dec-20 |
| | | | 27-Dec-20 |

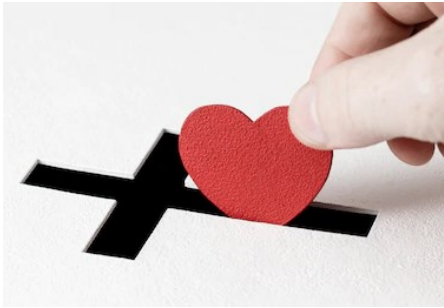
SUPPORT JUMP!

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.)



DONATE TO OUR CHURCH

We have three ways that you can donate.



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!

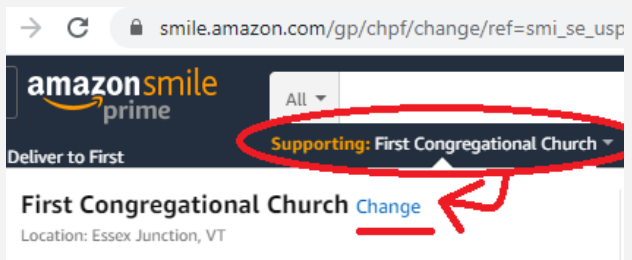


Powered by Scansler.com

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:



amazon

smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

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.

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).



THANK YOU to all you who purchased subs and all who made the subs on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2nd! The youth raised **\$394.06** to help support those going to NYE in July and for future youth trips.



PRETZEL SUNDAY

** Volunteers Needed **

Sunday, March 29th



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.

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.

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.

Sermon Talkback Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 8:30-10am

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

Coffee Clatter Fridays

Fridays @ 8-9am

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

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.

Essex Rotary to Honor Val Gabert

Wednesday, February 12th

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. Social hour begins at 5:30pm followed by the dinner and award presentations. **Deadline for dinner tickets has passed.**



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!

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.

Hannaford Cards

Sunday, February 16th

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.



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.

Bridge Club

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.

**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.

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.

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], 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: Justin King [238-6273], 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
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 9, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Restoring Beauty
Matthew 5:13-20
Racial Justice Sunday
Science and Technology Sunday

**God is still
speaking,**



In the approximately 5,000 churches across the denomination, thousands of church members have been impacted in the past decade by the adult education curriculum, A Sacred Conversation on Race, which has had an immeasurable impact on many church members' thinking about race and white privilege.

While the conversation continues, some are discovering that action can move their congregations beyond merely talking, and into action. Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER) is a restorative justice curriculum which builds on the work that has been done and takes it a step further under the guidance of trained facilitators. Unlike its predecessors, Sacred

Conversations to End Racism is not a self-guided resource, with trained facilitators key to the success of the program.

*"The United Church of Christ remains committed to being an anti-racist church. However, we are facing a resurgence of tactics and behaviors in America that call for a deeper commitment to eradicate the ongoing practices of oppression, hate speech, individual bigotry, and overt violence against communities of color," said the Rev. Velda Love, UCC Minister of Racial Justice and curator of this new resource. "SC2ER provides new language and strategies to move people beyond anti-racism conversations to active engagement. SC2ER seeks to restore humanity, eliminate myths and stereotypes, and engage in deep truth telling about the construction of whiteness and white supremacy."**

To find out how you can take the next step from conversation to action, visit https://www.ucc.org/sacred_conversations_to_end_racism.

*Larkman, Connie. UCC launches 'Sacred Conversations to End Racism' curriculum in commitment to racial equity in America (Accessed July 24, 2019)

https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_launches_sacred_conversations_to_end_racism_curriculum_in_commitment_to_racial_equity_in_america_04062018

Monday, February 10

- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking** (Fellowship Hall & Gym) ☰
- **4:00pm - 8:00pm Food Pantry** (FH & Kitchen) ☰
- **5:30pm - 7:30pm Food Pantry** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga @ First** (2nd Floor Programming Room) ☰
- **5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **6:30pm - 9:30pm Joe's Big Band** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 624** (3rd Floor Youth Room) ☰

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **3:30pm - 5:30pm Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **6:30pm - 8:00pm Handbells Choir Rehearsal** (Gymnasium) ☰
- **7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Thursday, February 13

- **8:00am - 9:00am Jamaica Bound Calcutta Committee** (ML) ☰
- **9:00am - 10:00am Jamaica Leadership Team** (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) ☰
- **6:30pm - 7:15pm Lion Den #10** (3rd Floor Youth Room) ☰
- **7:30pm - 9:00pm Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **8:15pm - 9:15pm Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Friday, February 14

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

Saturday, February 15

- **9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **9:30am - 11:30am Women's Spirituality** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **2:00pm - 4:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band** (3rd Floor) ☰
- **4:00pm - 10:00pm Weber Family Dinner**

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 16

- **8:30am - 9:45am Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **10:15am - 11:30am Worship Service** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