



SPIRIT @ FIRST

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

September 2022: In this issue...

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Your Pastor's Ponderings.....

After another year of ministry in the midst of the ever-changing pandemic of the coronavirus, it was a joy to pack up our camper and head west to visit family, friends and a goodly number of National Parks and Monuments in Colorado and Utah: Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Capital Reef NP, the Valley of the Ancients NM, Chimney Rock NM, Mesa Verde NP, Great Sand Dunes NP. I missed the lushness and abundance of water in beautiful Vermont, but the arid nature of the country with its reds, yellows, oranges, whites and dried out sage green as far as the eye could see had its own beauty. Beauty is surely in the mind of the beholder. The simple vastness of the country was humbling and awe inspiring. Connecting with my sister and her extended family as well as some old friends was just as nourishing to my soul as wondering around the mountains and desert. Listening to the native voices cry out for justice reminded me that the way we treated the native population is one of the twin originating sins of our country along with slavery and its ongoing implications for our shared life. It was a good vacation for my family and I hope that all of you have been able to relax a bit and nourish your bodies and spirits.

It was good to get home, though, and return to our familiar surroundings and lives. It is good to catch up not only with my gardening [weeds!] but with the people that enrich my life and ministry. I missed the give and take of church life and the work of building a faithful community where love, kindness and compassion are the rule and not the exception. I missed sharing the ups and downs of life with so many of you in which we share ministry. How glorious it was to come home and share the funny stories, interesting people and cultural lessons we learned as we drove across our great land. Each of our trips have changed me a bit, as lived experiences always do; meeting people and learning about a different part of our country with all its issues, history and problems is enlightening. I hope that all of you have also had interesting experiences and I look forward to hearing them and seeing how they have changed your perspective.

Now that I have three weeks of adjusting back to my normal life under my belt, plans for this coming year are taking shape. Stewardship is in the midst of creating a different approach to our fall stewardship drive; the Deacons, CE and Music gathered with staff to envision themes and set our yearly worship/Sunday schedule, Nominating has a good jump on filling our many volunteer positions, a number of socially conscious stands are working their way to a congregational meeting, the Trustees are moving forward with building a new fence for the pre-school, purchasing a new firewall and software to protect our church's computer and member information, and finalizing plans to finally upgrade our capability of having our services available on line; our Open and Affirming Committee, celebrating our ten year anniversary of being an ONA Congregation is looking for ways to deepen our understanding and live into our expansive statement; and all around me volunteers, staff and church officers are re-engaging like myself after my vacation.

One thing I observed as I went across the country is how very important shared values are. Faith communities have an intrinsic calling to draw people together, lift them up to be good and productive members of society and offer hope for the future: a commodity missing a bit along the highway and yet longed for with great passion.

The need for our church to remain strong is the face of ongoing issues of division and degradation of our society has never been clearer to me. Let us all re-commit to strengthening the ties that bind us together and work together to make our church healthy, vibrant and an active part of creating a better and just society. Ready and refreshed to work with you on this endeavor, I am

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark

Simon Sez...

Why We March?

The first Pride parade I went to was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I technically snuck out of the house that day. Anxious about my parents' thoughts about Pridefest, I simply left a message on the counter saying I would be back later that day. I drove down with my first boyfriend, Tyler. Milwaukee hosts its Pridefest on the first weekend in June. It's a three-day event. The final day culminates with a parade. If you arrive early and bring some perishable items, you enter the festival grounds at a discount. We walked around the festival grounds. For the first time seeing people of all kinds: drag queens, lesbians, gay couples holding hands, and children with their same-sex parents. We left the festival grounds and waited for a bus to take us to the parade. We sat next to an older redheaded lady. She held a sign that read, "God Blessed ME with a GAY SON." As we rode the bus, we chatted with her. She asked if this was our first time. She told us she had been holding her sign outside the festival and at the parade for decades. Her presence exuded warmth and compassion.

