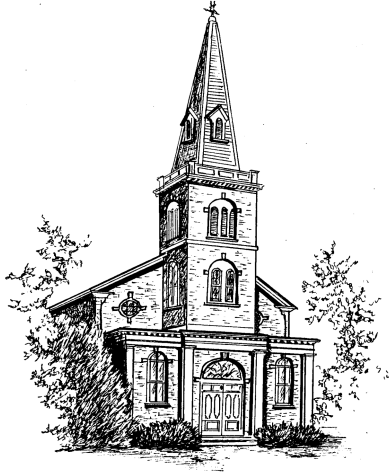


***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***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
March 1, 2020

The First Sunday in Lent

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

Order of Worship

Prelude

As our organist moves to the last prelude piece, let us all begin to quietly center ourselves to enter into the spirit of worship

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

We encourage everyone, both guests and members, to sign the Friendship Book and check any categories of need that might be appropriate. This will allow the church and her staff to best serve you. Thank you.

Musical Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to Lent. Today we start a journey of reflecting on the religion Jesus inspired. This will help our lives and prepare us for Easter.

Kitchen side: God first inspired humanity to worship and praise with the gift of creation. The beauty and wonder around us still awes us.

Narthex Side: Scripture speaks of how divine inspiration should ground us in right relationship with our fellow creatures.

Kitchen Side: Jesus is born of Mary and lives a human life which allows God to truly understand the human condition.

Narthex Side: The spirit inspired the early church to live together in peace and engaging in acts of sacrificial love.

Leader: God comes to all of us and shares our common lot and teaches us how to live in this crazy and unpredictable world. Come, let us enter into the fray of existence as we act as God's hands, voice and mind.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

126

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend - ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.



James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper *Sheffield Iris*, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867

Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer ("trespasses")

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.

Children's Message

After the Children's Message, children are welcome to go to their Sunday School Classes. Parents, if you would like to accompany your children to get them settled and check out our facilities, please feel free to do so and return to the worship service when you are done.

**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.**

Speaking of the Faith: The Sharing of a Spiritual Journey

Pastoral Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray.....

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sung Congregational Response #451 [verse 1]

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light**

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

209

Latin, 15th century
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Phil. 2:5-11;
John 17:1-26; 19:1-3, 16-18

1 O Love, how vast, how flow - ing free, O Love how
2 Not as an an - gel vis - it - ing, nor form ce -
3 For us bap - tized, and fast - ing long, for us was
4 For us was beat - en, whipped, and tried, and tak - en

filled with ec - sta - sy, That God a hu - man
les - tial or - bit - ing, But born in flesh God
tempt - ed by the wrong, For us the pangs of
to be cru - ci - fied, So Love all this for

form should take, and mor - tal be for mor - tals' sake.
chose to be, robbed in our own hu - man - i - ty.
hun - ger knew; for us the Tempt - er o - ver - threw.
us en - dured, and dy - ing, life for us pro - cured.

5 A-ris-ing from the dead a-gain,
our Sov-erign goes on high to reign;
And sends the Spir-it to a-bide
for strength and sol-ace at our side.

6 Then for God's bound-less love
sing praise
through end-less a-ges, count-less days;
By Love we have been rec-on-ciled:
sal-va-tion gained through
God's own Child.

Sanctuary Choir Anthem

New Testament Scripture Reading.....Matthew 4:1-11 [page 2]

⁽⁴⁾¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Hymn

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

#209 vrs. 1-4
[insert, left page]

Lenten Meditation

The Incarnation: Its Alive!!!

Rev. Mendes

Congregational Response to God's Word and Wisdom #451 [verse 2]

Be Thou My Vision

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word
I ever with thee and Thou with me Lord;
Mother and father, you are both to me,
Now and forever, your child I will be.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Both services will have the bread and cup passed out to each person. Please hold the bread until the minister directs you to eat, then all will eat it together symbolizing that our faith is grounded in community. When the cup is passed out, you are free to drink as you would like, symbolizing the individual nature of the faith.

Special note: Our bread is gluten free and all the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.

All are welcome at Christ's table.

Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; 1 Esd. 5:56-7:15

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the
 3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift, wait - ing till love can
 dream that hard - ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive
 time and change to mock, the un - fail - ing pur - pose
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi - tect Di - vine, re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

Offering Our Gifts to God
Invitation, Offering
Anthem
Prayer of Dedication
***The Doxology # 451 [verse 3]**

Be Thou My Vision

**Riches I heed not, nor life's empty praise,
Thou, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

***Hymn** *We Would be Building* **#607**
[insert, left page]

Benediction
Pastoral Benediction
***Sung Community Benediction**

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, holding you in love.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

***Postlude:**

*** = Please stand if you are able.**



The flowers on the altar are given by
 Sharon D. Dettenrieder
 In memory of Eric D. Dettenrieder



OUR USHERS & GREETERS

1st (None
 Service: Registered)

2nd (None
 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 son)

Richard Ansell

Rev. Patricia & Rev. Fred

Denise Keating & Family

Robert & Claire Deal

The Lavallee Family

Judy Janwich (Lori Giannuzzi)

Barb Blanchette

Heather (Catherine Lapierre's niece)

Fletch & Peg Coolidge and Family

George Jackson

Rose Johnson (Doug Ovitt's mom)

Matt & Kaki McGeary and Family

Betty Adams & 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@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@fceej.org.

SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR

- ⊕ **March 1st** ~ 1st Sundays ~ Intergenerational Worship & Spiritual Friends *Cherubs singing Introit – arrive at 10am.* 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 8th & 15th** ~ Music & Peer Group Time
- ⊕ **March 22nd** ~ Hands On Mission Activity
- ⊕ **March 29th** ~ Music & Peer Group (& Pretzel Sunday?)

FAITH FORMATION OFFERING

**** 2020 Charity TBA ****

Current Total: \$84.20 (as of 2/23/2020)

The 2020 Offering choice voting will take place on March 1st. Here are the 2020 choices:

- ⊕ Church World Service <https://cwsglobal.org/>
- ⊕ Heifer International <https://www.heifer.org/>
- ⊕ Vermont Adaptive Sports <https://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.

 **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

YOUTH MINISTRY (5th-12th Grade)

All First Church Youth Programs are Parent Supported!

Parent Helper signup for each JY time:

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

JY meal signup:

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

Junior Youth

5th - 8th graders

Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

- ⊕ **March 1st & 22nd:** JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm. On 1st Sundays ~ Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship. Sign up with Pastor Mark, Pastor Josh or Laurie

High School Youth

For updates and information contact Pastor Josh

UCC NYE trip to Purdue University:

July 20-26, 2020

Pastor Josh & Laurie will travel with youth to Purdue University for our National UCC Youth Event.

Check out the website below. Watch for a Youth/Parent meeting coming in March. Interested and not signed up yet be in touch ASAP. NYE happen once every 4 years! Click on the event link and see what all will be happening. Meet other UCC youth from across the country. Travel by bus with ME and NH youth to the event.

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

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, March 1st. Please stop by the table to sign up to bake cupcakes for the fundraiser for the Jamaica trip.

ANNUAL CABIN FEVER CALCUTTA:
March 7th, 2020 @ 5pm-8:30pm, Catamount Country Club—Ticket sales ended on February 28th...but any remaining tickets are available at the event on March 7th. 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.

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!

LENTEN STUDY: Thursdays @ 10-11:30am — **February 27th-April 9th:** "We Are Beloved" 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.

JOY (Just Older Youth): Thursday, March 5th @ 12:30pm, Marvin Lounge— If you are 55+ please consider joining our JOY (Just Older Youth) group. We strive to present programs that foster learning, fun or service. 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. 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.

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!**

ESSEX EATS OUT: Friday, March 6th @ 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.essexeatsout.org>

...and...

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

SATURDAY WORSHIP: Saturday, March 7th @ 4:30pm: Marvin Lounge—Each month, we have a tremendous experience where we worship God in the Marvin Lounge. People come dressed comfortably, we pray for folks by lighting a candle and drawing everyone's spirit to lift their voice in support of the prayer, then we discuss the scripture text and its implications for our lives. We throw in a couple of great guitar hymns by our very own Rick Dooley and finish with a time of communion: sacrament and fellowship. If you have not tried this new style, consider doing so. We hope to see you there!

SAVE THE D@TES

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!

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 on vestibule bulletin board for more details.)

