

*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.”

**One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

Phone: 802-878-5745

Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fcej.org

Website: www.fcej.org

Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



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

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ
April 16, 2017
Easter Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Easter Prayer

Macklin

Adoration

Koury

Trumpet Voluntary

Clark

An Extravagant Welcome

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

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

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

Introit

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hopson

Call To Worship

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen indeed!

Leader: The world seems to be hurtling toward oblivion. Chaos, violence, division and hatred seem to be on the rise...

People:and yet God's message of hope continues to be resurrected again and again.

Leader: National and international politics seem crazy as sides are drawn and rumors of wars swirl through the air....

People:.....and yet Christ's demand to love our neighbors and enemies disrupts old power schemes and brings new healthier models for living to life.

Leader: We often feel fearful and stressed about our dysfunction, disease and death.....

People:.....and yet Christ’s resurrection assures us that joyful living and eternal life is a gift offered to everyone.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate God’s hope, love and promise of eternity that our lives might be rich and focused on the important aspects of life. Come, let us worship the Living God.

***Opening Hymn**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

#233

Deacon’s 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 invited to stay with their families for the Easter service. The Nursery is available with Kathryn, our staff person, for infants and toddlers. The service will be live on the screen downstairs so families can go and still enjoy the Easter service. A hands-on activity will be available for the children.

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.

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.

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.....

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Prayer Response by Sanctuary Choir

Alleluia

Sinclair

*Hymn

For All the Saints

#299

Matthew's Resurrection Story: 28:1-10 [page 26]

Anthem

He Arose

Choplin

Easter Meditation

The Many Faces of Jesus

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

He Is Risen

Besig

*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

The Day of Resurrection

#245

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

Unfold, Ye Portals

Gounod

*Please stand if you are able.

**Special thanks to Brian Chipman for accompanying on the trumpet

Worship Participants

Deacon: Michael Bottamini

Greeters: Ginny Coe & Norma Edwards

Ushers: Judy Allen & Mary Anne Warren



The Easter Flowers on the altar are given by:

Tim Carney & Cathie Goodheart in loving memory of loved ones

Brian & Laurie Chipman in honor of all grandparents

Myrna Doney in loving memory of Fern & Vern Mangis

The Dooley Family in loving memory of Dot & Joe Pine and Harry Dooley

Rose Drost in loving memory of Ernie Drost

Marsha Duell in loving memory of Rufus Duell

Norma Edwards for all the children of the world

First Church in loving memory of our members who have died in the past year;

Kay Stewart, Phyllis Gray, Emily Packard, Marilyn Walcott, Marjorie Faunce, Nancy Potvin, John Kirsch, Robert Ennis, Dick Shepard, Stephen Wark & Jennifer McClintock

The Marthaler Family in honor of great grandmas, Betty & Lillian

Sylvia Nyhagen in loving memory of loved ones

Beth & George Paul in loving memory of Margaret & George Paul Sr.

Ellen Polanshek in loving memory of John Polanshek

Sanctuary Choir in honor of Catherine & Dan McMaster

The Shearer Family in loving memory of Spencer Bruner

The Shearer Family in loving memory of Steve Shearer

June Silverman in loving memory of loved ones

The Starkey Family in loving memory of Mr & Mrs Gorden Starkey Sr.

Carolyn Toof in loving memory of loved ones

Sally Turner in loving memory of loved ones

The Wermer Family in loving memory of Kerstin Wermer and Robert Knox

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Dustin Keelty	Bruce Parker	Keenan Weisedel
David Tibbetts	Annette	Dee
Emily Carroll & family	Dick Leavitt	Jaime Real
Michael Flynn	Carol	Don Mable
Tim Frazier	Roger Kalar	Ed Constantine
Ralph Abeling	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Ron Richer
Campbell Miller	George Jackson	Cathleen & Lilianna
Mike Heston	Mark Holden	Shirley Boucher

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, welcomed@fccej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Hannaford Reloads & Cards for sale in Fellowship Hall!

Stop Downstairs for Breakfast on your way out
All Benefits to the Youth Programs!



