

*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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**Website: [www.fcej.org](http://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  
June 4, 2017  
*Confirmation Sunday*

*A Welcoming Community,*

*Accepting and Serving All,*

*In the Spirit of Christ.*

*Order of Worship*

Prelude

*Come Down, O Love Divine  
Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove  
Spirit of God*

Page  
Douglas  
Smith

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.....Cameron Starkey

*One of our Confirmands will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some significant events in our shared life, and then 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.*

Musical Introit by Joyful Noise

Call to Worship.....Written and Led by Clay Messier

Leader: We have survived a year of Confirmation with Mark and Devon!

**People: Amen!**

Leader: We now all believe in the same God; a God that is the force behind creation, a force greater than all of us but encouraging us to do better each day, a force that loves everyone and teaches us that we should treat others the way we want to be treated.

**People: God loves all of us.**

Leader: Let us continue our journey with God.

**People: Please, come join us.**

Opening Hymn

*Here I Am To Worship*

Hughes



**Our Class' Statement of Faith** Compiled, Edited and Led by Nicole Frank

Leader: Today, the Confirmation Class of 2017 graduates! Over the course of this year, our open-minded group came together on Thursday evenings to discuss our various beliefs about God, Jesus, the history of the Bible, our Church, and our future paths as worshippers. Through laughter and many lessons, we learned about the importance of our Creator and unanimously constructed our Faith Statement as a class.

**Everyone: We all agree that God created us, loves us, and is greater than any human being (but, God encourages us to be better). We believe that Jesus is God's son and he taught us how to live through worship and being good people. Our church, as a whole, is accepting. Finally, we concluded that everyone should treat others the way they want to be treated.**

Leader: This Faith Statement embodies our Confirmation Class and sums up the important aspects of our beliefs.

Pentecost Reading Read by Ethan Goedken..... Acts 2:1-21 [page 90]

Confirmation Meditation.....Munroe Shearer

**The Rite of Confirmation**

*The Rite of Confirmation is an old ceremony where the responsibility for one's spiritual life is shifted from the parent to the confirmand. During this rite, each confirmand decides whether to join our church and commit to a lifelong journey of spiritual thought and life. We will say a quick prayer over each confirmand asking the Holy Spirit to be a part of that journey: parents, family members and anyone connected to the confirmand is invited to come forward and lay hands upon them during the prayer. Everyone in the congregation should focus their positive thoughts and energy on the confirmand being prayed over. This year's confirmands are.....*

Jonathan Aichinger  
Sam Dooley  
Ethan Goedken  
Clay Messier  
Munroe Shearer

Eva Cunningham-Firkey  
Nicole Frank  
Nicholas Mendes  
Emma Parker  
Cameron Starkey

Our Teachers: Rev. Mark, Devon Thomas, and Carolyn Rushford

## The Invitation & Questions for the Candidates

### Prayer of the Candidates

Confirmands: Loving God, we have studied about you and your ways in the bible. We have experienced you in our church and others. We have learned about your love through Jesus. We have debated, challenged and spoken about God and life. Now, we are ready to say yes to continuing our journey with you. Be with us.

Parents of Confirmands: We have watched you grow in body, mind and spirit all your days. We have taught you what we know about life and God. We made you attend confirmation and are now ready to give you the freedom and responsibility to nurture your own spirituality. May God be with you.

Congregation: We celebrated when you were baptized and loved teaching you in Sunday School. We have watched you grow up one week at a time and have seen the spirit of God in you. We are so proud that you have decided to be confirmed and join us on our journey as a church. We will continue to be here for you as you continue to grow in the faith.

Deacon: We pray for God to increase your gifts, grant you love, joy in the service to others, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. May God strengthen all of you confirmands for life and ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Friend and Teacher. Amen.

