

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

~ Second Sunday after Epiphany ~

January 17, 2016

**WELCOME!**

*We're glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world.*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	"Pastorale"	Franck
	"Praeludium"	Buxtehude
	"There Is a Balm in Gilead"	arr. Livingston
	"We Shall Overcome"	Seeger et al

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** Steve Leary

Leader: We come this day as people in need of your steadfast love:

**People: with you is the fountain of life; in your Light we see light.**

Leader: We gather this day, water-changing God, as people looking for signs:

**People: with you is the fountain of life; in your Light we see light.**

Leader: We worship this day as people who confess our commitment to Jesus:

**People: with you is the fountain of life; in your Light we see light.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** #631 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**PRAYER of INVOCATION** (*unison*)

**Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. 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.**

**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.***

**ANTHEM-JUNIOR CHOIR** "What a Mighty God We Serve"

**SCRIPTURE** John 2:1-11 (*New Testament, p. 86*)

**SERMON** Rev. Robin Bird

**\*HYMN** #592 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "As the Deer" M. Nystrom

**\*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*)

**Generous God, we are thankful that you have honored each of us with unique spiritual gifts. We acknowledge that these gifts are to be used for your glory. Help us to offer our talents so that others may be encouraged to give and share abundantly. Teach us to be good stewards of the gifts given for your Kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #484 "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "March" Meyerbeer

*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.**

**Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees**

### In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

**Carol Brusa**, Halene Fujimoto's friend; 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*

### ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

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

In an effort to keep the Sabbath holy, we would like to refrain from talking with church leaders about church business before or after worship. If you need to speak with someone, please contact them late in the day or in the coming week.

### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**Junior Choir Rehearsal:** 11:30 AM, PF Room

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

**Golf Tournament Meeting:** 11:30 AM, Library

**J\*Walkrz:** 3:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

**Super Bowl Grinders:** The Ways and Means Committee is taking orders today and on Sundays, January 24 and 31. Grinders may be picked up on Sunday, February 7. Order yours now!

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** Monday, January 18. The Church Office is closed.

**Bible Study:** Monday, January 18, 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.

**Men's Breakfast Group:** Tuesday, January 19, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**BCE:** Tuesday, January 19, 7 PM, Library

**Furnishings & Memorials:** Tuesday, January 19, 7 PM, Chapel

**Library Committee:** Wednesday, January 20, 1 PM, Library

**Finance:** Wednesday, January 20, 7:15 PM, Library

**Basket Group:** Thursday, January 21, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

**Theology on Tap:** Thursday, January 21, 6 PM at Mitchell's Restaurant

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, January 21, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, January 22, 10:30 AM, Library

**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 Game Night:** Saturday, January 23, 5-8 PM, Fellowship Hall

### ANNUAL FISCAL MEETING

Sunday, January 24

*following the Worship Service*

**Needed!** Our shopping carts (located in the Narthex and Breezeway) are running low. Each month Board of Missions members alternate taking non-perishable food to the Soup Kitchen, part of the Cornerstone Foundation in Rockville and to the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Please see a BOM member or Emily Westerberg, Chair, if you can lend a hand (*Might God be calling you to serve in this way?*). We also need folks who can help prepare meals at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall. Several area churches have recently stopped helping at the Soup Kitchen and the need is greater than ever!

**Please Note:** There will **not** be a Potluck Lunch on Sunday, January 31.

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

Evening Circle is **collecting items to help a Center Road family**. Items needed 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.

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

**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.

**Connecticut Conference UCC Events**

**January 17, 1-4 PM - 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. 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](mailto:jmedeiros@ucctolland.org)). Cost: \$10. Please register via phone, email or the website ([ctucc.org/events.php?event=4432](http://ctucc.org/events.php?event=4432)).

**January 18, 3:30 PM - 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](http://ctucc.org/events.php?event=4438))