When we arrived at the parade route, she walked across the street to where anti-gay protestors held signs. Their signs are forgettable and hateful, but I never forget the atmosphere around their presence. Their presence is not warmth and compassion; it is cold, angry, and mean. While they hold their signs, they shout hurtful and hateful words. And in truth and honesty, they quote the same Bible that we quote, except they find the few passages that seem to condemn same-sex behavior. They quote them out of context and as if the cultural practices of one culture should always dictate the cultural practices of later cultures, as if we should be stuck in the past rather than have a faith that looks forward and finds the way God's presence is still speaking to us. In all my years of life and ministry, I have never found it useful to enter into a scripture battle to convince someone else of my humanity. The best way to convince someone of your humanity is to live life and not hide.

See, we read the same Bible and yet come to different conclusions. An important factor in interpreting the Bible is our life experience. At some point in our lives, we learned that when we interpret the Bible, we do so with logic and reason by contemplating how our knowledge of science and history informs our present understanding of the biblical passages. This often leads to viewing the Bible not as an inerrant, literalistic book but as a book filled with stories and inspiration that point us towards God and God's presence in the world. The Bible is not God. Before scriptures were ever written, ordinary people felt God's presence in their lives, and they wrote them from their time and place and all of the knowledge that was available to them. Likewise, something in our lives led us to experience God in an open way, affirming and celebratory of LGBTQ people.

We do not march because it will inspire anti-gay Christians to start loving their gay Christian siblings in Christ. Though, I am sure there have been a few who have been converted from being anti-gay to pro-gay at a Pride event. Miracles do happen. We march because we have read the same Bible and have landed on passages that emphasize love and inclusion and celebration because we have experienced God as loving. We march because we never know when a young person will sneak away from home, attend their first Pride parade, and see our church members walking with t-shirts with words of love, support, and celebration.

When I arrived home that night, I told my parents where I had gone. They were upset. I knew that getting through to my parents would take years of me being me until they would come to accept they too are blessed with a gay son.

Vermont celebrates Pride month in September. There are two important ways our church participates in the celebrations:

Interfaith Pride Service: Nourish, Renew & Thrive

Thursday, September 15 @ 7 pm

UVM Interfaith Center (400 S. Prospect, Burlington)

This inclusive space and program invites LGBTQ+ people and their allies to celebrate the sacredness of queer joy, embodiment, and community. Knowing that each of us understands spirituality differently, together we'll create space for our beautiful diversity. For questions, email interfaith@uvm.edu.

Pride Parade

Sunday, September 18, Noon-1 pm

Meet at the Hood Plant parking lot (187-193 S Winooski Ave, Burlington) at noon. The parade begins at 12:30.

As I write this article, we are in full swing recruiting volunteers for our 2022-23 Faith Formation program. The CE committee met and finalized plans for Welcome Back Sunday and I have an email going out soon to our families who are gathering for a camp trip Labor Day weekend. The end of summer is here and there is much excitement about the beginning of our program year! We hope you have had a fun summer, got rested and will join us as we celebrate our God and being in community together here at First Church.

On September 11, Welcome Back Sunday, the kiddos from PreK through 8th grade will gather following the children's message at the 10:15 service. They will have a chance to connect with old friends and make new ones, spend time in their peer rooms, play games, and get to know their leaders. They are welcome to bring their school backpacks to be blessed during worship.

Everyone will return to the Sanctuary during the final hymn, bringing families back together again as we transition to our Welcome Back Picnic sponsored by the CE committee. There will be hotdogs and hamburgers, chips, and watermelon. We have ordered a Bouncy House for the kiddos, (and maybe a few adults) - hand sanitizer available and mask wearing is optional. We are looking for cookie donations for the dessert table. If you can bring a dozen or two with you that day, or drop them off ahead, please reach out to me so we have an idea how big the dessert table needs to be. Please join us in praying for good weather!

