

*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
November 12, 2017 - Second Service
Social Justice Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Prelude

Prelude & Fugue
O God Thou Faithful God
Prelude No 1

Handel
Peeters
Bach

A Pastoral Invitation

*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 significant events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to sign the Friendship Book.

Musical Introit

Born This Way

Germanotta

Call to Worship

Leader: The Hebrew people were formed when God heard their cries of distress in Egypt and saved them from the yoke of oppression.

People: God's law ensured that the poor, the widows and the strangers were taken care of by the majority.

Leader: Prophets of God spoke to power and called upon the rich to care for the poor and remember the love God has for everyone.

People: Jesus, a humble nobody, stood up for social, political and religious outcasts and preached that word of equality to everyone.

Everyone: We believe God calls us to make the world a better place by standing up for love and justice. Come, let us re-commit ourselves to this vital and ever important task. Come, let us worship the God of justice!

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation and **Unison Lord's Prayer**

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.

Opening Hymn

I Hear Them All [song sheet]

Guthrie

The 1 st Scripture of Justice: Feed My Sheep: John 21:15-19 [page 88]
--

A Jamaican Witness

Our own Jamaican Mission Trip team will present the ways they stood up for justice by helping the least among us in Jamaica this past summer. There will be pictures of the people we worked with, the children that will benefit and the 30,000 square foot fenced in garden that was created.

Children's Message

The Expanding Miracle of Sharing

After the Children's Message, children & youth are welcome to go to their Sunday school class for our Faith Formation program. Adults are welcome to accompany the children to their class, help get them settled and stay in class or return to worship. Kathryn & Manu are 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.

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.**

The Heart of God's Call for Justice Demands Us to Give

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

Brother

Rinehart

***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.**

The 2nd Scripture of Justice: The Long Road to Justice: Matthew 25:1-13 [page 21]

A Message of Justice by Devon Thomas

Our Response to God's Need

While Marie plays everyone is invited to use the post it notes found in the bulletin and write ways you would like to see our church engage in issues of social justice: one idea per note please. Then rise and stick your post it note on the wall, making a rainbow with the various colors.

***Hymn of Justice**

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

#583

The 3rd Scripture of Justice: Peace Not War: Micah 4:1-4 [page 670]

A Message of Justice from our Nepali Pastor Dan Raut

A Pastoral Prayer for Justice in the World

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Anthem as a Choral Response

One

Bono

***Hymn of Peace**

Go Make a Difference [song sheet]

Angrisano

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction and Invitation to Respond

During this time, Rev. Mendes will invite people to help with a host of various social justice activities. Although, the service will seem to end, it will actually continue as we prepare to take some of Christ's love out into the community. Everyone will be invited to.....

1. Create food packages for JUMP, then deliver to 1st Congo Burlington
2. Make Bag lunches: sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit, note
Deliver meals to various settings in Burlington
3. Create Placards for Public Display
Walk to 5 Corners and Make a Public Witness

***Sung Community Benediction**

**When you walk from here
When you walk from here
Walk with justice, walk with mercy,
And with God's humble care**

*Postlude:

Grand Chorus in B^b

Dubois

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: 1st Service Marie Johnson; 2nd Service Rick Dooley

Ushers & Greeters: 1st Service Mary Ellen Grove

Ushers & Greeters: 2nd Service Wendy Wark, Carolyn Toof, Maureen McKenzie, Shanice Lewis

*The flowers on the altar are given by Alison & Carl Wermer
in honor of their four children's birthdays.*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Carol Mauger	Jack Lucas	Marion Ferris
David Tibbetts	Judy Janwich	Mike Heston
Emily Carroll & family	Lilly and Donald	Jaime Real
Roger Couture	Frank & Earl	Don Mable
Shirley Boucher	Roger Kalar	Acacia Moore & family
Donna	Ruth Legendre	Emily Schueren & family
Sharon Kennedy	Mickey McKenzie	Ann Mudgett-Learned
Campbell Miller	Les	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@fcej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Thank You For The 2018 Pledge Cards That Have Come In!

If you haven't, please return your card asap and mark either "yes" or "no" whether or not you are able to make a pledge. You may also email your pledge to Pat Seaver at vttri2@aol.com. Your Stewardship Committee will be calling everyone who hasn't returned their pledge card in the next several weeks.