Claussen's Gift Cards Available Until May 7th



A perfect Mother's Day gift or a treat for your own garden! Sign up in Fellowship Hall after services to purchase a \$30 gift card, \$5 from the sale of each card will go to the Church. Pick up after services Sunday May 14th or during the next week in the office. You can also order gift cards by contacting Maureen at maureen.mckenzie@ge.com

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

Mondays ~ Yoga @ First !

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. Class is Monday evenings, from 5:30-6:45. Wear comfortable, nonrestrictive clothing. Bring a mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Donations to FCCEJ are welcomed.



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 are into our new book, "Soul Feast" by Marjorie Thompson on Wednesday, We have a few more books available in the office if you would like to pick one up and get into the reading. Come and bring a friend.

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$569.49

Remember to bring your Sunday School offering each week and use an envelope in the pews for your money so that you know it will be put towards the Sunday School offering and not be confused with regular offering for the church.



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 6th grade

April 16th ~ Easter Sunday

April 23rd ~ Class Time

April 30th ~ Multi-Age Activity Day

May 7th ~ Communion Sunday & Spiritual Friends

May 14th ~ Mother's Day & Jazz Sunday

May 21st ~ Graduation Sunday & Class Time

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

August 7th - 11th ~ Vacation Bible Camp 2017 ****REGISTER TODAY****

Hero Central: Discover Youth Strength in God!

Monday – Friday from 9am to 11:45am; Reg. forms on Table in FH

VB Camp is a week of energy and excitement of seeing God's Love in Action! All are encouraged to join to be part of this fun week!

Station Leaders are getting ready! Crafts ~ Jenny Bourn; Snack ~ Judy Allen & Ginny Coe; Games ~ Jessica Moos; Music ~ Laura Cunningham-Firkey; Bible Drama ~ Barb Smith; Discovery Leader ~ Trista Acebo

Recruiting Leaders & Helpers: Youth (sixth grade or older), Young Adults & Adults

VB Camp Wish List:

Paper towel rolls (55 total), Small glass jars with lids (pimento/babyfood/etc 55 total)
Battery tea lights (55 total), Baking soda, white vinegar, unscented natural liquid soap
liquid water colors or food coloring, 5 large raw baking potato, table or ice cream salt
5 medicine droppers or pipettes (at least five)



VT Outdoor Ministry Week

Enjoy a fun week at Rock Point Camp in Burlington, VT!
Swimming, hiking, canoeing, service project in Burlington, food, games, campfires and much more!

July 30th –August 4th for youth going into 5th - 8th grade

Laura Labrie (College Street UCC) and Dave McGowan (Waterbury UCC) are the Deans in charge of planning and leading this week of camp! Laurie Chipman will be stopping by and checking in throughout the week.

To registration for this camp go to Horton Center website. www.hortoncenter.org

Erik Frivoll has registered already!

Scholarship funds available... let Laurie or Pastor Mark know.



Many more camps available at Horton Center!

Check out their schedule on their website.

Laurie will be counseling for Middler Week July 9th– 15th
for those going into 7th - 9th grade.

VT UCC OM Team is Recruiting volunteer counselors (18yrs & older), a waterfront lifeguard & RN nurse for this camp! Flyers on table in Fellowship Hall. See Laurie for more information!

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



**Next Food Pantry dates are Thursday, April 27th, 2-6pm
and Monday, May 8th, 5:30-7:30pm**

We are in need of boxes of cereal, bars of soap, fruit juice
and regular size jars of jelly to restock our cabinets.

We are ALL SET for egg cartons right now!

Don't Forget the Red Tent!

The Red Tent Project has become even more important as we enter a period where funds for women's health and marginalized immigrant groups may be significantly cut back.

Donating woman's hygiene products to JUMP is a positive way we can show that we will continue to support those who will be facing increasingly difficult times. Look for the Red Tent in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.



Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Hours

10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs,

9am-12pm first Sat of the month

Come on in and find us on Facebook!

BIG SALES THROUGH APRIL 12th!

We are looking for people to volunteer for the 4-6pm Thursday shift and also one volunteers for the 6-8pm Thursday Come join the Fun!

The Thrift Shop has been strategizing about how to update the space to better meet our Mission, "To serve the community by offering gently used high quality merchandise at thrift shop prices for the purpose of financing our philanthropic programs and providing a service to the community" We would like to share our progress. To begin, we are adding hours, 9am-12pm the first Saturday of each month. The shop is now closed until April 24 to redo shelving & paint. We will reopen on April 25. We will have an open house in late spring once this work is complete. We are welcoming donations of spring and summer clothing starting next week.

