

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



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

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

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

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
April 15, 2018
First Service ~ The Third Sunday of Easter

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

Arrival
Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul

Handel
Mansfield

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 and invite everyone to raise celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or guests. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Books.

Musical Introit

Into My Heart

Clarke

Call to Worship

Leader: The grace, love and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: God gathers here with us now and everywhere. Let us pause here to be recharged with God's holy blessings.

People: We will receive God's promised gift.

Capital Campaign Skit

***Opening Hymn**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

#243

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.....Laurie Chipman

After the Children's Message second service, children & youth are welcome to go to their Sunday school class for our Faith Formation program. Adults are welcome to accompany their children to their class, help get them settled and stay in class or return to worship. 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. For first & second services, Adrienne & Manu are in the Nursery, with audio and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall.

**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.**

Anthem by Sanctuary Choir *Bless the Lord, My Strength & Goodness* Beall

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Response # 245 *The Day of Resurrection*

**Our hearts be pure of evil, that we may see aright
The Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
For we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.**

Scripture Reading

New Testament Gospel Luke 24:13-36 [page 68]

***Hymn of Preparation** *Abide with Me* #99

Sermon *"Divine Disguise"* Rev. Paul Eyer, guest preacher

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation

Offering

Anthem (soloist, Carolyn Harris) *The Greatest of These is Love* Bitgood

Doxology # 245 *The Day of Resurrection

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
The whole world keep high triumph and all that is there in,
Let all things seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ again has risen, our joy that knows no end.**

Prayer of Dedication

**All: Risen Christ, give us faith to see that it is into your hands we offer our gifts
and that it is your feet we follow when we go out to serve others in the Spirit of
love. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn *Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!* #253**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let me walk with my fellow in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

Postlude

Rejoice in the Lord

Mansfield

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: Peter Schmalz

1st Service Greeters & Ushers: Grace & Bill Jones; Judy Allen & Peter Gray
2nd Service Greeters & Ushers: Beth Terry, Myrna Doney & Linda Bogardus

Please join us for Fellowship Time after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Merrill & Zhina Cate
in loving memory of their mothers, Lorraine & Mahim.*

We Welcome Rev. Paul Eyer to First Church!

Rev. Paul Eyer began serving as pastor of Williston Federated Church in Williston, VT in Oct, 2017. Prior to coming to Williston, Paul was Director of Alumni & Church Relations at Lancaster Theological Seminary. An ordained UCC minister, Paul previously served as pastor of St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Lancaster. Paul is a graduate of Lancaster Seminary, having earned his Master of Divinity degree in 2006. Prior to attending seminary, Paul was a practicing attorney. Paul earned his Juris Doctor (law) degree from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. While in D.C., he served on the legislative staff of then-U.S. Senator David Boren of Oklahoma. Paul received his Bachelor of Arts from Oklahoma Baptist University. Paul is married to his seminary classmate, Rev. Jacquelyn Lingelbach, and has a grown daughter, Julie.

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Winslow Ladue
Mike Heston
Carol Janwich

Kathy Murray
Marion Schneider
Sue Pariseau

Bill Bogardus
Eric & Shannon
Joe Phenix

Please let the office 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 TODAY!

Claussen's Gift Cards on SALE, TODAY!



*Calling All
Bakers!*

Signups For Fellowship Time Are on the White Board!

Share your favorite recipe with your friends here at First Church! Make a batch and if you want to put the recipe out we can make copies for you! We know we have some AMAZING cooks here at First Church!

**TODAY, 3-5pm in the Sanctuary, All Are Welcome
Joe's Big Band Concert**



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

Yoga @ First !

Monday and Thursday evening classes in the Gym on the second floor! This week, Mon will be in the Fellowship Hall and Thurs will be 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, 7-8:30pm ~ Sermon Talkback TWO!

There is now a second evening Sermon Talkback group led by either Rev. Mark or Rev. Josh. There is always a pot of decaf ready to go and snacks if we are lucky. Come by yourself or bring a friend and together we will unpack the sermon and explore other topics.



Thursday, 7:30 - 9pm ~ Confirmation

Third Thursday Potluck

April 19, 5:45-7pm

Learn a way on how to have different conversations! Interested in helping youth express themselves through constructive means?

JOIN US for

Third Thursday Potluck when Susanna from the Essex Community Justice Center leads a mini-workshop for families in our church. We'll learn how to have difficult conversations that help us build a peaceful and just community. The workshop is based in Restorative Justice practices. Restorative Justice is a process that helps people effectively communicate with each other and creates peaceful resolution to a conflict.



- We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall
- Please, Bring a dish to pass
- Questions? Contact Pastor Josh



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



April 15th - May 6th ~ Bottle Drive for the Capital Campaign

This year as a confirmation class we have become a lot more connected to our church. We would like to do our part to contribute to the Capital Campaign. There are bins at the church where your cans and bottles can be donated. If you are unable to bring in your cans & bottles, there is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall to have us come pick them up. Thank you for donating your returnables so that we can help the church reach its campaign goal.

Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$364.36

*Your 2018 Offering Choice is **Jamaica School Children***

Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.

Remember to bring your offering, \$1 a week can go a long way!

Bring your Faith Formation Sunday School offering each week and use the envelopes in the pews. It is really important to use them so we know where you want your \$ to go.



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 8th grade

April 15th ~ Peer class time

April 22nd ~ Hands On Mission Sunday

April 29th ~ Peer class time

Our NYC Mission Trip Team!

Ashley & Ryan Clark, Caitlin & Charlie McGeary, Katie Bruyns, Eva Cunningham-Firkey, Walker Stapleton, Emma Parker, Makayla Moos, Nicholas Mendes, Courtney Frank, and Aliyah Watt. Chaperones-Lisa Clark, Jonah Moos & Pastor Josh.



Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders meet TWICE a month from 11:30-1:30pm

Faith & Mission Focus ~ Meal ~ Fellowship/Games

Parents sign up for meals and to volunteer is on the JY board

TODAY, April 15th ~ Gardening Time

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

Sunday, April 15th ~ 5pm and Sunday, April 29th ~ 5pm

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

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are all set with volunteers for April 25th but are looking for volunteers for May 23rd. Please contact Ed Steele at 871-5897 edwardmsteele@msn.com if interested or with any questions. There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway entering Fellowship Hall.



Prayer Shawls Still Needed!

Calling all our Knitters & Crocheters! We could use some prayer shawls to bump up our stores of them. Jen has a pattern in the office that she can email or print out for you if needed. Thanks!

**Next Food Pantry days are Thursday, April 26th, 2-6pm
and Monday, May 14th, 5:30-7:30pm**

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

We could use some Egg Cartons again!



Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

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

Open Saturday May 5th from 9 am to 1 pm

Spring and Summer Items on Sale-Start your new Wardrobe

Volunteers Needed for Thursday afternoon shift from 4 to 6 pm. If

interested, please contact Elaine at ebaymond@gmail.com.

Shop is now accepting Spring/Summer clothing and Nearly New Items.

Vacation Bible Camp Art Project

During the week of VBC we will be doing an art project using recyclable caps that will connect with our Rolling River Rampage theme. Are you one who thinks that the caps from your milk jug, juice container and other small caps are recyclable? Think again. No cap smaller than 2 inches in diameter can be recycled in our area. So if you leave it on the container when you put it in the recycling bin, the container will be rejected when it goes through the sorting process. Let's put these caps to good use! Start now and collect your caps for VB Camp. You'll be surprised how many of these you can collect by July. Bring them to church by Sunday, August 6th and we'll use them for a cool art project. Watch for the colored VB Camp bin in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help!



Applications for Jamaica Mission Trip 2019 are due May 1st

While the summer of 2019 seems a long way off, planning has already begun for our 3rd international, intergenerational mission trip. The next step is to assemble our team. Applications are due May 1st and must be notarized. Jen, in the office, is a notary and could assist you during her working hours. Passports: Check the expiration date of your passport. All travelers must have a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond our trip dates. We anticipate traveling in mid-July 2019, so your passport will need to be valid until February 1, 2020. If you have questions about this trip or about filling out the application, contact Carolyn Rushford (cjrushford@comcast.net) or Sharon Dettenrieder (dettenriedeS@hartwick.edu).



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



April 20th, 6-8pm ~ Faith On Tap @ McGillicuddy's

April 29th, after both services ~ Foster Grandparent and RSVP

Programs at United Way of Northwest Vermont

Are you 55+? We're always looking for older adult volunteers for our RSVP and Foster Grandparent Programs! We connect individuals with various volunteer opportunities at schools and non-profit organizations throughout Northwest Vermont. Foster Grandparents work in early education settings helping children who need extra support with early literacy and math. Interested in learning more? Danielle Williams will be joining us on 4/29 to talk about these programs and answer any questions you have!



Foster Grandparents



May 20th ~ New Member's Class

July 29 – August 3 ~ Our VT OM Camp Week at Rock Point

HORTON CENTER GOES TO VT - MIDDLE

Entering Grades 5-8 in the Fall

\$420 www.hortoncenter.org



Come be a part of a great community of friends at Rock Point, Horton Center style, while we explore along the shores of Lake Champlain. God's beauty will be all around us as we swim, paddle board, hike through the many nature trails, have evening campfires and s'mores, sing, worship, play games and enjoy the amazing sunsets. Rock Point is located in Burlington and is on the site of the Episcopal Conference Center. Scholarships available ...See Laurie



August 6th -10th ~ Vacation Bible Camp

*2018 Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!
Mon – Fri 9am to 11:45am ; A full week of energy & excitement seeing God's
Love in Action! Join and be a part of this fun week!*

Calling all KIDS ~ Registration is now OPEN!

