

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Essex Junction

Love. Serve. Grow.

## 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

Phone: 802-878-5745Website: www.fccej.orgFax: 802-872-8236E-mail: welcome@fccej.orgFacebook:First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



# Worship @ First Congo

We have two worship services every Sunday morning at 1<sup>st</sup> Congo. We have an Alternative Service on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

## The First Service at 8:30 a.m.

- A Bit More Traditional
- Organ and Piano Music
- Traditional & Contemporary Choral Music
- A Bit More Peace and Quiet
- Professional Nursery Care [birth to age 3]
- A Time of Fellowship & Food Follows

## The Second Service at 10:15 a.m.

- A Bit Less Traditional
- The Finally @ First Band Helps Lead Music
- Some Organ and Piano Music
- Faith Formation During Worship [ages 4 & up]
- Professional Nursery Care [birth to age 3]
- A Bit More Energic and Lively
- A Time for Fellowship and Food Follows

## The Saturday Service at 4:30 p.m.

- Informal and Participatory
- Worship NOT in Sanctuary but in Marvin Lounge
- Communion: Sacramental and Community
- Acoustic Guitar

## **NOTES**

- Communion is on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month [all ages]
- Children / Families Welcome at all Services
- Everyone <u>Really</u> is Welcome

#### The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction A United Church of Christ March 15, 2020

#### The Third Sunday in Lent

## A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All In the Spirit of Christ

## Order of Worship

### Prelude

As our organist moves to the last prelude piece, let us all begin to quietly center ourselves to enter into the spirit of worship

#### Welcome Greeting and Announcements

We encourage everyone, both guests and members, to sign the Friendship Book and check any categories of need that might be appropriate. This will allow the church and her staff to best serve you. Thank you.

**Musical Introit** 

Here In This Place

Christopher Grace

## Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us celebrate Jesus Christ, the Anointed One who taught us through his mission statement in Luke:

People: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Leader: May Christ's life and death illuminate for us the closeness of God and how we might seek God in our life. Come, let us worship.

## \*Opening Hymn

## **Our God is Here**

Chris Muglia [insert, next page]

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.

## Our God Is Here



CCLI song # 4511377, CCLI license # 11051841

2. Here in the word

#### Children's Message

After the Children's Message, children are welcome to go to their Sunday School Classes. Parents, if you would like to accompany your children to get them settled and check out our facilities, please feel free to do so and return to the worship service when you are done.

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.

At the second service, Joyful Noise through song will provide our Children's Message.

#### I'm Yours - FCCEJ

All are welcome, those are words that we live by It's just the way we roll so there is no need to ask why *We're here to get you back* If you find yourself off track Back to the peace & joy & feeling of divine intervention Nothing's going to stop the love-- so I'll pay attention To the fact that it's my turn To give some and learn some So I won't hesitate no more no more It cannot wait, I'm yours *No matter who you -- are or where you are -- on life's journey* You are always welcomed here Any day, month, or year Open up your mind and see like me Open up your heart and you'll be free Open up our doors and you'll feel love, love, love, love *Listen to the moment in the music when the children sing* We're just one big family And it's our God provided time to feel love, love, love, love, looove So I won't hesitate no more no more It cannot wait, I'm vours There's no need to complicate our time is short This is our fate, I'm yours.

Speaking of the Faith: The Sharing of a Spiritual Journey.....Alison Wermer

#### Epistle: Romans: 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

#### Gospel: John 4:1-42

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Pastoral Prayer Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.** Leader: Lift up your hearts. **People: We lift them to God.** Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High. **People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.** Leader: Let us pray.....

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer Sung Congregational Response #451 [verse 1]

#### <u>Be Now My Vision</u> Be now my vision, O God of my heart; Nothing surpasses the love you impart You my best thought, by day or by night Waking or sleeping, your presence my light

Scripture Readings

New Testament Epistle: Romans: 5:1-11 Gospel: John 4:1-42

Live Like That

[insert, next page]

[insert, next page]

Frey, McDonald, and Glover

Sermon

Anthem

What's Your Atonement Theory?

Rev. Simon

Congregational Response to God's Word and Wisdom #451 [verse 2]

<u>Be Now My Vision</u> Be now my wisdom and be my true word Ever within me, my soul is assured; Mother and father, you are both to me, Now and forever, your child I will be.