During the picnic the Junior Youth will have a chance to fill out their paperwork with their parents, ask Pastor Josh and Laurie questions, and hear more about our first gathering on October 2nd when they will make plans to host the Halloween Party on October 30th.

Faith Formation full year calendars will also be available for families of all ages to collect, take home and put on your refrigerator so you can look forward to what will be coming in the months ahead.

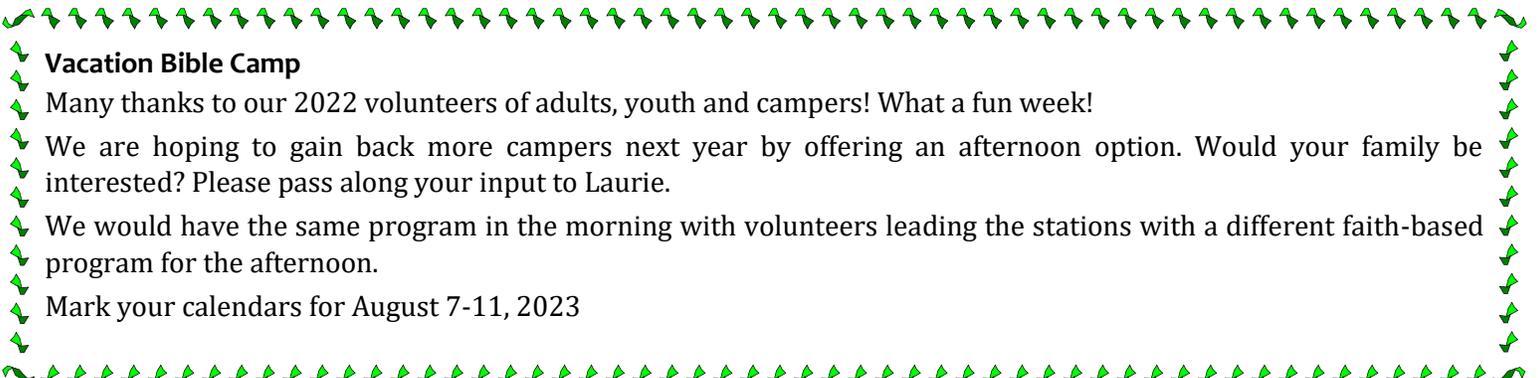
All who volunteer for our children and youth programs at FCCEJ have been with our community for at least 6 months, love spending time learning right along with the children on Sunday mornings, encourage everyone to ask questions, welcome all and have a love for God. These adults are background checked, go through the child protection registry check, a fall orientation and safe conduct training with me, receive weekly emails of upcoming information for the Sundays ahead (includes an outline for their time on Sunday and the lesson plan - all simple and easy to follow). If you are interested in being a volunteer, please reach out to me. The only prep that is asked is to read my weekly email and the Bible story for that Sunday a couple of times before arriving. All items needed for your time together with the kiddos is laid out in the peer room on Sunday morning, ready to be looked over before the 10:15am service starts. We are striving to have a team of leaders for each peer group so they can help cover for each other if someone is away.

I look forward to seeing you all at church as we live in community, worship, learn, pray and grow together as disciples of Jesus. If there is anything I can do to help you on your path, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask. I am a resource for you, a fellow disciple on my own faith journey and someone who will meet you for tea/coffee, go for a walk or just sitting in silence.

Blessed to be in ministry with you,

Laurie Chipman

Christian Education Director



Vacation Bible Camp

Many thanks to our 2022 volunteers of adults, youth and campers! What a fun week!

We are hoping to gain back more campers next year by offering an afternoon option. Would your family be interested? Please pass along your input to Laurie.

We would have the same program in the morning with volunteers leading the stations with a different faith-based program for the afternoon.

