



SPIRIT @ FIRST

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH of Essex Junction

Love. Serve. Grow.

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Your Pastor's Ponderings...

As we age, we have the blessing to be able to look in our own rearview mirrors and discern the patterns of behavior that we have exhibited through the vagaries of life. In those reflections, we discern patterns and characteristics that define who we are as human beings. If we are adept in our hindsight, humble in our outlook, and hungry to live into God's image of who we were made to be, we can make changes and better ourselves. This act of sanctification demands that we deal with the underside of our being and the shadows / darkness of our souls; so we make peace with enemies, let go of old grudges and work to change ourselves for the better. In the end this process yields contentment, joy, and a deeper sense of meaning and only occurs if we earnestly and honestly face our darkness.

This holds true for dysfunctional familial life; only when one deals with the trauma and negative dynamics of the past can one claim the bounty of the goodness within that same system. As a minister, the same is true for churches. Inappropriate behaviors of clergy or congregations echo from one generation to the next until a community dredges up the unfortunate past, talks it through and deals with the ongoing repercussions. Not doing so leads to the unfortunate dictum that history is doomed to repeat itself. Just in my short ministry, I have come to recognize this pattern. But when people, families and churches do the difficult work, health and wholeness is claimed with greater ease and empowerment.

The same can be said for our nation. It is only when we deal with the darkness of our past that we can claim the goodness of our witness and have a light to lead us into the unknown future. I have always believed that we are one of the greatest civilizations in the history of the world; united in our diversity we offer dignity liberty and justice for all. We are indeed a light on a hill, inspiring nations to strive for freedom and democracy and offering terror to despots and dictators. But to fully claim our birthright of greatness we need to deal with our own darkness and use it to learn to be better as we create a more wholistic future.

The book we are reading for Searchers claims this truth. The 1619 Project seeks to have our country claim its mantle of liberty and justice for all by learning about, understanding and making amends with the darkness of slavery, racism and white supremacy. Listen to this telling quote that not only deals with difficult facts of the past but, puts our own time within our country's longer dealings with race.

Considering the history, it should come as no surprise that the election of the first Black president and anxiety over shifting racial demographics due to immigration—including a widely publicized projection that white people will be a racial minority by the mid-twenty-first century—would be followed by a rise in white nationalism, hate crimes, and vigilante violence, as well as the election of politicians like Donald Trump, a man who rose to power by exploiting racial fears and divisions and sought to maintain power by thwarting democracy.

In the same vein, it should have been obvious that rebellions in Black communities would sweep our nation again and again, given that police officers and vigilantes continue to kill unarmed Black people like Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Albery, and George Floyd, and given the deplorable conditions documented in the Kerner Commission's report remain mainly mostly unaddressed.

The author then goes on to say that the largest protests in history that followed George Floyd's murder demanding justice for our Black brothers and sisters breaks the typical response and offers hope for the future, essentially doing what healthy people, families and churches do to get past their dark pasts. I encourage individuals, families and churches to claim a brighter future by dealing with their dark pasts and I can only hope that our country has the ability, insight and courage to do the same. Engaged in this ministry with you,

I am yours in Christ,
Mark Mendes

Simon Sez...



The history of the Civil Rights Movement is not complete without the inclusion of Bayard Rustin. Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) was a mostly openly gay, black man. He was a brilliant thinker and orator; limited by his contextually tabooed homosexuality. He was committed to pacifism and nonviolent direct action. Rustin devoted his life to Quakerism infused with Negro Spirituals. He was a mentor to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Before he influenced King's nonviolent philosophy, Rustin was a conscientious objector and was jailed for refusing to serve in the military during World War II. He participated in creating the World Peace Brigade, an international coalition of pacifists who would participate in nonviolent direct action to help aid independence movements in Africa. He was arrested in 1953 for having consensual sex with men. His subsequent criminal record was used against him throughout the rest of his life.