BRIDGE: Friday, March 20th @ 1:30pm, Marvin Lounge—Each month we have an awful lot of fun playing bridge. Men and women with different abilities and learning curves come together with goodies to eat and joy in their hearts to have some fun around the card tables. Some are learning to play while others have been playing for decades. We play from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Marvin Lounge on the third Friday of every month. Come and bring a friend. The winner is always rewarded with one of Rev. Mendes' jams!

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY: 3rd Saturday of each month @ 9:30am, Marvin Lounge. Next: Saturday, March 21st—Please join us for our annual Easter Card activity. We have 25 seniors we will be making cards and baskets for. Andrea Sharp will create a card for us to assemble and write a message inside. We'll add these to the baskets with other goodies and they will be ready to deliver on Sunday, March 29.

GUEST PREACHER RON FAUX: Sunday, March 29th—It is a blessing to have such a gifted retired United Methodist Church pastor in our midst: Rev. Ron Faux and his wife Joan. They have both added many blessings to our family of faith. He also helps visit folks when Mark and or Josh are away of on vacation and will be doing a little more in the future as a way to

help out. If you know Ron and Joan, they also offer to us great stories of the faith whether it be at Sermon Talkback or Fellowship Hour. Another way Rev. Faux will be helping is to preach every so often and on March 29th, he will be doing just that so come out and support him and hear his take on Christ's gospel. NOTE: It is hoped that we will be in the sanctuary by March 29th and if that is the case, then we will also be celebrating Pretzel Sunday on that day.

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.

@ 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.

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 Next Pantry is Monday, March 9th

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

Friday, March 6th @ 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.essexeatsout.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	1-Nov
5-Jul	27-Sep	15-Nov
2-Aug		

HEAVENLY CENTS THRIFT SHOP

37 Main Street in Essex Junction



Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm; Thursdays 3pm-7pm; 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.)

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) Age Groups for You & Me Toddlers (accompanied by a parent/grandparent) on up to 5th grade.

Leadership Team: Assembly Leader ~ Jessica Moos; Bible Drama ~ Allison VanSteenburg; Decorating Assistant ~ Jenny Bourn; Games ~ Sue Wood; Science/Discovery ~ Justin King; Snacks ~ Judy Allen & Ginny Coe; Media/Photos ~ Doug Olufsen; Co-Music Leader ~ Laura Cunningham Firkey

Recruiting for:

- ⊕ Decorators (creating items ahead, decorating the weekend before)
- ⊕ Group Leaders
- ⊕ Co-Music Leader
- ⊕ Mission Coordinator
- ⊕ Station Assistants
- ⊕ Youth Helpers (6th grade and older)

VB Camp Wish List – Coming soon!

For questions and more information ~ contact Laurie.

HANNAFORD CARDS:

Next purchase date is March 1st.



(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.**

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 UPDATE



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]¹

Church Administrator: Doug Ovitt [welcome@fccej.org]²

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm³

¹ Laurie is off Fridays ² Doug is off weekends ³ ...depends on weather and holidays

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: Judy Larrabee-Pomainville [236-0604]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Missions: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Barb Smith [310-2491]

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]



Florist, Greenhouse & Perennial Farm

187 Main Street, Colchester, VT 05446

www.claussens.com

2020 Easter Flowers: Signup sheets are available between worship services. Or, you can email the church office: welcome@fccej.org; or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100.

Deadline is Palm Sunday (April 5th).

*Place orders as soon as possible to guarantee plant availability for delivery the week of April 6th

<u>Lily Varieties:</u>	<u>Price:</u>	<u>Colors Available:</u>
7" Easter Lily (1 plant per pot)	\$11.45 each	*White
7" Asiatic Lily (3 plants per pot)	\$11.45 each	*Yellow or Pink
8" Easter Lily (3 plants per pot)	\$22.99 each	*White
8" Oriental Lily (3 plants per pot)	\$19.99 each	*Pink
10" Easter Lily (4 plants per pot)	\$27.85 each	*White