Mark your calendars for August 7-11, 2023

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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

Faith Formation Peer Groups for 2022-23 are currently as follows:

- ◆ PreK (3 & 4-year-old)
- ◆ Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade
- ◆ 3rd Grade
- ◆ 4th & 5th Grade
- ◆ 6th – 8th Grade

High school youth are encouraged to be helpers in a peer group and/or be on staff in our Nursery. Either or both of these will help you continue on your spiritual journey, looks great on your resume and college applications. Reach out to Laurie lchipman@fccej.org.

Faith @ Home Page

<https://www.fccej.org/v5/grow-in-faith/faith-home/>

Have you visited this site lately? It's a great place to go for another copy of Flat Jesus, suggestions on ways to pray, and different activities to do at home.

2022-23 Faith Formation Offering

Children and youth will have the opportunity to vote on their next offering choice on September 25th during the 10:15am service. Start thinking of organizations that you would like to see us support.

Young Apostles

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

Recreation, 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.

Our first gathering will be on October 2nd from 4-5pm. We have had a request to put together more Homeless Care Kits. Come join the fun. Play a game. Here about where these kits have gone to and where this bunch will be going. YA will be meeting quarterly during this program year. Please reach out to Laurie lchipman@fccej.org if you have any feedback or ideas to help us with future planning.

Junior Youth 6th-8th grades

Lead by Pastor Josh & Laurie

September 11: fill out paperwork with your parent during the picnic
October 2: gather from 11:30 to 1:30pm ~ game, lunch and plan Halloween Party
October 30: host the Halloween Party following 10:15 service (set up during worship & take down)

High School Youth

Interested in working in our Nursery on Sunday mornings? Contact Laurie for an interview, paperwork and orientation to the Nursery. You earn \$20 a worship service. We currently have 6 on payroll and there is room for more.

Join the Youth Ministry Team

Do you like to plan or gather with youth? Help them grow in their faith? Be a mentor? Interested? Questions? Want to hear more? Wondering how you can help this team and our youth? Reach out to Josh, Laurie or Barb Smith and/or Kathryn Brennan (team members). One goal is to expand the number of adults that our youth get to know here at FCCEJ and therefore help them be more likely to keep church in their live and their faith growing.

Camping Ministry

FCCEJ Camping Trip



We had a great group gather and go camping at Lake Carmi in June and another group is soon headed to Grand Isle Labor Day weekend.

Join us for the portion of the weekend that works for you. There is no set schedule; it's a very laid back and relaxing weekend. Please share your site # with Laurie. A "Welcome FCCEJ" will be at your site when you arrive. All will be invited to gather for s'mores each evening. Morning Watch or Evening Vespers (outdoor ministry words for worship) will happen. Laurie will bring items for group gathering and fellowship time. When we gather for s'more and fellowship more plans may develop.

Come for the full duration or just a night or too. Staff will be around from Thursday evening to Monday morning.

Stewardship

The Lighter Side of Giving

What happens when a PdD. mathematician, a physician, a teacher, a financial whiz and a writer come up with a Stewardship Campaign? Hold onto your pew, this fall, as you watch the antics of longtime parishioner “Edythe” grapple with celestial beings as she decides what the church means to her. The Stewardship Committee answers your burning questions!

What may I anticipate for this fall’s Stewardship Campaign?

We, as a committee, think you will be pleasantly surprised to see quite a bit of humor added to this year’s campaign, “Growing in Faith.” So, look forward to some light-hearted moments at our services on Oct. 9, 16, and 23!

Will the actual pledging process be any different?

Not really. We have redesigned the pledge card to reflect different ways of giving. And many people, from different church committees, are working hard to ensure the on-line pledging process will go smoothly.

I really don’t want to receive the mailings. Can I save the church some money by requesting that nothing be mailed to me?

Yes! You may pick up your pledge packet after services starting October 9 or from the church office during the week. Pledge packets will go in the mail the week of October 24th.

What, exactly, will happen in church on the Stewardship Sundays?