Rustin met MLK during the Montgomery Bus Boycotts in 1956. There was no one who was more influential on MLK's understanding of nonviolent direct action than Bayard Rustin. MLK had a disorganized understanding of Gandhian nonviolence. Rustin organized MLK's disorganized nonviolence ideas into the Civil Rights Movement we remember. When Rustin first arrived in Montgomery, the leaders of the movement had armed guards around their houses, and guns were everywhere. The personal use of firearms is a contradiction to nonviolence. Nonviolence direct action believes in the private and public use of nonviolence. Rustin told King, "[when] a leader's house is bombed, and he shoots back, that is an encouragement to his followers to pick up guns. If he has no guns around him, and they all know it, they will rise to the nonviolent occasion of the situation." Nonviolence was not a tactic but a way of life.

Bayard Rustin's time in Dr. King's inner circle waxed and waned due to pressure from homophobic leaders and King's complicity. In 1960, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr, a Congressman from New York City and a black man, blackmailed King into disassociating with Rustin. Powell threatened to lie and claim Rustin and King were romantically involved. King and Rustin parted ways. He was outside King's circle for many years until the 1963 March on Washington.

A. Philip Randolph, a black labor and civil rights organizer, first conceived of a march on Washington to end segregation in war industries and the armed forces when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. Randolph worked with Bayard Rustin to organize direct actions to end segregation. With the threat of a mass demonstration in DC, FDR compromised and desegregated the war industries, but not the armed forces. This march was shelved and deployed for another crucial civil rights moment.

In 1962 and 1963, again, Randolph and Rustin dreamed of a march on Washington for jobs and to end segregation. They went to work on organizing the march in 1963. At first, Rustin was the Director. He planned the logistics of mobilizing thousands of people to march in Washington. However, homophobia once again obstructed public recognition due to him. The head of the NAACP demanded that Rustin step down as Director due to his prior convictions. Randolph and others in leadership acquiesced and Randolph became the Director. But Randolph appointed Rustin Deputy Director, and often as was the case for marginalized people, Rustin presided behind the scenes. Rustin's attention to detail moved the plan forward and mobilized the massive resources necessary to organize the event. There was not a how-to-guide on organizing a march on Washington. The March on Washington in 1963 was the first of its kind.

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On that fateful day in August 1963, we remember some of Dr. King's words, "I Have a Dream." But despite the concerns of Rustin's public involvement, Rustin was given his due by Ossie Davis, an aid to Rustin. Davis contra to the political expediency by Randolph and others. Davis (I'm sure to the chagrin of some Civil Rights leaders) recognized Rustin's proper role in the March. When he introduced Rustin, he said, "The executive director on the March on Washington, the man who organized this whole thing, Mr. Bayard Rustin." Later in the March, Rustin delivered the list of demands:

1. "The first demand is that we have effective Civil Rights legislation, no compromise, no filibuster, and that it include public accommodations, decent housing, integrated education, Fair Employment Practice Committee, and the right to vote.
2. Second demand the withholding of, Federal funds from all programs in which discrimination exists.
3. Third demand the enforcement of the 14th Amendment, the reducing of congressional representation of states where citizens are disenfranchised.
4. Fourth demand an Executive Order banning discrimination in all housing supported by federal funds.
5. Fifth demand that every person in this nation, black or white, be given training and work with dignity to defeat unemployment and automation.
6. Sixth demand that there be an increase in the national minimum wage so that men may live in dignity.
7. Seventh demand that all of the rights that are given to any citizen be given to black men and men of every minority group including a strong Fair Employment Practice Committee."

The brilliant Bayard Rustin conceived and organized the March. The truth of his story, his impact on this historic moment, now inspires people of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer folx* in their activism for economic and social justice. Because he could, we can.

Rev. Josh Simon

**Definition of folx: folks —used especially to explicitly signal the inclusion of groups commonly marginalized.*

Thank
you

"I would like to thank the Missions Committee and the congregation for their support through the Seminarian Sunday offering. Your care and contributions have uplifted me as I am continuing to discern God's call. Things like this help me in knowing that this is the right path for me. From the bottom of my heart. Thank You. As I enter my final semester I could not have done this work without your support.