The Church is constructing the 2018 budget and needs to know how much funding we will receive from pledges. 80% of our income comes from YOU, and we depend heavily on these funds for our operations and programs.

TODAY is the LAST DAY for the Winter Clothing Drive

Collection box is on the landing in the staff hallway



TODAY ~ Christmas Centerpieces ON SALE

to Benefit the Jamaica Trip 2019

The Jamaica Committee will be taking orders for handcrafted centerpieces and gift certificates from Victory Gardens in Jericho. Wreaths that have been ordered will be delivered 11/26. Centerpiece ordering will be until 11/19, with delivery 12/10 & 17.



2018 Flower Chart is UP!

In the hallway out of Fellowship Hall, choose a date to remember loved ones or honor a special date in your family! \$34 for the flowers and you can take them or leave them for us to find someone who needs some love!

TODAY ~ Leftovers Sale!

Leftover items from Sweet Shoppe and Heavenly Spirit Café will be on sale from 8:30-11:30. Nearly New items in the Gym will be \$1 a bag from 9:30-11:30 am. You can pick up Silent Auction Items 8:30-12 in Marvin Lounge.



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

Yoga @ First !

Monday and Thursday evening classes in the Gym on the second floor! This week, Mon will be in the gym and Thurs will be in Fellowship Hall 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 , 7-9pm

We are starting our new book, "Grounded" by Diana Butler Bass. The office has copies of the book, stop in and pick one up.



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!



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

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2017

Your 2017 Total is now up to \$915.96

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

November 12th & 19th ~ Faith Formation Class Time

November 26th ~ Hands-On Mission Project Sunday

The kids and youth will hear about Church World Service and help put together hygiene kits that will be delivered to the CWS drop off site at Waterbury UCC church. We have a goal of 50-75 kits. We are connecting with some of our local stores to see if they would like to help support this mission. If you would also like to help...we are looking for hand towels measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber); washcloths; wide-tooth comb; fingernail or toenail clippers; individually wrapped bath-size bars of soap; individually packaged toothbrushes; standard size Band-Aids.



We Still Need Bible Partners ~ Sign up TODAY!

Our 3rd-6th graders will team up with an adult or Sr High youth to read from the Bible together.

November 12th - December 10th – read together on Sundays

December 17th – celebrate our time together at a Family Dish Share after 2nd service worship.

Jr & Sr High Youth Ministry

November 17th & 18th Pie Baking Overnight



Christmas Pageant

November 26th ~ Christmas Pageant Rehearsals start!

Bringing back from 2010...

I wonder as I wander... A Christmas Play by Rev. Karen Mendes

At both our worship services on December 17th Adult volunteers are needed - help assist with set, costumes and running of lines at all rehearsals.

November 26th, 6-8pm - read through with Jr & Sr High youth- speaking parts assigned Come help gather props, help behind the scenes and have a lot of fun!

December 3rd, 6-8pm rehearsal for Jr & Sr High Youth

December 10th, 11:30-2:00pm, Preschool-6th join for first 20 min to learn their parts

Sat., December 16th – time TBA - dress rehearsal

Pageant Sunday, December 17th during both services - all youth arrive at 7:45am

Potluck lunch to follow after the 10:15am service.

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



Visits & Calls Needed

Marion Ferris would love some visitors and/or phone calls. She is currently at the Green Mountain Nursing Home in the Fort. Her phone is 735-3674 (corrected number)

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, Nov 22nd.



Next Food Pantry days are Monday November 13th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, November 16th, 2-6pm

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



Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs
November 24th, Dec. 2nd 9am-12pm

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



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



**Saturday, December 2nd ~ Vermont Foodbank
A Great Place to Volunteer for the Holidays!**

8:00 am to 12:00 pm Food Sort-A-Thon at the Vermont

Food Bank in Barre (ages 14+). This is a popular volunteer activity at First Church because volunteers report that they enjoy getting so much volunteering done in a short period of time. Carpool will meet at First Church at 6:45 AM and return by about 1:00 pm. The Food Bank provides coffee and snacks during the break. Email Cynthia Kelley cynthiak222@gmail.com by November 26, and I will send you the sign up link and more details on this activity.