Ah, so we have piqued your interest! Let us just say that there is more than one “Edythe” among all of us, and we are confident that she/he will complement Pastor Mark’s and Pastor Josh’s theatrical sermons.

And, finally, what is this year’s campaign?

“Growing in Faith.” Jesus reminds us that the faith of a mustard seed is enough to move mountains. This tiny seed can grow into one of the biggest trees (Matthew 13:31-22).

The Mustard Seed

If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,...
nothing shall be impossible unto you.
Matthew 17:20

We look forward to sharing “Edythe’s” antics with you in October!



Missions Committee

The members of your Missions Committee met in August for a lovely pot luck dinner and productive meeting. Here is the latest and greatest:

◆ Seminary Sunday—September 11



In September, our special offering is Seminary Sunday. This supports the education of future ministers and is traditionally sent to the seminaries our ministers attended, which are Andover Newton and Chicago Theological. “Our seminaries continue to play a vital role in the health of the church,” said UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer. “With a clear mission for preparing leaders to serve the church, they have all become centers of adaptive learning in a rapidly changing world that also maintain clear and strong ties to our cherished traditions and core values.” For more information about this important special offering please refer to the United Church of Christ website: <https://www.ucc.org>

◆ Italian Café — Friday, September 30



In appreciation of the support from the FCCEJ family, the Missions Committee is organizing an “Italian Café Evening”. Salad, bread, cheese and entertainment will be provided by the team; we’re looking for about 10 people to bring an entrée. Do you have a pasta dish you’d like to make? If you are inspired by a cooking show/food magazine, recent night out, or maybe have a family favorite you’d like share, please contact Paula Sargent (paula.sargent60@gmail.com) or the church office. There is much to celebrate about the work our church has done for our mission outreach and we thank you!

◆ Missions Fair—Sunday, October 2



Join us as we celebrate all our church has done and is doing to support outreach on the local, national and international levels! Debra Ingram from Vermont Interfaith Action will be a special guest speaker in worship. There will also be representatives from other organizations who will have tables set up in Fellowship Hall between and after worship.

◆ Summer Bake Sale



As part of the recent Nearly New Sale on July 23rd, the Missions Committee sponsored a bake sale. Thank you to all who supported this endeavor—by baking and purchasing baked goods. A special shout out to Ann Marie Sullivan for spearheading this event. \$240.50 was raised and donated to COTS, The Committee on Temporary Shelter. According to their website, “COTS advocates for long-term solutions to end homelessness and provides emergency shelter, services, and long-term housing for Vermonters who are experiencing homelessness or are marginally housed.” To read more about this great organization, please refer to their website: <https://cotsonline.org/>

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop September News!



Happy Fall everyone! We appreciate the continued support our community at large provides us and continue to welcome donations in good resaleable quality. We are in between our warm and cold seasons—as you clean out your closets, start a pile of cold-weather things to bring us in October. Remember that jewelry and linens (clean please) are always welcome. Please spread the “good word” of the shop’s mission with your friends and if you are interested in volunteering, contact Elaine Raymond, 879-7350 or Sue Wood, 878-3068. We are open for shopping and receiving donations on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-1 and Wednesday evenings from 4-7pm!

Heavenly Food Pantry

The next food distribution is Monday, September 12 at 5:30pm.

We are in need of the following food items:

Baked beans, Canned pasta, Chunky soups, Canned corn & canned green beans.

The pantry continues to need help to fulfil the delivery part of its mission. If you have an hour or so available on a food pantry day and the means to deliver 8-10 bags of food, then the pantry could use your help. Please call the church office at 802-878-5745 or send an email to welcome@fcej.org. We appreciate all the support as we continue the pantry’s mission of seeing that no one goes hungry! www.fcej.org/Serving-Others/Heavenly-Food-Pantry.