#### Offering Our Gifts to God

During this time extra precautions to keep people healthy for as long as we can, please drop your offering in the basket in the back or consider donating online at fccej.org. Additional, you may mail your pledge to: 1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452. Please, indicate that it is a "pledge" and make checks payable to "FCCEJ". Thank You!

## \*Hymn

## Crashing Waters at Creation

#326

Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the spirit's breath, First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death. Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through, Washing off the chains of bondage – channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one love-told, Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul. Well-spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction \*Sung Community Benediction

> <u>Go Now In Peace</u> Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now is 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, holding you in love. God now in peace, in faith and in love.

\*Postlude:

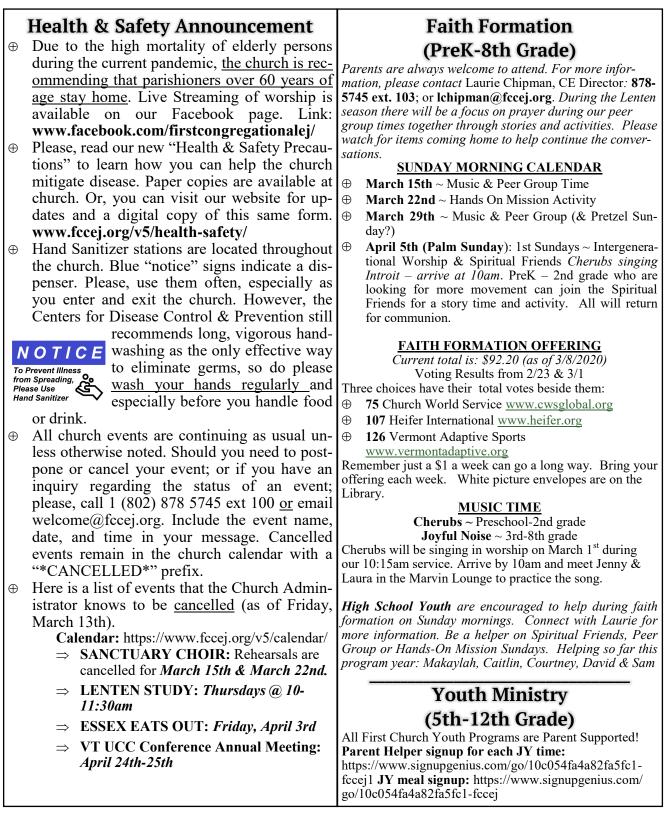
\* = Please stand if you are able.

## **Our Prayer Ministry**

Heather (Catherine Lapierre's niece) Robert & Claire Deal Barb Blanchette George Jackson Betty Adams & Family Christine Sinkewicz & Family Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's Father) The Lavallee Family Rev. Patricia & Rev. Fred The Schneider Family John A & Family Graham Sicalowski (Lauren Starkey's son) Denise Keating & Family Judy Janwich Fletch & Peg Coolidge and Family Matt & Kaki McGeary and Family



The flowers on the altar are given by Sylvia Nyhagen and family In loving memory of Ed Nyhagen.



## JUNIOR YOUTH

*5th - 8th graders* Faith & Mission Focus with Fellowship/Games

March 22nd: JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm. On 1st Sundays ~ Help Greet/Usher/Read Scripture during 10:15am worship. Sign up with Pastor Mark, Pastor Josh or Laurie

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

 March 15, 5-7pm. Join us for games and hanging out at church. Our time together is to have a fun time and to help us thrive in life.

**UCC NYE trip to Purdue University:** July 20-26, 2020— Pastor Josh & Laurie will travel with youth to Purdue University for our National UCC Youth Event. Check out the website below. Watch for a Youth/Parent meeting coming in March. Interested and not signed up yet be in touch ASAP. NYE happen once every 4 years! Click on the event link and see what all will be happening. Meet other UCC youth from across the country. Travel by bus with ME and NH youth to the event.

http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/

# Today @ First

**FLOWER CHART**—The 2020 Flower Chart posted on the bulletin board in the hallway between the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Your contribution allows you to dedicate a beautiful bouquet to be displayed during worship in memory of a special person or important life event. <u>These</u> <u>dates are currently available</u>: **31-May, 21-Jun, 5-Jul, 2-Aug, 30-Aug, 6-Sep, 27-Sep, 1-Nov, and 15-Nov** 

HANNAFORD CARDS—Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) <u>OR</u> purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments. FCCEJ receives \$5 for every \$100 that it sells.

