

***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 29, 2018
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

*A Joyous Acclamation
Be Thou But Near*

Smith
Bach

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.

Introit by Currier Bells

Prayer for Unity (Carolyn Harris, soloist)

Rickard

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us gather to celebrate that there is something beyond what we know.....

Pulpit Side: There is a Presence that comes to us and instills peace and assurance within our very souls.

Lectern Side: There is an Universal Ethic of Love that calls us to stand up for justice, walk with kindness and live in peace with all.

Pulpit Side: There is Truth that is immutable, calling us to use intellect and wisdom for the betterment of the earth and all that lives therein.

Lectern Side: There is a Hope that draws us into the future with confidence.

Leader: Come, let us gather to celebrate a God that comes to us in ways great and small, offering meaning, dignity and worth to our lives. Come, let us sing of such a God.

***Opening Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress

#439

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 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 Currier Bells

Mountain Springs

Tucker

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Requests Offered within the Community

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

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.

New Testament Scripture Readings

Historical Acts 8:26-40 [page 96]

Gospel John 15:1-11 [page 84]

***Hymn of Preparation**

I Am the Light of the World

#584

Sermon

Do You Have God's Joy?

Rev. Mendes

A Litany of Appreciation

Leader: We love music in this place. Our hymns and anthems give glory to God, warm our hearts and draw us together in mysterious and powerful ways. We have been blessed with great musical leaders and today we celebrate three of them who have worked hard to give us music of beauty during an interim time.

People: Thank you Marie Johnson for playing our organ and leading the choir as they offered us inspired music of faith each week. Your professionalism, humor and patience has been a gift to us all. You have stepped into the organist to save us many times and we are grateful.

Leader: Marie, well done good and faithful servant.

People: Thank you Bill Bickford Jr. and Denise Keating for directing the choir and keeping them in harmony during this time of transition. Your graciousness, musical abilities and dedication to the Sanctuary Choir has been a gift to us all.

Leader: Bill and Denise, well done good and faithful servants.

People: Thank you Sanctuary Choir for continuing to sing your hearts out through this time of transition. Your supernal songs have moved us to tears, inspired us to faith and drawn us together.

Leader: Sanctuary Choir, well done good and faithful servants.

People: During this time of transition, we are also grateful for the way in which all of our musical groups have stepped up in offering such magnificent music. Thank you Rick and all the Finally @ First members; thank you Mindy and your Heavenly Harmonies; thank you Carolyn for bells pealing for divine glory; thank you Jessica for inspiring our youth and thank you Kim for allowing us to see God's Cherubs so clearly. Our lives are richer for your efforts which you give so freely.

Leader: Rick, Mindy, Carolyn, Jessica and Kim, well done good and faithful servants.

People: We love music in this place. We honor and celebrate all our choral and instrumental groups and their leaders. Today, we celebrate Marie, Bill and Denise and thank them for a job well done. You have our sincere gratitude. May the Living God bless you with sweet melodies and perfect harmonies all the days of your lives. Amen and Alleluia!!!

.....*Presenting Gifts of Appreciation*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem by Sanctuary Choir *Fantasy on Kingsfold*

Wagner

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.**

***Closing Hymn**

Love Divine

#43

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:**

Festive Voluntary

Purcell

*Please stand if you are able.

Deacon: Peter Schmalz

Please join us for Fellowship Time with a celebration for our amazing music staff & volunteers after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

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** * * *

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!

* * * **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



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



Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$378.17

*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 29th ~ Peer class time

May 6th ~ Holy Communion Sunday ~ Spiritual Friends ~ Intergenerational Worship

May 13th ~ All in worship to celebrate Mothers

Activity in Fellowship Hall for young ones



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

Next Meeting ~ May 6th

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

TODAY, 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.



Next Food Pantry days are Monday, May 14th, 5:30-7:30pm and Thursday, May 24th, 2-6pm

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

We could use some Egg Cartons again!



Now - 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.

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 ebraymond@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. 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).



May 26th ~ Memorial Day Parade!

Walk in the Memorial Day Parade with FCCEJ! Again, this year we'll walk with our church float. If you are interested in walking with us, email Pastor Josh, jsimon@fccej.org or sign-up in the narthex.