With Heartfelt Thanks

Young Apostles Team,

The social work team in the Emergency Department at the UVM Medical Center received your most thoughtful and generous gift of care kits. We wanted to thank you and let you know how much of an impact a gesture like this can have on a person. Despite any circumstances that lead to their situation, this is a reminder that they matter and are valued.

With much appreciation,
The SW Team

Dear Friends,

"Life's path is more easily traveled in the company of friends and family. Thank you for your kindness." Thanks so much for the peace plant—it is beautiful.

Love and blessings,
Family of Jon Putnam (father of Laurie Chipman)

Dear Church Family,

Our family is so appreciative of all your recent support and care! Thank you for the cards, prayers, meals, visits and wrapping us in love. It means more than we can say to be part of such an amazing and caring faith community.

Sincerely,
Russell and Alma Wilson & Gary & Kathy Galbraith

Our FCCEJ Deacons send birthday roses to our over-80-years-young members, through Maplehurst Florist here in Essex. We've received several notes of thanks—see below...

Dear Faith Family,
Thank you so much for the yellow rose to celebrate my 96th birthday.
Much love, Jackie Knapp

Dear Church Family,
Thanks so much for my lovely yellow rose on my birthday. It's good there's something pleasant about getting old! I'm looking forward to getting to church more; hoping to see you all soon. Thanks for all your cards and prayers. You're a blessing.
Thanks and prayers, Rose Drost

Thank you for the beautiful yellow rose on my birthday.
A special rose on a special day.
Howard Osborne

Dear Church Family,
My yellow rose is lovely and has a special place in my home. Thank you so much.
My love, Sylvia Nyhagan

Dear Faith Friends,
What a lovely treat to receive a birthday rose. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and adding to the celebration.
With love, Norma Edwards

Dear First Church Members,
Thank you very much for the yellow rose you gave me for my birthday. I have it in a place where I can see it and enjoy it every day. It also smells good! Many thanks again.
Sincerely, Judy Moreau



FREE Little Art Gallery & Library

Did you know that this exists right outside our Church Street entrance? Visit it on a Sunday morning when you are here for worship, or another time during your week. Take a little piece of art, a book or two, and/or add your creation to the gallery for someone else to enjoy. Please note, it's our objective to keep this a faith-based gallery and library. We hope you will stop by!

Guest Bakers & Hosts Wanted!



FCCEJ is FULL of amazing bakers and friendly people and your Hospitality Team would love to spotlight any of that amazing energy on a Sunday for Fellowship Time.

Have you wanted to volunteer but don't have a lot of extra time? Do you have a wonderful recipe that you would like to try out with a crowd? Would you like to help out hosting with us or be a sub for a Sunday? We would love the help! Contact Jen Dooley via email at dooleyjrj2000@comcast.net or by phone/text at 802-578-0230 for more information!

Lunchtime Book Group

The Lunchtime Book Group will meet in the Marvin Lounge on Monday, September 19, at 11:30am. This will be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom Meeting ID 626841083, Passcode 455075. We are reading and will be discussing "Fried Green Tomatoes" by Fanny Flagg. Bring your lunch and join us for a lively discussion.

Sermon Talk Back

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

Yoga@First is Coming Back!

New to yoga? Returning? Come sit with Jonah Moos and practice a compassionate, inquisitive sequence to integrate the mind, body, and soul. In each session, we will focus, breathe, build heat, strengthen, and relax. Tuesday evenings, from 5:00-6:15 in the 2nd Floor Program Room at the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. Wear comfortable, non restrictive clothing. Bring a mat or borrow one of mine. Donations (to FCCEJ) welcome, but not required. First meeting will be September 13.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

GUILD, Kevin
 FRANK, Melody
 WATT, Eric
 DETTRE, Tom
 GALBRAITH, Gary
 RAYMOND, Elaine
 KOCH, Ethan
 SICALOWSKI, Graham
 ANTONE, David
 HOPPER, Ken
 BOURN, Phil
 HARRIS, Austin
 LEACH, Dillan
 WILLIAMS, Riley
 SHARP, Andrea
 MENDES, Nicholas
 BERO, Mindy
 HAMILTON, Kevin
 ROY, Judy
 GRAY, Ann
 BICKFORD Jr., Bill