**2020** EASTER FLOWERS—Interested in requesting flowers to honor a loved one or special event during the Easter season? Today is your chance! Signup sheets are available between worship services. Or, email welcome@ fccej.org; or call 1 (802) 878-5745 ext. 100. The deadline is Palm Sunday (April 5th).

**Palm Buds** (\$3.95); **Easter Lily** (1 bulb @\$15; 2 bulb @\$30; 3/ bulbs @\$35); **Hydrangea or Large Azalea** (\$25); **Tulips, Hyacinths, or Daffodils** (7" Container @\$15; 8" @\$20); **6" Riegor Begonia or 8" Bulb Garden** (\$20, 10" @ \$30)

**HEAVENLY CENTS THRIFT SHOP**—*March 14 to 21*: All winter items in the shop will be \$1. *March 28* shop will be closed for change in inventory to Spring/Summer.

# This Week @ First

**YOGA:** *Mondays, 5:30pm-6:45pm*—Jonah Moos, FCCEJ member, is offering a free yoga class in our Gymnasium! Jonah collects donations on behalf of our Church. All levels of experience welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's.

**NOONTIME BOOK GROUP:** Monday, March 16th (a) 11:30am, Marvin Lounge— We are reading <u>Nickel and</u> <u>Dimed</u> by Barbara Erhenreich. The author is a social activist and an investigative reporter. In response to the welfare reforms in the 1990's, she went underground and worked in quite a few minimum wage jobs She tried to live the life of those she worked with. In this book she shares her experiences and gives us a look into that period of prosperity from the perspective of those trying to make ends meet on \$6.00 an hour. The story seems very pertinent to our world today. Come join us for an interesting discussion and bring a brown bag lunch.

**SOLIDARITY GROUP:** \*\*\**Teleconference only*\*\*\* *Mondays* @ 7pm—we will <u>not</u> meet in-person but via Zoom video call and/or by phone. Folks who have computers can join the meeting at https://zoom.us/j/910565449 or call +1 (646) 558-8656. If you are asked, the meeting ID number is 910 565 449.

**SERMON TALKBACK:** *Tuesdays, 8:30-10am*—Gather with us in the Marvin Lounge for coffee, baked goods, and a lively discussion of the sermon delivered on Sunday, and much more! Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!

PUBLIC FORUM @ FAIR & IMPARTIAL POLIC-ING: Wednesday, March 18th @ 7-8:30pm [See flyers posted throughout church for more details]

**COFFEE CLATTER:** *Fridays @ 8-9am*—This may seem like a foolish question, but if you like to talk and drink coffee, then come down to Martone's for open conversation. Rev. Mark and/or Josh are there every week and talk about everything from camping to politics; from deep theological questions to silly jokes; from village life to great vacation spots; from business deals to the best restaurants in town. We laugh, get serious and support each other. Everyone is invited!

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY: 3rd Saturday of each month @ 9:30am, Marvin Lounge. Next: Saturday, March 21st—Please join us for our annual Easter Card activity. We have 25 seniors we will be making cards a

activity. We have 25 seniors we will be making cards and baskets for. Andrea Sharp will create a card for us to assemble and write a message inside. We'll add these to the baskets with other goodies and they will be ready to deliver on Sunday, March 29.

# **Ministry Directory**

Ministry Directory		
<u>Church Staff</u> <u>Senior Pastor:</u> Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org] <u>Associate Pastor:</u> Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org] <u>Music Director:</u> Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org] <u>Christian Education Director:</u> Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org] <sup>1</sup> <u>Church Administrator:</u> Doug Ovitt [welcome@fccej.org] <sup>2</sup> <u>Office Hours:</u> Monday-Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm <sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> Laurie is off Fridays <sup>2</sup> Doug is off weekends <sup>3</sup> depends on weather and holidays		
Music Ministry         Cherub Music:       Jenny Bourn [jennybourn4@gmail.com]         & Laura Marthaler       [Laura.marthaler@gmail.com]         Currier Bell Choir Director:       Carolyn Harris [899-6759]         Finally @ First Director:       Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]         Joyful Noise:       Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]         Men At First Director:       Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]         Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director:       Carol Spradling         [cspradling@fccej.org]		
Committee / Church Officer Contacts President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Maureen Evans [233-6127] Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023] Treasurer & Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088] Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261] Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445] Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470] Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849] Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580], Judy McCullen [878-9794] Deacons: Judy Larrabee-Pomainville [236-0604] Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076] Missions: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897] Music: Denise Keating [345-8900] Nominating: Barb Smith [310-2491] Stewardship: Jessica Moos [399-8068], Shannon McCullen [922-8792] Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062] Ushering: Justin King [238-6273], Jessica Moos [399-8068] Pacognized Groups at First Church		