Please join us in our excitement to give the Thrift Shop a facelift!

April 30, Both Services ~ Open and Affirming Celebration

Almost five years ago to the day, after years of study on April 29, 2012 there was a near unanimous vote to become an Open & Affirming Congregation. We will celebrate the five year anniversary of this vote and accompanying statement. Be sure to come to this celebration and bring a friend.



April 30th ~ Joe Levesque Big Band Concert ~ 3 pm

This concert is open to the public and a free will donation will be accepted at the door to benefit the First Church music program.

Joe's Big Band is a 17-piece ensemble of musicians from Northwestern Vermont who share a passion for performing the diverse styles of big band music from the Swing Era to the present. Brian Chipman is a member of the trumpet section and Neil Hutcheon will be sitting in on trombone. Rehearsals are open to anyone who would like to come and listen, or even dance! Their website is www.joelevesquebigband.com

THIS WEEK: April 16th - 22nd

- TODAY:** 8:30 & 10:15am **Worship Services / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
- MONDAY:** 9:15 - 11:30 am **Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
1:30 - 4:00 pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 6:30 pm **Group Victory / 3rd Floor**
6:30 - 8:00 pm **Cub Scouts / Gym**
- TUESDAY:** 8:30 - 10:00 am **Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge**
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store CLOSED
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 9:00 pm CE Committee / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions Committee / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 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 CLOSED
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
3:00 - 5:00 pm Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
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:** 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 CLOSED
6:30 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge
- FRIDAY:** ***NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE***
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm **Nepali Comm Worship & Meal / All Building**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fcej.org]
Music Director: *Catherine McMaster* [ourvinn@hotmail.com]
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fcej.org]
Bridge Part-time Associate Pastor: *Devon Thomas* [dthomas@fcej.org]
Youth Team *Devon Thomas & Erica Garvey* [egarvey@fcej.com]
Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fcej.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]
Joyful Noise: *Jessica Moos* [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: *Bill Bickford, Jr.* [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir Director: *Catherine McMaster* [cmcmaster@fcej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: *Brenda Crocket* [881-5253]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]
Treasurer & Historian: *Ann Gray* [878-4088]
Asst. Treasurer: *Dan Petherbridge* [879-0261]
Financial Secretary: *Pat Seaver* [879-4445]
Clerk: *Alison Wermer* [879-7650]
Christian Education: *Jenny Bourn* [802-309-7441]
Communications: *Kevin Dorn* [878-3696]
Deacons: *Rick Dooley* [578-0229] *Mike Bottamini* [879-0763]
Hospitality: *Jackie Parks* [324-9206]
Missions: *Sandy Tallman* [879-0665]
Music: *Judy Larrabee* [236-0604]
Nominating: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]
Stewardship: *Kathy Finnie* [878-3696]
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

Sunday, April 16, 2017

John 20:1-18

Easter

After the horrors of Holy Week, after the disappointment and the feelings of hopelessness, it must have been an incredible adrenaline rush to hear the news that could hardly be believed. The one tortured and suffocated, and mocked and bullied and spit upon by all the powerful people for miles around has walked away from it all. Indeed, Mary sees him in the garden. She is the witness whose word spreads the joy of that meeting.

Without Mary, we might only know the empty tomb. Oh, there are other encounters. Others will see him, eat with him, touch his wounds. But Mary is the first to tell the disciples that he lives. She is the first ripple in the wave.

In November 2016, a delegation from the United Church of Christ went to Standing Rock to listen to and support the Native peoples who had gathered to peacefully protest the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). Reverend Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, spoke about hearing the Native leaders tell the delegation how they hope people who visited the protest would go back out into the world and be like pebbles making ripples in the water.

Mary was a pebble rippling her witness to a risen Jesus and sharing that story with the world. Easter happened before social media and still the story got told so that there are few on the whole planet who haven't heard it. She was a witness to hope made tangible—a witness to life restored. We can all be witnesses to all kinds of resurrections. Let us all skip into the water of the world like pebbles rippling our resurrection stories.