

*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
October 15, 2017
Second Service ~ Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All,

In the Spirit of Christ.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Meditative Moments

Elmore

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 then highlight events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and 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 Book.

Introit

Come, Worship the Lord

Talbot

Call to Worship

**People: Oh, Beloved Great Redeemer, bless our hearts and grace this place.
Keep us always forward dreaming of a world that sees your face!**

Leader: Help us learn to love each other as you love all human kind!

People: God of love help us commit to peace and fellowship divine!

Leader: Let the people say . . .

All: AMEN!

***Opening Hymn**

Canticle of the Sun [song sheet]

Haugen

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism.....Theo Bickford Hughes Jones

Be sure to give a warm welcome to Theo today as he joins Jesus' movement of love and faith in this world. His proud parents are Emily & Daniel Hughes Jones.

Children's Message

After the Children's Message, children & youth are welcome to go to their Sunday school class for our Faith Formation program. Parents/Grandparents are welcome to accompany their children to their class, help get them settled and stay in class or return to worship. Kathryn is in the Nursery, with audio and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall. Children in Preschool up through 2nd grade class will need to be signed out by an authorized person at 11:30am when class time ends.

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

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Musical Response

Multiplied

Rinehart

God of Mercy, sweet love of mine, I have surrendered to Your design

May this offering stretch across the skies

And these Hallelujahs be multiplied, these Hallelujahs be multiplied

Offering Our Gifts to God

A Stewardship Moment

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Soul on Fire

Maher

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

For the Healing of the Nations

#576

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Bible: Exodus 32:1-14 [pg. 61]

Epistolic: Philippians 4: 1-9 [pg. 153]

Anthem by F @ F

The Words I Would Say

Sidewalk Prophets

Sermon

What Does Heaven Look Like?

Devon Thomas

*Closing Hymn

My Heart Flows on in Endless Song

#476

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:

Look Up My Soul, to Christ Thy Joy

Elmore

*Please stand if you are able.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Coby Miller

Jack Lucas

Marion Ferris

David Tibbetts

Judy Janwich

Mike Heston

Emily Carroll & family

Lilly and Donald

Jaime Real

Michael Flynn

Frank & Earl

Don Mable

Shirley Boucher

Roger Kalar

Acacia Moore & family

Hazel Billheimer

Donna

Ruth Legendre

Emily Schueren & family

Sharon Kennedy

Mickey McKenzie

Campbell Miller

Ann Mudgett-Learned

Cathleen & Lilianna

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

*The flowers on the altar are given by Rick & Jen Dooley
in loving memory of Harry Dooley*

Deacon: Betsy Weischedel
Ushers: 1st Service Barb & Frank Smith
Ushers: 2nd Service Betty & Bill Adams

* * * **TODAY** * * *



LAST DAY ~ How To Support Hurricane Relief

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief

If you do not feel comfortable giving online, make a check out to FCCEJ with Hurricane Relief in the memo line and we will send it in as a group check. We will have TWO matching donations, the first \$500 will be matched from Missions and the second \$500 will be matched from an anonymous donor! Also, Fleet

Feet in Essex (Rite-Aid Plaza) is accepting donations of reusable decent condition shoes that they are sending to areas that need them.



TODAY ~ Hannaford Cards & Reloads on Sale!

TODAY ~ Christmas Wreaths ON SALE

to Benefit the Jamaica Trip 2019

The Jamaica Committee will be taking orders for handcrafted balsam wreaths, centerpieces and gift certificates from Victory Gardens in Jericho. Wreaths are \$25 with \$8 going to the Jamaica Trip 2019. Wreaths will be delivered 11/26. Centerpiece ordering will be until 11/19, with delivery 12/10 & 17.



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

Yoga @ First !

Monday class has started again PLUS Jonah has added a Thursday evening class! Both classes will meet in the gym from 5:30-6:45. All levels from beginner to experienced are absolutely welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Classes are free but donations are gratefully accepted for FCCEJ.



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

We are back to our regular time of 7-9pm. Join us as we embark on our first book, the 2017 Vermont Reads, "Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson. Ms Woodson will be speaking at Burlington High School on October 23rd 6-8 pm and we will attend that presentation. We have copies of the book in the office, it is a fairly quick read, stop by and get one!



