

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



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

“We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We agree to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As in the past, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.”

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Twitter: [1stChurchEJ](https://twitter.com/1stChurchEJ)

Facebook: [First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofEssexJunctionUCC)



Open and Affirming means that we welcome everyone to First Church including our GLBTQ brothers and sisters.

*The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
October 16, 2016 - First Service*

A Welcoming Church,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

*Wonderful Words of Life
Reminiscence
Chanson*

Bliss
Birchwood
Simone

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

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

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Introit

Make Me A Servant

Willard

Call to Worship

Leader: The sower knows that not all of their seeds will grow but still the sower has hope.

People: Let it grow.

Leader: The Lord above knows that not all of God's children will thrive, but still the Lord has hope.

People: Let it grow.

Leader: Not all of our efforts will bear us fruit but when they do that which is reaped can feed a nation.

People: Lord above, let our hope grow.

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459

Children's Message

After the Children's Message, first service, our nursery is open for self-serve care, there is a speaker in the room so you can hear the service and it is broadcast to Fellowship Hall.

**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.**

Anthem

Let Us Serve Him

Besig

Pastoral Prayer & Unison Lord's Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen

Musical Response

Love The Lord Your God

Strathdee

Berthier

A Stewardship Witness.....Myrna Doney

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

More Like You

Brown

***The Doxology # 778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

***Hymn**

Hope of the World

#46

Scripture Reading Prophetic Jeremiah 31:27-34 [page 570]
 Gospel Luke 18:1-8 [page 62]

Sermon *Let Hope Grow* Devon Thomas

*Hymn *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* #403

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, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love**

*Postlude *Postlude on A 17th Century Church Tune* Hughes

**Please stand if you are able.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by the Dooley Family in
memory of Harry Dooley, Dot & Joe Pine and John Simko.*

Worship Participants

Deacon: Mark Chadurjian

Greeters: Elaine & Tom Helmstutler

Ushers: Bart & Paulette Frisbie

Worship at First Church

*Welcome to worship services at First Church! In all our services we strive to build
closer relationships to a loving God, with each other, and with the world. We draw
inspiration from Scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus. We hope you will
find a spiritual home in one of our two different worship services.*

Our Early Service at 8:30 a.m.

Our early service is a bit more traditional. It tends to be quieter and features classic hymns, the Sanctuary Choir, and organ music. Sunday School is not in session during this service. We are working to provide paid Nursery Care but currently have a self-serve nursery area where the service is projected.

Our Later Service @ 10:15 am

Our later service is a bit more contemporary. This worship features our Finally at First praise band, and more contemporary songs of worship. We offer a Sunday School program that commences after the Children's Message. Nursery care is available.

Communion

Our church has an "open" communion table which means that everyone is welcome to come and celebrate Christ's meal of love. We use grape juice and gluten free bread for the elements. We welcome children at the table as well but also recognize that each family is free to determine how to interpret the communion tradition.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Lisa	Nancy Allen	Lilly & Donald
David Tibbetts	Annette	Tim Frazier
Emily Carroll & family	Peggy	Jaime Real
Andy Tager	Richard	Jim VanOrden
Louise Kolvoord	Roger Kalar	Leigh Davidson
Suzanne	Jenna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Dave
Beth Terry	Todd & Danielle Charlebois	Cathleen & Lilianna
Donna	Carol	Ed Constantine
Campbell Miller	Lorrayne Sawyer	Fletch Coolidge

Please let us know if you would like a name added to our Prayer Ministry, you can write it on the Friendship Pad, call or email the office or send us a note, welcome@fccej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Hannaford Cards & Reloads are on Sale TODAY
in the Fellowship Hall

Yellow Table In Fellowship Hall - Bible Mentor for 3rd & 4th Graders

Spend a little time on a Sunday, beginning October 30th Bible Sunday or pick another day during the week. Read a piece of scripture and chat together using a list of questions (both provided). This will run for 3 weeks and we will celebrate our time on Sunday, November 20th during class time. There is no planning time on your end, just be a mentor who is interested in the Bible stories and loves kids. Laurie will provide a children's Bible and the 3rd & 4th graders will be using their new Bible. Mentors can be Confirmation students or adults. See Laurie to sign up or the sheet in Fellowship Hall.



Parent Helpers in Classrooms

Signups to be a helper in the classroom and experience what faith formation is like this year are in the Gym.

Refreshment Table in the Gym after Faith Formation

Enjoy this table and please feel free to bring in donations on class time Sundays! You can drop items off in the main kitchen on the designated trays as you make your way up to worship and they will make their way to the Gym in time to enjoy. Meet and say hello to your friends after class and introduce yourself and make some new friends.



* * * **THIS WEEK** * * *



Mondays ~ Yoga @ First Are Going Strong!

New to yoga? Returning? Come sit with Jonah and practice a gentle sequence to integrate the mind, body, and soul. In each session, we focus, breathe, build heat, strengthen, and relax. We have switched to Monday evenings, from 5:30-6:30. Wear comfortable, nonrestrictive clothing. Bring a mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Donations to FCCEJ welcomed, but not required.

Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback

Join us on Tuesdays from 8:30-10am for coffee, home baked goods and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) that was delivered the previous Sunday. Come for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above! Join us!



Wednesday Night Searchers

We still have a few copies of the Sara Miles' book that we are discussing through October 26th. Come join us every Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. as we discuss this easy to read and spiritually significant book.



* * * **SAVE THE DATES** * * *

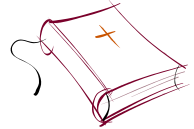


October 23rd ~ Fall Clean Up

After Second Service, Trustees will have a list of outdoor AND indoor projects to work on-many hands make light work@ Donut holes, coffee & cider will be provided.

October 30th ~ Bible Sunday

All our 3rd graders will be receiving their very own Bible during worship today. If you are in 4th grade or older and do not have a Bible of your own, please let Laurie or Pastor Mark know so that we can have a Bible ready for you on this special day.



Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue...

1st Friday of Every Month ~ **November 7th**

Come - Help - Eat www.essexeatsoout.org

November 12th, Five Corners Craft Fest

Start cleaning out those closets for the Nearly New Sale, we are now accepting items in the Marvin

Lounge. Go through your recipes to decide which treats you can delight our shoppers with in the Treat Shop! Check out our specifics in your October Newsletter. We are also looking for donations for the Heavenly Spirit Café for lunch.



* * * **SIGN-UPS** * * *

Ring the Church Bell

Sunday mornings at 8:15 & 10:00 am (15 minutes before worship). Families are welcome to sign up on the bulletin board to ring the bell.



Acolytes

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-acolytes>

Sign up on line or on the bulletin board downstairs to acolyte at worship service on Sunday morning. Acolytes (3rd grade and older) bring the light of Christ into the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship and carry it out at the end of worship to remind us that God is with us wherever we are. This is a great way to participate in worship with a friend or solo.



*** * * Children, Youth & Family Announcements * * ***

Faith Formation Sunday Mornings

Preschool thru 12th grade during Worship

October 16th ~ Faith Formation Class time

October 23rd ~ Faith Formation Class time

October 30th ~ Faith Formation Class time



2016 Faith Formation Sunday School Offering

King Street Center ~ Total is now up to \$ 650.69

Remember to bring your Sunday School offering each week and don't forget to use one of the envelopes in the pews so that it will be put towards the Sunday School offering. \$1 a week can add up quickly!



Visit the Library in Fellowship Hall and sign out a book!

Located just outside the Nursery room. Children's books are inside and on display. Adult Searchers books are located on top of the library cart.



*** * * Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate * * ***

Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Hours

10 am - 3 pm Tuesday & Wednesdays, 4 - 8 pm Thursdays

Come on in and find us on Facebook!



Clean Out Your Closets and Bring Us Your Fall/Winter Donations!



Red Tent Feminine Product Drive

Please don't forget our ongoing commitment to JUMP by putting your feminine product purchases in the Red Tent in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or in the Marvin Lounge during the week!

Heavenly Food Pantry –Is Looking to Expand & Needs Volunteers!

With plans being made for a Monday evening Food Pantry, we are still in need of a few more volunteers. We especially need people who are able to help with some of the lifting that is involved. An example is lifting boxes of meat out of the freezer. The Pantry will be held on the second Monday of each month from 4PM to 8PM. If you are called to help with this vital church mission, please contact Judy Allen at judy@invalidat.net, Elaine Raymond at ebraymond@gmail.com or the church office.





Next Food Pantry is Thursday, October 27th
We are in need of tuna fish, canned fruit, fruit juice
and regular size jars of jelly to restock our cabinets.

Looking For Another Way to Help The Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help pick up the Hannaford Helping Hands Food Boxes. We pick them up two or three evenings a week from the last week in October until the end of December. For info please contact Val at 879-0109.



Winter Clothing Drive – Donations by November 13th for Nov. Food Pantry

Got Coats?



Mission Possible is again sponsoring a collection for warm winter outerwear – coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for adults and kids as well as snow pants and snow suits for children. We will be distributing the clothing to folks who will be coming to the Food Pantry on November 17, as well as to the men who live at the Dismas House in Burlington. We especially need articles for children and men. Please do not donate sweaters or other assorted winter clothing. We would also request that the clothing be clean and in good repair. We would like to receive your donations by Nov 13, so that we have time to organize them prior to pantry day. Please contact Sue Conti at sue.conti@myfairpoint.net if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your help again this year.

Pictures Needed

The Communications Committee is looking for new pictures for the FCCEJ website. You don't need to be a photographer, just have an eye for all the wonderful activities going on here at First Church! If you are here at an activity, meeting or practice, snap a pic! Please use high resolution & forward them to the office at welcome@fcej.org.