*Grace and Peace,
Joshua Sharp"*



FREE Little Art Gallery & Library

- ~At the bottom of the ramp to Church Street entrance~
- ~New books going in the library this week!~
- ~Art Gallery may have an item for your Valentine~
- ~Stop by ~ Pick something out ~ Drop something off~



Epiphany stars are still available at the church and we are also happy to mail one to you or drop it off, just be in touch. Even to those of you at college! We'd love an Epiphany star to grace your window, lift your spirits and bring hope in these winter days when we have less daylight, and sometimes less sunshine. Like these great magi from the 2017 FCCEJ pageant, let your star lead you through this time. Remember to look up and keep a watch for the word on your star to guide you and reach out to you. Before you know it February will be over and Shove Tuesday will arrive on March 1st. This is the last day of the season of Epiphany when the early Christians would eat a feast of staples before fasting for the 40 days of Lent. I hope Shove Tuesday is on your calendar and you have a pancake, crepes, or waffle supper planned.

Please see our updates regarding current Faith Formation programming (hybrid option), rediscover your prayer station, learn more about outdoor ministry camps and look at them online, and look and see about joining us for summer camping opportunities. There is a lot of information and happenings in this newsletter. I hope that all parents share this publication with children and youth and remain connected to the faith community.

One of our big Sundays in the life of the church is coming on February 6th: Ask the Pastor Sunday and the Annual Meeting after worship. What questions are you wondering about? Do you have a deep question you'd like to ask Pastor Mark or Pastor Josh and try to stump them? Put your thinking caps on!

Is it helpful and meaningful for your family to continue to have our Sunday morning Faith Formation program offer a hybrid option? Please share and be in touch. I'd love to hear from you.

Watch for upcoming news of our 2022 Lenten Scavenger Hunt and Pretzel Sunday in the March newsletter.

Peace of Christ to you all,

Laurie Chipman

Christian Education Director

Prayer Stations



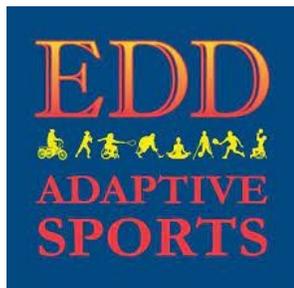
Yes, it's been awhile. Do you still have it set up in your home? Is it a quiet place to sit or is it busy? Prayer is talking to God and can happen whether we are busy or bored. Does your prayer station look the same or have you changed it up? Now that we are in Epiphany and the shortest days of the year, some of us spend more time inside than we'd like. A prayer station can help us stay calm, help us relax, focus, and just be with our maker. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are always pleased when we make time to chat with them. Pick the one that's most comfortable to you to sit down, have a cup of coffee, tea or hot cocoa, and just let the conversation flow.



Do You Still Have Your Faith@Home Bag?

Know where it is? Feel free to add your activity coloring pages to this bag or put them in your Take Out Church box. Remember to keep Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit with you where ever you go and keep working on building your faith and relationships. An activity sheet can help start the conversation with those around you and with God.

2021-22 Faith Formation Offering



EDD Adaptive Sports ~ www.eddfund.org

Help us level the playing field for people with disabilities.

Have you gotten injured lately? Sprained an ankle, a wrist, been sore from a covid shot? You know what it's like to not feel your best or be able to do what you normally can. EDD Adaptive Sports helps to engage those who need assistance and support to help them play sports. Visit their website and ask yourself the question—what can I give to help those in need? Then send in your support by mail or bring it with you on Sunday. Envelopes are in the Narthex by the worship supplies. Our giving is currently at \$161.97.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

****Watch for Faith@Home emails in your inbox****

Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Sunday Morning Faith Formation weekly during our 10am or 10:15am service (**masked**).