### Act of Confirmation [prayer over each confirmand]

#### Welcome

Deacon: Let us, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of this church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of peace in this world.**

### Greeting of Christian Love and the Giving of Gifts

**Closing Hymn**

***Shine, Jesus, Shine***

**Kendrick**

Benediction.....Nicholas Mendes

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

*Grand Chorus*

Le Maigre

\*Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Andrea & Linus Goedken  
in honor of Ethan Goedken's Confirmation.*

**Worship Participants**

Deacon: Josh Sharp & Myrna Doney

Greeters: Ann Marie Sullivan

Ushers: Pete Schmalz & Michael Sullivan

**First Church's Prayer Ministry**

Coby Miller	Jack Lucas	Keenan Weischedel
David Tibbetts	Dan McMaster	Bruce Parker
Emily Carroll & family	Lilly and Donald	Jaime Real
Michael Flynn	Carol	Don Mable
Tim Frazier	Roger Kalar	Ed Constantine
Ralph Abeling	Donna	Ruth Legendre
Emily Schueren & family	Sharon Kennedy	Diana Higgins
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, welcome@fcej.org*



**TODAY ~ Hannaford Cards & Reloads on Sale in Fellowship Hall**



**Altar Flowers ~ A Few Spots Available for 2017**

Please check the chart and sign up for a Sunday to honor or remember a loved one or event in your life. Dates available are 9/17,10/22,11/5,12/17

**2017 Jamaica Bound Mission Team**

The team is currently collecting the following items to deliver to the school:

Children’s toothbrushes, Travel size toothpaste tubes  
Pencils , 4x4 Bandages, Medical tape

Your gifts will be greatly appreciated!! Look for the large green bucket in the Fellowship Hall to deposit your donations. Thank-you!



**\* \* \* THIS WEEK \* \* \***

**Mondays ~ Yoga @ First will be on Hiatus for the Summer**

Jonah & his family will be traveling this summer so Yoga will be on hiatus from June 19th through August 21st, so the last class will be June 12th and they will start again on August 28th. Until then, 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 always welcomed but there is no fee.



**Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback**

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



**Wednesday Night Searchers**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – UCC Curriculum on “White Privilege: Let’s Talk” After the UCC Curriculum we will turn to our summer program and start watching movies with discussion. If there are movies you would like to watch, bring your ideas!



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

**Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017**

*Your 2017 Total is now up to \$661.04*

Remember to bring your Sunday School offering. Use an envelope in the pews to distinguish it from the regular offering.





## Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

### **Preschool – 6th grade**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday & Ice Cream Social

**June 11<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>th</sup>** ~ Summer Faith Formation

Self- led Activity Bin in Fellowship Hall available most weeks

Kids bring a parent to FH and watch the service while you spend time being creative.

### **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



### **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 30<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup> for youth going into 5th - 8th grade

To register for this camp go to Horton Center  
website. [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org)

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

Many more camps available at Horton Center! Laurie will be counseling for Middler  
Week July 9<sup>th</sup>– 15<sup>th</sup> for those going into 7th - 9<sup>th</sup> 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 days are Mon, June 12th, 5:30-7:30pm  
and Thurs, June 22nd, 2-6pm**

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



## **Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop**

10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs, 9am-12pm first Sat/month  
We are gladly accepting all gently used spring and summer clothing donations at this time.



## **Vacation Bible Camp Wish List:**



Paper towel tubes (55 total); Small glass jars with lids (pimento/baby food/etc..55 total); Battery tea lights (55 total); liquid water colors or food coloring; 5 large raw baking potato; Baby carrots (5lbs); Strawberries (4 quarts); Pretzel sticks (2/20oz packages); Grapes (3 lbs) Cheese cubes (mild) (6/16oz); Raisins/Cranraisins (1/16oz); Pretzel pieces (gluten free)– any shape (1/32 oz package) Apples (40); Fruit by the foot (6 packages/12 ct); Vanilla Yogurt (2 large containers); Veggie Sticks (2 lg bags); Banana Bread – no nuts (6 loaves)



## **2017-18 Faith Formation Volunteers**

Have you been here more than 6 months? Are you willing to learn? Sign up and help us fulfill our Safe Conduct Guidelines for our children, youth and volunteers with the right number of leaders and helpers for all groups.

At First Church we believe it's important to follow Jesus' example of taking time to get to know each other and build community...whether it's in class time or a large group activity, across the generations or in each of our classes. Faith if not taught, Faith is caught! Join the fun and help the children and youth catch the Spirit!