Groups: You & Me (toddler & parent/grandparent), Preschool (three & fours - potty trained) & up through those entering 5th grade in the fall.

Now Recruiting Station Leader: Bible Drama ~ Games

Helpers: Youth (entering sixth grade & up), College Students/ Adults of all ages! See Laurie for more information and to sign up!

THIS WEEK: April 15th - 21st

- TODAY:** 8:30am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
10:15am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
11:30am - 1:30pm **Junior Youth Group / Third Floor/YL/Gym**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge**
3:00 - 5:00 pm **Joe's Big Band Concert / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall**
5:00 - 7:00 pm **Sr Youth Group / 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 - 7:30 pm **Girl Scout Troop / Third Floor**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Fellowship Hall**
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Boy Scouts (Kevin McC) / Marvin Lounge**
- TUESDAY:** 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 - 8:00pm **Scouting Event (Judy McC) / Fellowship Hall**
7:00 - 9:00pm **Missions / Marvin Lounge**
- WEDNESDAY:** 8:00 - 11:30 am **Food Bank Delivery / Fellowship Hall**
9:30 - 11:00 am **Tai Chi / Gym**
10:00 am - 3:00pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
3:00 - 5:00pm **Heavenly Food Pantry Board Meeting / Marvin Lounge**
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finally @ First / Sanctuary**
7:00 - 8:00 pm **Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin Lounge**
7:00 - 8:30 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 Open**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Gym**
5:45 - 7:00 pm **Third Thursday Potluck / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen**
6:15 - 7:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**

7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
7:00 - 9:00 pm Confirmation Class / Youth Lounge
FRIDAY: ****MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE****
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge
1:30 - 4:00 pm Bridge Club / Marvin Lounge
SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
9:30 - 11:30 am Women's Spirituality / Marvin Lounge
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:00 - 3:00 pm 150th Quilt Group / Marvin Lounge
1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary
2:00 - 5:00 pm Birthday Party (Karen Hathaway) / Fellowship Hall

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fcej.org]
Interim Music Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.com]
Interim Choir Director: *Denise Keating* [j_keating7@comcast.net]
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fcej.org]
Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fcej.org]
Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fcej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: *Jenny Bourn* [jennybourn4@gmail.com]
Currier Bell Choir Director: *Carolyn Harris* [899-6759]
Finally @ First Director: *Rick Dooley* [rickdooley5@gmail.com]
Heavenly Harmony Director: *Marie Johnson* [mdjkiln@gmail.com]
Joyful Noise: *Jessica Moos* [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: *Bill Bickford, Jr.* [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir Director: *Denise Keating* [j_keating7@comcast.net]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations until 5/18: *Brenda Crocket* [881-5253]
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* [777-9446]
Deacons: *Betsy Weischedel* [922-2094], *Peter Schmalz* [202-297-3625]
Hospitality: *Mary Jane Allen* [557-1335], *Jim Glatz* [503-5076]
Missions: *Sandy Tallman* [879-0665]
Music: *Judy Larrabee* [236-0604]
Nominating: *Barb Smith* [878-6866]
Stewardship: *Kathy Finnie* [734-9688]
Trustees: *Kevin Meilleur* [238-4041]
Ushering: *Ann Marie Sullivan* [879-6044]



Our Home, Our Future, Our Time – NEWS & NOTES

Last Sunday, we officially kicked off our Capital Campaign with a big celebration and an announcement that we have already raised \$650,000 (79 percent) of our \$822,000 goal! God is great! And the numbers keep on growing...here's where we stand today:



Our fundraising progress will be updated online – visit the Capital Campaign tab on our church website at www.fccej.org for all the latest news about the Campaign. Special thanks to Andrea Sharp for all of her work on our website! (Please note that the next fundraising update will be after April 22nd due to travel schedules.)

The Kick-Off marks a big milestone in our Capital Campaign. Up until this point, we have been quietly raising funds from an initial group of church members. Now is the time for the entire congregation to come together and help us reach our goal!

By now, everyone should have received a special mailing about the Capital Campaign in your mailboxes...we invite you to look through all of the materials to learn more about the Campaign, the many restorations and improvements we are raising money for, and details on how you can help support the Campaign. If you did NOT receive a Campaign packet and would like one, please let us know!

Meetings with visitors will be taking place over the next several weeks. We hope you will embrace the opportunity to get to know another church member better, and to share your hopes and dreams for the church and this Campaign. Rest assured, this visit is not about asking you for money...that is entirely up to you to know and decide!

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to Co-Chairs Dave Johnson or Kaki McGeary. Peace & Blessings!