Everyone begins in the Sanctuary, then following the Children's message those in Prek-8th grade are welcome to follow Laurie to the Marvin Lounge (air purifiers running) for our current hybrid program where we join those at home on Zoom. Need the Zoom link? Email Laurie at lchipman@fccej.org.

Every Thursday in our weekly church email will be a link to Sunday's activity sheets. If you are joining us on Zoom you can print them out ahead and have them ready. If you will join us in person we will have copies ready for you.

Young Apostles

(3rd - 5th graders & a Parent/Grandparent)

February 6th from 1-3pm

@ Catamount Outdoor Family Center in Williston

This group meets once a month for fun-filled fellowship. Recreation, Bible study, mission projects, laughing & talking, and, most important, creating bonds that will steer our children into lasting friendships in their teen years. This is all found in Young Apostles.

This month we are joining EDD Adaptive Sports (your offering choice for this year). Sledding (free, plus your own helmet and sled) or Snowshoeing (free if you have your own gear or rent there). EDD believes strongly in PHAT: Protect your Head at All Times! **No Exceptions.** Planning to join us? Everyone needs to fill out 2 online waivers. Contact Laurie for the links. Next gathering is March 13th.

Youth Time – The Gathering ~ **Mark ALL your calendars!**

Calling ALL Youth! 6th - 12th graders ~ Weekly on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8pm

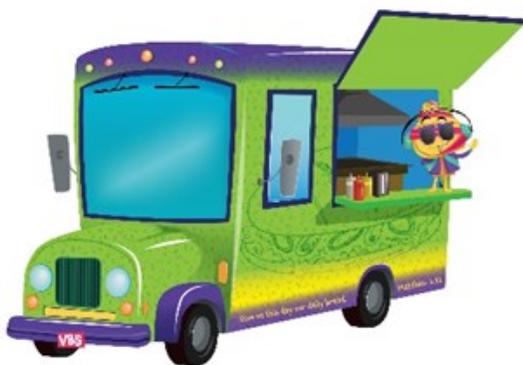
Do your part and reach out to your church peers & friends. ☺

No gathering these dates due to no school the next day: February 20th & 27th, March 20th, April 17th, May 29th

Come and create community. Be a part of this safe space to talk, relax and connect with your God. Come build your faith, do mission projects, release your stress breathing in the breath of God. Join Pastor Josh, Laurie and our adult youth ministry friends Barb Smith & Kathryn Brennan.

We are looking for other adults who would like to join the OM Team planning events and helping with our youth. Interested? Want to hear more? Reach out to the staff. Help our youth build long lasting relationships and a strong youth program.

Vacation Bible Camp - Coming August 8-12, 2022 - Mark your calendars!!!



Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!

We had SO much fun being outside in 2021 that we have decided to do it again for 2022.

VB Camp Team is Coming Together

Recruitment is underway for this year's station leaders for Crafts, Science, Snack, Music & Service Project! We are also looking for floaters, youth assistants and a photographer.

Our kit has arrived! Station leader books are ready to be passed out and we are hoping to have our first team gathering in early March. Interested in volunteering, but not sure where or how you can get involved? Contact Laurie! She's excited to talk with you!

Communications

Our website continues to be updated regularly by Andrea Sharp to keep it current and relevant to the happenings at First Church. The Advent/Christmas block was replaced by the "Seeking Music Director" block which leads to the "Music Director" page. The "Music Director" page provides all of the details related to the Music Director position to be filled.

Changes were also made to pages of the website using MailChimp integration. With the recent decision to move away from MailChimp the pages/forms that use MailChimp needed to be updated.

With the recent switch to a single 10am service Andrea also made some quick updates to communicate the new time as well as Faith Formation time.

The Communications Committee revisited the discussion around Social Media Guidelines after feedback from Mark, Josh and Cathy. The results of the discussion are to be reviewed again by church staff.

The existing Communications Committee Mission Statement was reviewed and considered to still be a good description of what the committee does. See <https://www.fccej.org/v5/who-we-are/governance/> for a description of all the committees.