**Recognized Groups at First Church** 

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Sue Wood [879-6552] <u>woodsusanjane@gmail.com</u> Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]

Monday, March 16	Tuesday, March 17
<b>11:30am - 1:30pm Noontime Book Group</b> (Marvin Lounge)	8:30am - 10:00am Sermon Talk Back (Marvin Lounge)
<b>12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag</b> (Fellowship Hall) 🔁	<b>12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag</b> (Fellowship Hall) 😷
<b>1:30pm - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking</b> (Fellowship Hall & Gym)	<b>12:30pm - 2:00pm VTOM Team Meeting</b> (Marvin Lounge)
5:30pm - 6:45pm Yoga @ First (2nd Floor	7:00pm - 9:00pm CE Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Programming Room) — <b>5:30pm - 6:30pm Group Victory</b> (Marvin Lounge) —	<b>7:00pm - 9:00pm Communications Committee</b> (3rd Floor Youth Room)
6:30pm - 8:30pm BSA Scouting Alumni (Marvin	<b>7:00pm - 9:00pm Missions Committee</b> (Marvin
Lounge)	Lounge)
<b>7:00pm - 9:00pm Solidarity Group</b> (Marvin Lounge)	<b>7:30pm - 8:30pm OA Meeting</b> (2nd Floor
C 7:00mm - 8:70mm BCA Treesen (24 (7rd Elecer Vouth	Programming Room) 😷
<b>7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 624</b> (3rd Floor Youth Room)	
Wednesday, March 18	Thursday, March 19
<b>8:00am - 11:30am Food Shelf Delivery</b> (Fellowship Hall)	10:00am - 11:30am *CANCELLED* Lenten Study (Marvin Lounge)
<b>12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag</b> (Fellowship Hall) 😷	📕 12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 😷
1:30pm - 3:00pm FCCEJ Staff Meeting (Marvin	<b>3:00pm - 4:00pm Easterseals</b> (3rd Floor) 😷
Lounge)	6:30pm - 8:30pm Eagle Scout BOR (3rd Floor: Yellow
5:30pm - 7:00pm Finally@First (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Handbells Choir Rehearsal (2nd	Room) 6:30pm - 8:15pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Floor Programming Room)	(Fellowship Hall)
<b>7:00pm - 8:30pm Boy Scouts</b> (Marvin Lounge)	6:30pm - 8:00pm Wolf Den (2nd Floor)
7:00pm - 8:30pm Public Forum: Fair & Impartial Policing and Community Affairs (Fellowship Hall)	<b>6:30pm - 7:45pm Tiger Den #9</b> (3rd Floor Youth Room)
	7:30pm - 9:00pm Confirmation (Marvin Lounge) 🔂
	<b>8:15pm - 9:00pm Heavenly Harmony Rehearsal</b> (Fellowship Hall) 🔁
Friday, March 20	Saturday, March 21
<b>12:00pm - 1:30pm Brown Bag</b> (Fellowship Hall) 🔁	9:00am - 11:00am Nepali Community Worship
<b>1:30pm - 4:00pm Bridge Club</b> (Marvin Lounge) 🔁	9:30am - 11:30am Women's Spirituality (Marvin
	<b>1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag</b> (Fellowship Hall)
	2:00pm - 4:00pm St. Andrews Pipe Band (3rd Floor
	<b>4:00pm - 6:00pm Bear Den</b> (3rd Floor)
	4:30pm - 6:30pm Deacons: Setup for Worship
Coming Soon	Sunday, March 22
	8:30am - 9:45am Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
<ul> <li>HEAVENLY FOOD PANTRY: Thursday, March 26th @ 2-6pm.</li> </ul>	<b>10:15am - 11:30am Worship Service</b> (Fellowship
<ul> <li>⊕ GUEST PREACHER RON FAUX: Sunday,</li> </ul>	11:30am - 1:30pm Junior Youth Time (3rd Floor
March 29th	11:45am - 12:45pm *CANCELLED* Sanctuary Choir 1:00pm - 2:00pm Brown Bag (Fellowship Hall) 😷
$\oplus$ <b>PRETZEL SUNDAY:</b> Sunday, March 29 <sup>t</sup>	6:00pm - 8:00pm Venture Crew (Marvin Lounge)