<u>Flowering Plants:</u>	<u>Price:</u>	<u>Colors Available:</u>
4.5" African Violets	\$4.65 each	*Pink, Purple or White
4.5" Hyacinth	\$4.00 each	*Blue, Pink, Purple or White
4.5" Mini Daffodil	\$4.00 each	*Yellow
7" Daffodil	\$10.99 each	*Yellow
7" Florist Mum	\$12.85 each	*Pink, White or Yellow
7" Hyacinth	\$10.99 each	*Blue, Pink, Purple or White
7" Hydrangea	\$18.85 each	*Blue or Pink
7" Tulip	\$10.99 each	*Pink, Red or Yellow
8.5" Azalea	\$19.85 each	*Pink or Red
8.5" Daffodil	\$13.50 each	*Yellow
8.5" Tulip	\$13.50 each	*Pink, Red or Yellow
10" Tulip	\$22.99 each	*Pink, Red or Yellow

Foil & Pot Cover Charges:

4.5" Pots: \$0.50 ~ 7" Pots: \$0.85 ~ 8.5" Pots: \$0.95 ~ 10" Pots: \$1.00

*Delivery is available. Standard shipping & handling rates apply per shipment.

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

March 1, 2020
First Sunday in Lent
Abundant Grace
Matthew 4:1-11
UCC Women's Week, March 1-7

It's the first Sunday in Lent, the season when we act in deliberate ways to help us move closer to God. You may have learned that Lent is a time to give something up, but it can also be a time to take something on. Maybe this is the year you will take on a new commitment to faithful learning and activism. If so, consider registering now for Ecumenical Advocacy Days (advocacydays.org), coming up in Washington DC on April 24-27, 2020.

Every April more than a thousand Christians, including many in the United Church of Christ, descend on Washington DC for Ecumenical Advocacy Days. According to their website (advocacydays.org), this "...is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation." The goal of Ecumenical Advocacy Days is, "...through worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness, is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues." The United Church of Christ and Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are proud to be sponsors of this important weekend of learning, prayer and action.

This year, the theme of Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) is "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored."

"Temperatures are rising dramatically and dangerously everywhere, disrupting ecological systems and every type of human activity. The generations of tomorrow depend on what we do today. EAD 2020 will explore the intersection of climate change and economic injustice. This will galvanize our advocacy on behalf of policies and programs to chip away at the systems of oppression that keep people in poverty and push all life on earth to the brink of destruction. ...Churches continue to respond actively to the climate crisis with disaster relief to support low-income communities and ecosystems most impacted by climate-related disasters. They are also working to build resilient and sustainable communities and economies that can create jobs and prevent future disasters. Churches are partnering with youth, indigenous communities, civil and human rights organizations, the international community, and others to address inequality and strengthen the movement for climate justice."*

*"2020 National Gathering." *Ecumenical Advocacy Days*. <https://advocacydays.org/2020-imagine-gods-earth-people-restored/>

March 2, 2020 - March 8, 2020

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				

April 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		

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

- **8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **5:30pm - 7:00pm Finance Committee** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **7:00pm - 9:00pm Church Council** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **7:30pm - 8:30pm OA Meeting** (2nd Floor Programming Room) ☰

Wednesday, March 4

- **11:30am - 1:00pm Religio-Spiritual Leaders' Lunch**
- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **1:30pm - 3:00pm FCCEJ Staff Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- **5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **6:00pm - 7:00pm BSA PLC** (3rd Floor Youth Room) ☰
- **6:30pm - 8:00pm Handbells Choir Rehearsal** (Gymnasium) ☰
- **7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Thursday, March 5

- **8:30am - 11:30am Essex Art League** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **8:45am - 9:45am Jamaica Bound Calcutta**
- **9:45am - 11:00am Jamaica Bound Leadership**
- **10:00am - 11:30am Lenten Study** (Marvin Lounge)
- **12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **12:30pm - 2:30pm JOY** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals** (3rd Floor) ☰
- **5:30pm - 7:30pm HRC Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- **6:00pm - 9:00pm Music@First** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
- **6:00pm - 8:00pm Cub Scouts** (Gymnasium) ☰
- **7:30pm - 9:00pm Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge) ☰
- **8:15pm - 9:15pm Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall) ☰

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

- **9:00am - 1:00pm Thrift Store Open** ☰
 - **9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship**
 - **1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☰
 - **2:00pm - 4:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band** (3rd Floor)
 - **3:00pm - 8:30pm Scout District Dinner** (Fellowship Hall)
- More Items...

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 8

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