November 19th ~ Family Dish Share & Advent Decorating Event

Due to Food Pantry on the 3rd Thursday this month, we are combining the 3rd Thursday Potluck and the Advent Event on the 3rd Sunday, following 2nd service at 11:30am. We are combining our Third Thursday potluck supper for November with our Advent Decorating Event. Two great fun events all together! All are asked to bring a dish to share on Sunday the 19th and join CE and the Deacons for a time of fellowship and lunch following the 2nd service in the Fellowship Hall. We will then continue our time together decorating the Sanctuary and make three pieces of a nativity set.

Starting November 5th, the nativity set and sign up will be in Fellowship Hall. Sign up for the year nativity set you would like to make or email Laurie so we have the right amount of materials on hand. This craft is fun for all ages! You will end up with a nativity set that you can keep adding on to for you own kids, grandkids, or pass it along as a great gift. Each year's set of figures is listed below. If this is your first year, sign up for Year 1 so you leave with the first three pieces of the nativity.

If this is your second year or more, sign up for the numbered year you want.



Year 1 ~ Mary, Joseph & Baby Jesus

Year 2 ~ Angel, Donkey & Sheep

Year 3 ~ King, cow, Shepherd

Year 4 ~ 2 Kings & a sheep

Year 5 ~ 3 camels

**If you have made a set in the past, please send Laurie a picture of your nativity set on display to share with the group.

November 23rd ~ Thanksgiving Confirmation Service Project

Don't want to cook Thanksgiving dinner? Not interested in the mess or clean up? Walker Stapleton, as a Confirmation Service Project, will deliver a free home cooked turkey dinner with all the fixings to any First Church member who would like a yummy treat on Thanksgiving Day. He and his family are looking forward to coming to your door with a meal for you to enjoy. Call 881-6824 to signup by 11/19/17. Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving!



November 26th ~ Hands-On Mission Project Sunday



Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

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

Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

December 3rd ~ Junior Youth Group ~ 11:30-1:30pm

December 8th ~ EJRP Train Hop

The Essex Junction Recreation & Parks Train Hop tis on December 8th from 6-8pm this year. This is our second year participating as one of the stops in the downtown Essex Junction and celebrating our community connections. Are you free that night? We are looking for volunteers to be greeters, donate snacks or pop popcorn, set up our kid train sets, etc. Interested in helping in any way ...please see Laurie.



The tree lighting is at the 5 Corners at 6:15pm and you can meet Santa at the Teen Ctr.

THIS WEEK: November 12th - 18th

- TODAY:** 8:30am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
9:30 - 12:30 pm **Silent Auction Craft Fest Pickup / Marvin Lounge**
10:15am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
11:30 - 1:00 pm **Jamaica Stock Holders Lunch**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge**
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am **Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
3:30 - 8:00pm **Food Pantry [pantry open 5:30-7:30pm] / FH & Kitchen**
5:30 - 6:30 pm **Group Victory / Youth Lounge**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Gym**
- 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 **Deacons / Marvin Lounge**
- WEDNESDAY:** 8:00 - 11:30 am **Food Pantry Delivery / FH**
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**
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge**
6:30 - 7:30 pm **CPEC Dance Party / Gym**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 9:00 pm **Wednesday Night Searchers / Youth Lounge**
- THURSDAY:** 9:00 am- 6:30 pm **Food Pantry [pantry open 2-6pm] / FH & Kitchen**
10 - 11:30 am **Art Class / Third Floor / Gym**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge**
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Gym**
6:15 - 7:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**
6:30 - 8:30 pm **Eagle Scout Board of Review / Third Floor**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary**
7:30 - 9:00 pm **Confirmation Class / Marvin Lounge**
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
1:30 - 4:00 pm **Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge**
6:30 pm **overnight -9am Pie Baking Overnight Youth / all church**
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm **Nepali Community Worship / Sanctuary**
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]

WARNING FOR A SPECIAL MEETING
of the
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ESSEX JUNCTION

November 19, 2017
following the second service
(approx. 11:30 a.m.)

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction to be held in the sanctuary of the Church on Sunday, November 19, 2017 following the second service to act upon the following business:

To act and vote upon accepting the proposed recommendation from the Associate Pastor Search Committee to extend a call to Joshua John Simon to become our next duly installed full time Associate Pastor starting on November 27, 2017.

On behalf of the Church
Alison Wermer, Church Clerk
October 26, 2017