The website is a great way to learn about what is happening at the church; please take an opportunity to browse the website at www.fccej.org. Contact the church office via e-mail at <mailto:welcome@fccej.org> or by calling 878-5745 if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted by Francis Gravel

Committee Members: Francis Gravel, Andrea Sharp, Hannah Tracy, Douglas Olufsen and Geoff Brown

Deacon's Corner

We continue to change and adapt to keep our congregation and staff safe during these trying times. We have changed to one in person service which is also live streamed. We welcome you to attend one of these services. We will continue to work together to get through this pandemic. The days are getting longer and spring will come. Keep the Faith!

Rusty Sargent, Deacon

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop News!

Heavenly Cents hopes to re-open in February, but a specific date has not been determined. Donations are accepted, even while the store is on hiatus. Please call 802-879-6552 and leave a message to coordinate a time to drop off your items. We are grateful for your donations of good quality men's, women's, and children's clothing, shoes and boots, linens, and small houseware items. We are no longer accepting books.

If you are interested in joining our team and volunteering a few hours each month, contact either Sue Wood at 878-3068 or Elaine Raymond at 879-7350.

Donate to our Church

Your donations support music, youth, missions, adult enrichment, Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, and more! We are also a United Church of Christ "5 for 5" participant in these fundraisers: Per Capita, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund. Here are a few ways that you may help our ministry:

- ⇒ **Send a Check or use BillPay.** This is a remote service that issues one-time or recurring check payments by mail. Please contact your banking institution for details. Please note the reason for your donation in the check's memo line (e.g., "missions").
- ⇒ **Shop using Amazon Smile.** We receive 0.5% of your purchases! To start, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/03-0212216>
- ⇒ **Send money via PayPal.** We accept electronic donations! Visit paypal.me/fccej.
(A PayPal account is not required to donate money.)

Missions Committee

Your Missions Committee met in January and brainstormed ideas for outreach work on the local, national, and international level in 2022. Part of our goal is to keep everyone at FCCEJ informed about the organizations and causes we support so you may consider ways in which you can support them too. Below are some of our recent outreach efforts:



Tornado Disaster Relief: A tornado outbreak on December 10 & 11, 2021, spread across five states, leaving 90 confirmed deaths, many more injured, and devastation in its wake. The scenes of homes obliterated, cars, trucks, and trains thrown and upended, and shaken victims that we witnessed through our news outlets left many of us stunned. This is already considered the costliest tornado event in U.S. history, according to AccuWeather. Many families lost their homes and possessions. Your missions committee members are asking for donations to aid the United Church of Christ in their tornado disaster relief efforts. Please send your donations to the church, clearly marked as for tornado disaster relief. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Vermont (USCRI Vermont): Many of us have heard of Gov. Phil Scott's plan to welcome Afghan refugees to Vermont. Your Missions Committee plans to assist with supporting these new Vermonters in our midst. We contacted the Vermont Refugee and Resettlement office (USCRI Vermont), a field office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, "working to protect the rights and address the needs of the uprooted." According to their website "USCRI Vermont has been welcoming newcomers to Vermont since 1980. In the last 40 years, over 8,000 refugees have started new lives in Vermont with assistance from USCRI." Due to being overwhelmed with recent donations of household items, USCRI Vermont has put a temporary hold on these donations. Financial donations, including food gift cards are needed however. The committee voted to use \$500 of our annual budget to buy the requested Shaw's food gift cards. We will continue to check-in with USCRI Vermont and keep you informed of current needs. For more information, please visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/USCRIVT>. Their webpage is: <https://refugees.org/uscri-vermont/>

Outdoor Ministry Special Offering - February 20, 2022: This important special offering is used to support camp scholarships for the youth of our church and to support the facilities and organizations that provide this important ministry. In the midst of a cold Vermont February, what could be better than dreaming of the green of summer, with warm breezes, sunshine, and fresh air? What better way than being outside in God's beautiful creation to feel the presence and love of our creator! Please consider contributing to this important special offering. Please clearly mark your gift as for Outdoor Ministry and as always, gifts are gladly accepted before or after the offering date.