Vermont Conference UCC Outdoor Ministry

The Outdoor Ministry Team is seeking to gather more people to serve. This began last year as a task force seeking ways to engage our UCC kids & youth in outdoor ministry. We are growing our team to help plan and recruit more volunteers for our program in the summer of 2017 and beyond. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please be in touch with Laurie Chipman.

THIS WEEK: October 16th - 22nd

- TODAY: 8:30am & 10:15am Worship Services / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
3:00 - 4:30pm Jr High Youth Group / Youth Lounge
5:00 - 7:00pm Sr High Youth Group / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY: 9:15 - 11:30am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
12:30 - 8:00 Feasibility Study Interviews / YL/2nd Floor Class/ML
1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
5:00 - 7:30 pm Thrift Store Potluck / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 6:45pm Yoga / Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / 3rd Floor-5/6 Class
- TUESDAY: 8:00am - 6:00pm Feasibility Study Interviews/YL/2nd Floor Class/ML**
8:00 - 10:00 am Business Networking International / Fellowship Hall
8:30 - 10:00 am Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:00 - 7:00 pm A.P. Search Committee / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm CE / Youth Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions Committee / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY: 8:00 - 12:00/1:00 - 9:00 Feasibility Interviews / 2nd Floor/ML**
8:00 - 11:30 am Food Shelf Delivery / Fellowship Hall
9:15 - 11:30 am Tai Chi / Gym
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Sanctuary
6:30 - 7:30 pm Currier Bells / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Wednesday Night Searchers / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY: 8:00 - 1:00 pm Feasibility Study Interviews / YL/2nd Floor Class/ML**
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 1:30 pm Book Discussion Group / Marvin Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
6:00 - 7:30 pm Communications Committee / Marvin Lounge
6:30 - 7:00pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY: *Newsletter Article Deadline for November Spirit At First***
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge

SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00pm Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fccej.org]
Music Director: *Catherine McMaster* [cmcmaster@fccej.org]
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fccej.org]
Bridge Part-time Associate Pastor: *Devon Thomas* [dthomas@fccej.org]
Youth Team *Devon Thomas & Erica Garvey* [engarvey27@gmail.com]
Senior Pastor: Rev. *Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: Kim Hamilton [khamilton@ccsuvt.org]
Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]
Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]
Heavenly Harmony Director: Catherine McMaster [ourvinn@hotmail.com]
Junior Choir Director: see Catherine if interested
Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir Director: Catherine McMaster [cmcmaster@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Brenda Crocket [881-5253]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Tom James [879-1247]
Treasurer: Ann Gray [878-4088]
Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]
Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]
Clerk: Andrea Sharp [879-0580]
Christian Education: Jenny Bourn [802-309-7441] & Marlene Frank [872-9126]
Deacons: Mark Chadurjian [310-2399] and Rick Dooley [578-0229]
Hospitality: Judy McCullen [878-9794]
Missions: Susan Kremer [233-9932] & Sandy Tallman [879-0665]
Music: Judy Larrabee [236-0604]
Nominating: Carl Wermer [879-7650]
Stewardship: Alison Wermer [879-7650]
Trustees: Kevin Meilleur [238-4041]
Ushering: Michael Sullivan [879-6044]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop [879-6552]
Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]
Called To Care Contact: Beth Volker [879-4708]
Nepali Christian Community Contact: Dan Raut [310-4371]
Craft Fest Committee Contact: Linda Bogardus [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net]

mission
M O M E N T S
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

October 2, 2016

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:1-8

Ask Boldly, Live Justly

Even a crabby old judge who hates people will cave and grant the widow her wish if she's persistent. That's what Jesus tells us in this parable from Luke's Gospel. Go ahead, he says, this is how you should pray: keep on asking and don't give up. Keep knocking on the door even if it feels like nobody's home. Push past the receptionist, wave your petition in the judge's face, beg and ask and ask again. Probably, if you're bothering a judge, you should also have a high tolerance for embarrassment as well as a dogged attitude.

Prayer, says Jesus, is a vigorous exercise. The good news about being a church-goer is you don't have to go it alone. Churches all over the UCC pray together. At Westminster UCC in Spokane, Washington, they share their concerns and their joys during worship. These get bundled into a congregational prayer and then lifted up again during the weekly prayer and meditation group. First Congregational, Charlotte, Michigan, has a prayer circle that meets twice a month. Their website proclaims: "We believe that a united and focused prayer accomplishes more and that there is more to God's vision for our lives than what we settle for. We know that God delights to answer prayer." What does your church do to keep a persistent presence of prayer in your congregation?

People who pray together are not shy about their faith. The widow bothering the judge was not afraid of asking, not afraid of knocking on God's door. Making the commitment to pray together is a way of making sure you do it—like a walking group that helps you stick to a resolution to exercise. Prayer groups help you keep on praying even when you feel too busy or stressed. Sometimes, just knowing that people are counting on you gets out of your chair and heading to church, where finding others in a circle ready to pray for the world is community worth praying for and with. Keep on knocking!