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KOCH, Aimee
 VINCENT, Bob
 BRENNAN, Ian
 LEACH, Julie
 SIEVERS, Libby
 EVANS, Maureen
 MCGEARY, Charles
 GARVEY, Erica
 NUTTING, Muriel
 STEIN, Tristan
 CATE, Merrill
 RUSHFORD, James
 PARKER, Bruce
 EDWARDS, Julie
 WILSON, Alma
 GALBRAITH, Kathy
 GUZIAK, Emily
 HALL, Nancy
 STEIN, Heather
 BOURN, Jenny

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COFFEE HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

13th Anniversary ~ Five Corners Christmas Craft Fest

Saturday, November 10th 9am -3pm

Mark your calendar for fabulous event!

Another exciting year for our holiday event, as Holy Family, St. James Episcopal, Essex Junction Senior Center and First Congregational Church will celebrate the 13th season together! Special celebrations are being planned. Here are some ways you can start preparing for this special event:

Sweet Shoppe and Bakery

Look through your recipes books for items such as gluten free options, donuts, whoopee pies, peanut brittle and other homemade candy, gingerbread men, chocolate covered pretzels, various types of bars, jams/jellies, sauces, relishes, horseradish, salsa, etc.

Nearly New

Cleaning out your attic, garage or basement? Consider donating to the Craft Fest! We will be accepting items in Marvin Lounge beginning Sunday October 7th. We love all kinds of donations including books, jewelry, purses, scarfs, housewares, pictures, frames, holiday items, craft supplies, nick knacks, puzzles, linens and toys!

Silent Auction

Start thinking of an item or services you could donate. Suggestions are: hosting a dinner, a day of golf, homemade pies, stay at a summer cottage, professional photographs, theatre tickets or sporting event tickets. We especially like to have services provided by our church members.

Craft Tables

There are several spots still available. If you are interested, please contact Ann Gray at 878-4088. The cost for church members is \$20. All crafters will be set up in Fellowship Hall and will receive a \$5 voucher for lunch.

Decorating

If you have any decorations you would like to donate, we'll gladly accept. We especially need wrapping paper. Please drop off in Marvin Lounge anytime.

Starting on October 14 until November 4, the committee will have signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall after each worship service for making a donation or volunteering at one of our amazing areas. If you have questions, please contact Linda Bogardus at 872-8972 or lbogardus@myfairpoint.net.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS @ FIRST

presents

Cricket Blue with Trio Arco

Sunday, July 10 at 7pm

You might think of Simon & Garfunkel when you first hear Cricket Blue, or of Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. But their music is equally evocative of literary voices. Laura Heaberlin and Taylor Smith are equal parts musicians and storytellers. NPR Music calls Cricket Blue "master storytellers" and the All Scene Eye says Cricket Blue "sets a new standard for fiction-folk."

Cricket Blue plays with string trio: John Dunlop, Laura Markowitz, and Sofia Hirsch (Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Eclectica String Quartet).

The Community Concerts at First music series celebrates artists from Vermont and New England. Suggested donation of \$20 per adult (under 18 free). Concert proceeds support FCCEJ community outreach and Doctors without Borders for Ukraine relief. Space is limited. Reservations can be made in advance - call or email the church office - or donation at the door (cash, check or credit card).

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Morning Worship:

8:30 - In-person and streamed via youtube.com/c/fccej
Music: Bethany Blake directs our Sanctuary Choir and provides accompaniment

10:15 - In-person—Faith Formation for PreK - 5th grade
Music: Finally @ First Praise Band
Communion is served on the 1st Sunday of each month

Visit us online:



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