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

May 12th ~ Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary fame) Benefit Concert at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington at 8:30 pm. Peter's songs will mostly be drawn from of the trio's iconic repertoire including *Puff, the Magic Dragon, If I Had a Hammer, Blowing in the Wind* and *Light One Candle* as well as some of Peter's recently written songs. Peter promises that almost all the songs will be sing-alongs, assuring us a joyous evening of family togetherness and fun. The concert will also be a tribute to Vermont's beloved and greatly-missed Robert De Cormier, who was Peter, Paul and Mary's Musical Director for over 25 years. Peter will be singing a portion of the evenings songs with Counterpoint. The evening will also include some shared information about an exciting project that Peter is associated with, the creation of Peace University, centered in VT and focusing on reconciliation and healing around the globe.



***DATE CHANGE* May 13th, after both services** ~ Foster Grandparent and RSVP Programs at United Way of Northwest VT
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!

May 20th ~ New Member's Class



May 20th ~ Sally May's Installation, 3pm @ Mallett's Bay Congregational Church



May 27th ~ Graduation Sunday
All graduating high school, undergrad and grad students are encouraged to send Pastor Josh their baby picture, their graduation/most recent photo & their post grad plans. Slide show will be shown.

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





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 29th - May 5th

- SUNDAY:** 8:30am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
10:15am **Worship Service / Sanctuary**
1:00 - 2:00 pm **Brown Bag / Marvin Lounge**
5:00 - 7:00pm **Senior Youth Group / Marvin Lounge**
- MONDAY:** *Office Closed-Jen in FL*
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 / Fellowship Hall**
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 Open**
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**
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am **Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall**
10:00 am - 3:00pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
5:30 - 7:00pm **Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge**
5:30 - 7:00 pm **Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall**
6:00 - 7:00 pm **Boy Scouts—PLC / Youth Lounge**
7:00 - 8:00 pm **Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin Lounge**
7:00 - 8:30 pm **Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall**
- THURSDAY:** 8:30– 11:30am **Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 noon **Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall**
12:00 - 2:00 pm **JOY / Marvin Lounge**
4:00 - 8:00 pm **Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open**
5:30 - 6:45 pm **Yoga with Jonah / Gym**
6:00 - 8:00 pm **Pack 630 Meeting / Fellowship Hall**
6:15 - 7:00 pm **Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary**
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
5:00 - 8:00 pm Essex Eats Out Community Dinner / Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

SATURDAY: 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
9:30 am - 11:30 pm CPEC Carnival / Gym
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00 pm Marie Johnson-Organ / Sanctuary
2:00 - 5:00 pm Funeral Reception-Eron Cardinal / Fellowship Hall

MINISTRY AT FIRST CHURCH

Church Administrator: *Jen Dooley* [welcome@fcej.org]
Music & Choir Director: *Carol Spradling* [cspradling@fcej.org]
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: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fcej.org]
Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fcej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Carl Wermer [879-7650]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Maureen Evans [879-7517]
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]

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]



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

Campaign “visits” are underway! 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! If you haven't been contacted about a visit, and would like to schedule one, please contact Maureen Evans. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed our Campaign Ambassadors so far!

Our goal is to have pledges returned by May 15th so we can wrap up the Campaign at a special celebration on Sunday, June 3.

Did you know?

Individuals age 70 1/2 and older can make a qualified charitable distribution from their IRA as a distribution for purposes of the Required Minimum Distribution rules. These qualified distributions are made directly to the church by your IRA trustee and not subject to Federal income tax. You should always consult your own financial advisor to understand your particular circumstances before making a gift from your assets.

Can I designate my Capital Campaign gift for a particular project?

Unfortunately, no. Our church policies strongly discourage designated/restricted gifts, in part because it is very difficult for the church to administer those gifts and make sure that every penny of any one particular gift gets spent on any one specific project. And, if a project ends up being less than the restricted gift amount, the church cannot use the remaining funds for something else and the money is left unused.

We hope that people appreciate that the Capital Campaign is about all of us coming together to take care of the needs of the whole church, and ensuring that Our Future – and that of those who follow us - is the best it can be. Rest assured that much work and care has gone into assessing our church's capital needs, listening to input from the entire congregation, seeking expert advice, setting priorities, and developing project plans that make the most of our precious resources. Every Campaign gift gets us closer to reaching our base goal of \$822,000 and our stretch goal of \$1.09 million—and then ALL the projects can be completed!

Peace & Blessings!

Kaki McGeary & Dave Johnson, Co-Chairs

Here's a look at our fundraising progress to date... For the latest numbers, go to the Capital Campaign tab on our church website at www.fccej.org