Nursery: Lend a hand and help us strive to meet our two to one ratio

Spiritual Friends: Enjoy great conversations with the kids on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month and all return for Holy Communion

Faith Formation Class Leaders & Helpers: Be a class leader or helper for kids preschool age and up – weekly emails from Laurie – all items gathered for you

Multi-Age Activity Helpers: Extra hands when all ages are together - preschool up through senior high for group building activities

Youth Group Helpers: Join the group and help or bring a meal for JH & SH

**THIS WEEK: June 4th - 10th**

- TODAY:**      **9:00am** Worship Service / Sanctuary  
                  **11:30 - 1:00 pm** LCDC Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
                  **11:30 - 12:30 pm** Music Committee Meeting / Choir Loft  
                  1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                  2:00 - 5:00 pm Piano Recital - Marie Johnson Studio / Sanctuary & FH  
                  5:30 - 8:30 pm EHS Girls Rugby Team / Fellowship Hall  
                  6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:**    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** Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Meeting / Marvin Lounge  
                  6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
- TUESDAY:**    **8:30 - 10:00 am** Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge  
                  **10:00 am - 3:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store  
                  12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                  **6:00 - 7:00 pm** Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge  
                  **7:00 - 9:00 pm** Church Council / Marvin Lounge  
                  **7:00 - 9:00 pm** Music Search Committee / Third Floor
- WEDNESDAY:** **10:00 am - 3:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store  
                  12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                  **5:30 - 7:00 pm** Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall  
                  6:30 - 8:30 pm VT UCC OM Team / Youth Lounge  
                  6:30 - 7:30 pm Boy Scouts—PLC / Third Floor  
                  **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 / Marvin Lounge  
                  **4:00 - 8:00 pm** Heavenly Cents Thrift Store  
                  6:30 - 8:30 pm Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor
- FRIDAY:**     12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall  
                  6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge  
                  7:30 - 10:30 pm Grange / Fellowship Hall
- 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@fccej.org]  
Interim Music Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@juno.com]  
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fccej.org]  
Bridge Part-time Associate Pastor: *Devon Thomas* [dthomas@fccej.org]  
Youth Team *Devon Thomas & Erica Garvey* [egarvey@fccej.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: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@juno.com]  
Joyful Noise: *Jessica Moos* [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]  
Men At First Director: *Bill Bickford, Jr.* [bill.bickford@aol.com]  
Sanctuary Choir Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@juno.com]

### 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

June 4, 2017

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 Numbers 11:24-30

Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering

Fire in the ancient world was a sign that a divine announcement was imminent.. Flames surrounded a bush that did not burn and called Moses to Holy ground. Elijah prayed for fire and it appeared before all the priests of Baal could muster a spark. On Pentecost, fire comes as literal communication – as tongues of fire endowing the apostles with multi-lingual capabilities. Being gifted with tongues of fire meant they could speak the languages of many nations and be understood. All the people from all over the known world of that day, all those foreigners and travelers that flocked regularly to Jerusalem, could, on this day, understand what was being said by the apostles on Pentecost.

What a gift that would be! What a super power! Imagine being able to travel across the world and speak Danish to the Danes, Urdu to the Pakistanis, German to the Germans, Shona to people in Zimbabwe, and Mandarin to the Chinese. Neuroscientists are studying how being multilingual increases brain size, and we know that understanding each other's language is what increases the power of humanity to come together. Opening up the way to global conversation is part of our mission as the United Church of Christ, and Strengthening the Church through our gifts to mission is a way of broadening and deepening these conversations.

Going global also might mean learning local. The First Congregational Church of Elmhurst, Illinois, is growing the brains of their children and contributing to a multilingual church. They do this every Monday evening as part of their De Colores Children's Spanish Program. It's a program in which children from grades K-5 combine learning Spanish with growing Christian faith using stories, games, art, food and prayer. What an opportunity to share tongues of fire, strengthen our church and deepen our future by teaching *young* brains to learn the language of others. Happy Pentecost!