Thursday, October 19th, 5:45-7pm ~ Third Thursday Family Dish Share

Join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month for a great family dish share supper, fellowship and a chance to meet others here at First Church that you may not know and reconnect with old friends. Everyone at First Church is welcome! Bring a dish to share...anything really. Come be a part of this wonderful faith community and connect with God through Christian fellowship and a meal!

Thursday, 7:30 - 9pm ~ Confirmation

Confirmation has begun and meetings are most Thursdays throughout the year. If you are in grades 9-12 and haven't been confirmed yet, reach out to Pastor Mark, there is still time to join this year's class!



Friday, October 20th ~ 150TH Anniversary Celebration Dinner

@ the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds
5:30 p.m. Social Hour, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:30 p.m. Program
We still have a few donated tickets for people who would like to attend, first come, first serve!

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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$810.71

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

TODAY, October 15th ~ Music & Class time

October 22nd ~ Mission Sunday ~ all ages together working on a project

October 29th ~ Bible Sunday ~ Music & Class time

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

Our 5th & 6th graders meet ONCE a month from 11:30-1:30pm

Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

November 5th ~ Junior Youth Group ~ 11:30-1:30pm



Jr & Sr High Youth Ministry

October 21st ~ Emmons Island Haunted Trail: Meet at church at 5:45pm

Bring \$10 or 7 canned goods

~Find ways to volunteer in the community & here at church – many things await you!

~Bring your offering and support the Humane Society of Chittenden County

~Find ways and places to connect with your God & have Spirit time

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

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

Looking for volunteers to provide dinner for 10-15 residents & staff.
Great opportunity to grab a couple friends and serve on Wed, Oct 25th.



Interested in Helping With the Faith Formation Program? Contact Laurie



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 during second service. Faith is not taught, Faith is caught! Join the fun and help the children and youth catch the Spirit!

Next Food Pantry days are Thursday, October 26th, 2-6pm and Monday November 13th, 5:30-7:30pm

We are in need of baked beans, tuna fish, cereal and canned fruit to restock our cabinets.



Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs,
9am-12pm first Sat/month

Fall/Winter Donations can be dropped off at the Shop anytime.

We Need Your Help ~ First Church Craft Fest, Saturday, Nov. 11, 9am-3pm See October Newsletter for more details! Volunteer Signups 10/15-11/5 in FH

Nearly New - Accepting items NOW in Marvin Lounge. Suggestions include books, linens, kitchen items, frames, toys, craft items, decorations, pillows, pictures, etc.



Sweet Shoppe and Bakery – Please package items individually and identify whether or not they contain nuts and if they are gluten free.

Silent Auction – Hosting a dinner, a day of golf, homemade pies, stay at a summer cottage, professional photographs, theatre/sporting event tickets. All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off in the Office.

Heavenly Spirit Café - We are in need of soups, macaroni and cheese, chili and drinks.

Greeters - We especially need volunteers to help direct our shoppers in 2 hour shifts. Greeters will have the opportunity to purchase their own Church Apron at a discount!

Decorators - Sunday Nov 6th 12-2pm to decorate Marvin Lounge and Friday Nov 11th 1:30 to 3 pm to decorate Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Bogardus at 872-8972 or lbogardus@myfairpoint.net.

Wish List

Canvas Bags for shoppers, Christmas wrapping paper and greenery for decorating, Person to take pictures, People to call Silent Auction Winners 11/11 @ 3pm

Got Coats?



Winter Clothing Drive

Donations by November 12th for Nov. Food Pantry

Our Winter Clothing Drive is currently underway including clean nearly new coats, snowsuits, snowpants, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for adults and kids. We will be distributing the clothing at the Food Pantry on November 16th. We need your donations by Nov 12th, so that we have time to organize them. Please drop donations in the box in the hallway of the administrative offices marked 'Winter Clothing Drive'. Please contact Sue Conti at sue.conti@myfairpoint.net if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your support of this program and helping our neighbors in need.

Saturday, December 2nd ~ Vermont Food Bank Volunteer for the Holidays!

FCCEJ Sort-a-thon to be held on Saturday, December 2, 8-12:00 at Vermont Food Bank in Barre. More info in the Oct. News.



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

October 22nd ~ Celebration Sunday

When Martin Luther posted his 95 thesis, he did not make a lot of friends. The mother church did not appreciate the division he planted within the church and over the course of time, churches that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church no longer received its financial blessings. Each breakaway church had to fend for themselves and support their own clergy, outreach programs and church building. Today, as a totally autonomous entity, the only funds we have to support our building, staff and outreach ministry comes from our members. On October 22nd we will be celebrating this independence and responsibility by bringing our yearly gift estimates [pledges] up to the altar with enthusiasm of spirit, optimism for our church's future and pride of all our community does to make this corner of God's kingdom a little better.

