

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

~ Season of Epiphany; The Baptism of Christ ~

January 10, 2016

WELCOME!

An Invitation to Prepare for Worship

Enjoy Three Deep Breaths

The first one -- to help you fully arrive in your body,

The second one -- to clear your mind so you may be present to yourself and others,

The third one -- to open your heart and to welcome the Holy Spirit to engage you.

PRELUDE	"Chorale-Prelude on 'Comfort, Comfort Ye My People'"	Fink
	"The Stranger of Galilee"	Keeney
	"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"	arr. Helvey

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Althea Madigan

Leader: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

People: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

Leader: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (~Galatians 3:28)

Leader: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

Leader: Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN #75** "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

SILENT PRAYER

(Do you have something to share with God – something to confess, admit, acknowledge? Maybe speak with God about how you treat yourself, how you feel about yourself – you may be in great joy today!)

ASSURANCE of GRACE

***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.

TIME with the YOUTH

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.

LITTLE BELLS "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

SCRIPTURES Old Testament Isaiah 43:1-7 (p. 672)
New Testament Luke 3:21-22 (p. 60)

SERMON "City of God" Rev. Suzanne Personette

***HYMN #295** "In This Very Room"

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" Casting Crowns/
Patrick Connolly – solo arr. Mac Huff

***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*)

God of every good gift, here we present our offerings. There is money here, fulfilling our pledges to support the ministries we do in your name. There are gifts that we give in response to your Spirit, which we remember in joyful song and holy story, in prayer and silence. And there are other gifts, not physically on this table but held in the altar of our hearts. God, we offer them all to you. We ask your blessing on all that we give, so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world, ever more deeply and gracefully. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #357** "We Call Ourselves Disciples" (vss. 1,3,4,5)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Regent Square”

Whitford

*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.

The flowers on the Communion Table are joyfully given by Steve and Nancy Bright in celebration of the marriage of their daughter Stephanie to Robert Barnwell on New Year's Eve in Minneapolis.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

The **family of Amy Lazeren** (Pat Lazeren's niece) on her death; Edgar Jackson, Vernon Firefighter and friend of the Morse family; 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; 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 and Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

*Greet your neighbor with a hug or handshake,
whichever is most comfortable for the two of you.*

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

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

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, PF Room

Pizza and a Movie for anyone who has been away at school. Come to FCCV from 6-9 PM! Contact Greg Mias, gregmias@comcast.net, for more info.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, January 11, 11 AM, Library. Please join us as we continue to study the Islam religion. All are welcome as we endeavor to learn more about our neighbors.

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, January 11, 7 PM, Library

Ways and Means: Monday, January 11, 7 PM, Chapel

February CARILLON Deadline

Tuesday, January 12

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Prayer Shawl: Tuesday, January 12, 1 PM, Library

Deacons: Tuesday, January 12, 7 PM, Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, January 14, 6 PM at Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, January 14, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, January 15, 10:30 AM, Library

Pairs and Spares - Beginner Line Dancing: Friday, January 15, 7:30-9 PM, Fellowship Hall

Stewardship Meeting: Sunday, January 17, 11:30 AM in the Quilters Corner
Anyone interested in helping out, even part-time, is invited to attend.

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.

Please Note: The Ladies Luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, January 26 has been re-scheduled for Thursday, January 28.

Giving Campaign Update: Our Giving Commitments for 2016 now total **\$239,750** – only \$10,250 away from our goal of \$250,000. Thank you to all who have returned your giving card. If you have not, we hope that you will prayerfully consider doing so. Giving cards are available in the Narthex or by emailing Kate Fowler (kfowler64@yahoo.com). Also, if you have made a Giving Commitment and would like to sign up for electronic giving, you may still do so. Please contact Steve Morse (Steve.Morse1@comcast.net), our Assistant Treasurer, for more information.

Baskets are desperately needed by Women's Fellowship. Donations may be left in the Women's Fellowship closet.

Please Note: Evening Circle is collecting items to help a Center Road family. Requested items are pull-ups for a 4-year-old boy, winter boots for a 6-year-old girl, mittens for all three of the children aged 4 (boy), 6 and 9 (girls), any food items, children's toiletries (shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush) and gift cards for Target or Walmart.

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 872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com 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.

Connecticut Conference UCC Events

January 17 - The Church and the End of Racism. The Rev. Sandhya Jha, Pro Reconciliation/Anti-Oppression trainer with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) leads this three-hour workshop. Learn the difference between race prejudice and systemic racism. Reflect on the role of the church in ending the chokehold that racism has over our nation. Learn how to develop the discipline of solidarity and allyship for our work together to end racism in our community and throughout the country. United Congregational Church UCC, 45 Tolland Green, Tolland (Contact: Rev. Judy Medeiros, 860.875.4160 or jmedeiros@ucctolland.org). Cost: \$10. Please register via phone, email or the website (ctucc.org/events.php?event=4432).

January 18 - Sixth Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration. The Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith, a dynamic preacher and teacher, author, and community leader is the guest preacher. Join us for great music and inspiring speakers. Faith Congregational Church UCC, 2030 Main St., Hartford. (ctucc.org/events.php?event=4438)