

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

January 3, 2016

~Holy Communion ~

WELCOME!

“Even if one is not an actual immigrant or expatriate, it is still possible to think as one, to imagine and investigate in spite of barriers, and to move away from the centralizing authorities towards the margins. There, in the margins, you see things that are usually lost on minds that have never traveled beyond the conventional and comfortable.”

- Edward Said, Palestinian-American literary scholar and activist

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Kate Cima

Leader: Now that the hectic and busy holiday rush is over and the needles are falling from decorated trees and wreaths

People: **We thank you, Eternal God, that you are Emmanuel, God-with-us!**

Leader: We are here as the Body of Christ to celebrate you, our God, and this world you love so much.

People: **We are here to be carriers of your compassion, your hope, your joy, your peace, and your love to all whom we meet in every part of our lives.**

All: **For we know the one present you desire is love from our deepest heart, our own best love to be freely given to one and all! Let us rejoice and worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN #175** “Lovely Star in the Sky”

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

Amazing God, you have confounded the wisdom of this world by coming to us in the form of a human baby, frail and vulnerable. Please be with us here today, no matter where we are on our faith journey. Help us to come to you with open arms, minds, and hearts so that we may comprehend the great love with which you open yourself to us. In this New Year and always, please help us find the source and center of our lives in Jesus Christ and the salvation of the cross. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion.

INVITATION

PRAYER of BLESSING/The LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE REMEMBER (*recalling Jesus’ words and actions at the Last Supper*)

SHARING the BREAD and the CUP (*served in the pew; gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. We will receive the elements when all are served.*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(youth may leave for Sunday School)

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 31:13 (p. 692) Ephesians 1:7-9 (p. 177)

SERMON “Do You **Wonder** as You **Wander**?” Rev. Joanne Myer

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “In the Bleak Midwinter” Rosetti/Holst/Scott
Gretchen Fisher Orr, solo

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION** (*unison*)

May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each giver a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time: to share your love with the world. To this end, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #167 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. He has sent us 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. ~ based on Luke 4:18-19

***All who are able are invited to stand.**

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Barb Hesse in her travels to Appalachia; Edgar Jackson, Vernon Firefighter and friend of the Morse family; Linda Rentler, Debi Hockenberry's mother-in-law; Rita Cima, grandmother of Dan Cima, who lost her husband on December 19; Kathy Oliphant, sister-in-law of Millie and Bill Oliphant, recovering from breast cancer surgery; son; stricter gun laws; tolerance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Bertha Sullivan; Terri Carr; David Hollister; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; Dave Toolan; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Candy, Lynette Melanson's sister; Dave Boucher; Joyce Smith; Gilmay Markunas and family; Pat Lazeren; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness; Ed Rockland; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Nancy Bailey; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Michael Turner; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

New additions in bold print

Greeters: Deacons

Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Board of Music: 11:30 AM, Library

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, PF Room

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Name Tags: Start the New Year right! Order a name tag today. Three options are available - magnet, pin, or clip. You can also include a hang tag should you belong to a board/committee. A \$3 to \$5 donation is requested, but not required. Order at the Scrip-Your-All table or contact Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.

FCCV Coffee Mugs: The weather is getting colder. Perhaps you need a new mug for the hot chocolate, coffee or tea that will keep you warm this winter. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table to pick up yours today. The cost is \$10 and goes to support FCCV outreach.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, January 4, 11 AM, Library. Please join us as we spend three Mondays (January 11 and 18) studying the Islam religion. All are welcome as we endeavor to learn more about our neighbors.

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, January 5, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, January 6, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Basket Group: Thursday, January 7, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall. **Baskets are desperately needed.** Donations may be left in the Women's Fellowship closet.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, January 7, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, January 8, 10:30 AM, Library

Pairs and Spares: Friday, January 8, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Missions: Saturday, January 9, 10 AM, Library

Family Night Out: Friday, January 9, 5-9 PM, Fellowship Hall

Transition Team Informational Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided.

Theology on Tap will resume on Thursday, January 14.

Super Bowl Grinders: The Ways and Means Committee will be taking orders on Sundays, January 17, 24 and 31 during Coffee Hour. Grinders may be picked up on Sunday, February 7. Don't be left out in the cold without a grinder for the game. Order yours now! Any questions? Contact Michelle Bower at 872-7274.

Church Dinner: Friday, January 22, 5 to 6:30 PM, sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee. Menu: Shepherd's pie, rolls, salad, wacky cake and beverage. Cost - \$10 per person. Take-out will be available. Questions? Contact Ann Harford, 860-872-0406.

Pairs and Spares - a group for adults (singles or those with partners). Watch for sponsored events and choose which ones you want to attend. Coming Events... **Learn to Line Dance**, January 8 and 15 and each Friday in February, 7:30-9 PM in Fellowship Hall (following Bible Study). Millie Oliphant will be teaching some ultra-beginner and beginner line dances. If you have ever wanted to learn line dancing or need to brush up on your dancing, this is just the class for you. If you can count to 8 and usually know your left from your right, you can do this. "Remember there are no mistakes in line dancing, only variations." A \$2 donation will be collected each week to help support our "Pay It Forward" program. Remember to bring a water bottle, comfortable shoes and layer your clothing. In case of bad weather, please check wfsb.com for cancellations.

Interested in attending the Metropolitan Opera via live HD streaming to the Buckland Hills Cinema? Sign up at the Scrip-Your-All table to keep informed of performances, dates and carpooling options. The first two are on January 16 and 30 at 12:55 PM. For more information on Pairs and Spares or to offer ideas, please contact Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.com or 860-614-9747.

Scrip Your All Update: We exceeded our 2015 goal of \$5,000 and earned **\$5,340!** Thank you to all who participated! Your support is much appreciated. Our goal for 2016 will be \$5,000. We hope you will continue to participate. If you are not participating, please consider doing so. Remember, you get the **full value** of cards purchased - it's a win-win for all. Check out our website for complete information on how to sign up (firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all) or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, contact Jan Muro at jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

Reminder: FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Please Note: Sunday's December 27 service normally seen on January 4 will be available only on January 10. The two Christmas Eve services will be telecast at various times starting in February.

Please Note: To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.