Dismas House Volunteer Opportunity: As part of our church's outreach ministry, we have volunteered to provide one meal at month at Dismas House, which is a residential home that provides shelter and support for individuals transitioning from incarceration to new lives. Ed Steele is our church member who organizes these meals and would love to hear from you to volunteer to help with a meal or to find out more information about Dismas House. His telephone number is 802-871-5897 and his email is: edwardmsteele@msn.com Here is also a link to the Dismas House website: <https://www.dismasofvt.org/>



Jamaica Service Program News

The Jamaica service planned for February 27, 2022 has been postponed due to the change in service schedules. We look forward to bringing you this information and celebration of our Jamaica Service Program at a time when we can have more active in-person participation by Jamaica alumni, new music, and updates from our partners in Jamaica.

In the coming months' newsletters, we plan to resume giving you a flavor of our experiences in Jamaica with articles from Jamaica alumni, as well as information about what's happening in Jamaica, and communications from our partners there.





Loaner Wheelchair Available

FCCEJ recently received a donation of a wheelchair. If you or a loved one have a temporary need for a wheelchair, please contact one of our pastors. We are blessed to be able to have this equipment available for use!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

SARGENT, Rusty	1-Feb
RUSSELL, Clint	2-Feb
BENTON, Ethan	4-Feb
HAINES, Jo	4-Feb
FINNIE, Kathy	6-Feb
MALINA, Ed	8-Feb
GOEDKEN, Ethan	9-Feb
GRAY, Peter	12-Feb
BENTON, Mark	14-Feb
EVANS, Abigail	14-Feb
PARKER, Nancy	14-Feb
KELLY, Jennifer	15-Feb
LONGWELL, Cindy	15-Feb
POTTER, Allen	16-Feb
BEEBE, Sharon	17-Feb
GARRAPY, Betty	19-Feb
MAUGER III, John	19-Feb
PAUL, George	19-Feb
EHLER, Duke	22-Feb
HOLDEN, Sue	22-Feb
AHOKAS, Cheryl	24-Feb
DETTENRIEDER, Sharon	24-Feb
DEWEY, Mae	24-Feb
DAVIS, Robert	25-Feb
GABERT, Valerie	26-Feb
MCGEARY, Matt	26-Feb
MARSHALL, Connie	28-Feb

Online Auction

February 2nd
thru
February 11th



JUMP is holding an Online Auction February 2-11. The theme is "Showing Love for JUMP". Here is the link:

<https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?auctionId=341699061>

Low-income Vermont households need the help that JUMP can provide with utility payments, transportation, and support to purchase essentials like groceries, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. We are inviting your support of JUMP's important community work!

Although bidding does not start until Wednesday, February 2, visit the [JUMP Online Auction website](https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?auctionId=341699061) now to:

- ⇒ View items up for bid (check back frequently as items are being added daily)
- ⇒ Set up your account so you will be already to start bidding on February 2nd
- ⇒ Donate an item for the auction or become a sponsor

Help promote the event the JUMP Online Auction website:

- ◇ Create Facebook posts and Twitter tweets by clicking on their icons on the top right hand corner
- ◇ Click on the "Refer a friend" button and fill in the email addresses of friends and family and send them all a notice about the event
- ◇ Send your own email by clicking on the email icon on the top right hand corner

Join us in this fundraising event and show your love for JUMP. You will be doing your part in responding to the need that is out there by supporting a local organization that assists Vermont households in need.

Worship & Connection

Sermon Talk Back:

Join us every Tuesday from 8:30-10am to talk about the Sunday scripture and message. This time provides opportunities to delve deeper into scripture and hear the perspectives of others in our faith community. Sermon Talkback currently meets via Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>

Worship & Connection

Sunday Worship - One Service at 10am*

Streamed via [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fccej)

We are pleased to offer in-person worship with COVID precautions in place. This includes masking and social distancing regardless of vaccination status.