Sunday, October 22nd ~ RiteAid Flu Shot Clinic

Rite Aid Pharmacy will be on hand from 8 am to 12 pm giving flu shots. Bring your Insurance and/or Medicaid card and they can handle your billing, flu shot and get you on your way!



Saturday, October 28th ~ Paul Vasile Community Concert

Paul Vasile is a freelance church musician, consultant, and composer based in New York City. A multitasking musician and dynamic worship leader, he is committed to building, renewing, and re-shaping faith communities through music and liturgy. Paul will offer a community event open to the public on Saturday night from 7-8:30 p.m. The concert will be free and we will take a free will offering to offset Paul's trip expenses.

October 29th ~ Reformation/Bible Sunday

One of the great outcomes of the movement of the spirit in the Protestant Reformation is Luther's, "Sola Scriptura" belief or the primary authority of scripture when interpreting the faith for the people. Protestants go to the bible when issues of life come up. In Sunday School, we do not teach doctrines and traditions, but bible stories. On October 29th we will embody this philosophy of faith by giving away bible to all third graders and anyone older who does not have one. Come and see this ancient rite of the church!

THIS WEEK: October 15th - 21st

- TODAY:** 8:30am Worship Service / Sanctuary
10:15am Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:30 - 1:00 pm Craft Fest Meeting / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
2:00 - 4:00 pm Cub Scouts / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking / FH & Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
5:30 - 7:30 pm Girl Scout Troop / Third Floor
- 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
7:00 - 9:00 pm CE / Fellowship Hall
7:00 - 9:00 pm Missions / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 8:00 - 11:30 am Food Shelf Delivery / Fellowship Hall
9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Gym
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 - 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:** 10 - 11:30 am Art Class / Third Floor / Gym
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
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
5:45 - 7:00 pm Third Thursday Potluck / Fellowship Hall
6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:30 pm Card Making –Sharon Beebe / Third Floor
7:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Youth 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
9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary

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] *Sue Wood* suewood@myfairpoint.net or
Linda Bogardus at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net
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]

October 15, 2017

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Philippians 4:1-9

Praiseworthy Living

Have you ever had a bad fight with a friend? Can you remember what started it? Hurt feelings? Misunderstanding? Stupidity? We all have the capacity to act like a jerk . . . sometimes. In the busy days and pressure of our own lives, we can be thoughtless. Each of us can. None of us is perfect. None of us has completely pure intentions always. When mistakes happen, it can be heartbreakingly difficult to disengage and disentangle our feelings for justification. We want those with whom we are in conflict to stop, turn back, and say, “I’m sorry. You were right.” But does that ever happen? Sometimes we need help to have difficult conversations and to move toward reconciliation. People that work in conflict resolution and mediation often say that conflicts are rarely resolved, but they are honestly looked at and people find ways to move forward, to work together, and, sometimes, to reconnect and reaffirm the relationship as whole and positive . . . once again.

In Paul’s letter to the Philippians he specifically mentions two women with ancient and unfamiliar names, Euodia and Syntyche. (FYI: If you are called upon to read scripture in worship you can often find biblical names pronounced for you on the Internet.) We know nothing about these women except that their relationship is in jeopardy. It must have been especially difficult for Paul because he was writing this letter from prison. Under normal circumstances, it’s hard to watch people we care about fight, but even harder if you are separated by distance and incapacity. As Paul’s letter testifies, people within Christian communities do sometimes disagree and sometimes hurt each other. The question for us, as Christian communities, is not why we fight but how we address disagreements and how we journey toward consensus and hope and just relationships within our congregations.

The Conferences of the United Church of Christ have resources for churches that help us talk to each other through the things that divide us. The New York and Wisconsin Conferences, among others, have teams of trained mediators ready to help churches. In 2017, the Southeast Conference of the UCC organized a “Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders.” This training was available for lay leaders as well as clergy and will be an ongoing Continuing Education opportunity for everyone. Wherever your church is situated, you will find that your Conference has people and programs to help you through difficulties.

Paul asks the Philippians to help those women because they had struggled with him in the work of the Gospel. We are all doing the same work. Let hope in reconciliation always be our guide.