Communion is served in the Sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of each month. The elements will be sealed and passed out to the congregation.

*Currently we are holding one service due to the high rate of virus cases. However, once we deem it is safe, we will once again offer two Sunday worship services at 8:30 and 10:15am. Please check our website for updates.

Ushers & Greeters Needed

Our ushers and greeters perform a vital function in the life of our faith family and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who currently serve in this capacity! You have helped create a warm and welcoming environment for everyone.

We are looking to expand our ushering and greeter teams. It's a fun way to interact with everyone and serve our church. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Marlene Frank at marlene.frank@uvmhealth.org or feel free to sign up via this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a48aaad2ca2ff2-fccej2>.

Camping Ministry

FCCEJ Camping Trips



Whether you like to camp in a tent, lonto or a camper we hope you will join us! Our camping weekend of June 24-26 is at Lake Carmi State Park where there are still lots of camping sites. Labor Day weekend will be at Grande Isle State Park, September 2-4. Don't

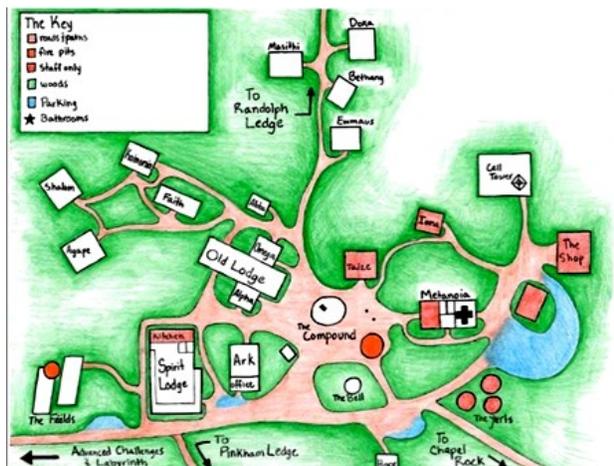
wait too long to book your campsite! Our time together will begin Friday evening and run until Sunday morning for each event. Join us for the full duration of the weekend or the days that work for you. This is a flexible time to appreciate God's great outdoors. Please forward your site number to Laurie or Pastor Mark so we can make a map for everyone. Hoping to plan more activities as a group than we did last year.

Outdoor Ministry Camps

Family Camp Weekend at Horton Center – Interested?

Are you considering going to Horton Center but not sure about a full week? What about testing it out with your family for a weekend? Laurie is thinking about attending 'Family & Friends – Beginnings' on Memorial Day weekend May 27-30th. This is a great way to check out and experience HC with the whole or part of the family and have Laurie there with you to sweeten the weekend. Sound good? Reach out and let her know! She'd love to hear from you and spend her weekend at HC with you. All ages are welcome for this family weekend. Laurie knows the directors, Jon & Lily. It will be amazing! Check it out here: https://hortoncenter.org/summer_camp_sessions/family-friends-beginnings/

www.hortoncenter.org



Here's a map of the HC campus up on top of Pine Mtn just outside of Gorham, NH. Go hiking, caving, rock climb, nature walks, arts & crafts, field games, campfires and s'mores, and maybe even take a swim in the river just to name a few of the adventures you can experience.

Camp Scholarships await you! First Church is ready to help send you to outdoor ministry camp whether it be Horton Center (NH), Silver Lake Conference Center (CT) or Pilgrim Lodge (ME). Attending a camp is a powerful way to connect with God and connect with others while enriching your faith. If you like VB Camp then you are going to LOVE your time at camp. Camp is a 24/7 experience that will be life changing and a fantastic adventure. Contact Laurie or a pastor for more info.

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Phone: 802-878-5745
Email: welcome@fccej.org

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Please help us clean up our mailing list! If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, or would rather receive it electronically simply:

- E-mail an “unsubscribe” message to welcome@fccej.org
- Phone us at 802-878-5745 **OR**
- Mail this page back to us at the address above

FIND US ONLINE!



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FIRSTCONGREGATIONALEJ



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