

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

January 22, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC "Preludes on Tunes from the Bay Psalm Book"  
"Yankee Doodle, Air and Variations"  
by Benjamin Carr (the first to publish the tune)

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Cynthia Carr  
(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

God loves us exactly the way we are, and God loves us too much to let us stay that way.

Anne Lamott

PRELUDE "Chester"

Wm. Billings

\*CALL to WORSHIP

Tony Muro

Leader: Today is a day in which we are called by God to look back, look within and look ahead.

People: We look back when we hear God's timeless Word and seek to understand it anew.

Leader: We look within when we pause to remember our sin, the promise of God's grace and our hunger for God's presence in our lives.

People: We look ahead when we open ourselves to God's call and Christ's summons to follow in faith in the days ahead.

Leader: Holy God, bless our gathering and our journey.

People: Inspire our worship and our daily lives.

\*OPENING HYMN #4 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison)

Wondrous God, what a delight it is to gather as a family of faith! Bless us in our gathering and in our seeking, in our worship and in our Sunday school classes, in our time together today and our time apart in the days to come. Help us to know the ways of Jesus, who came to the world to show us the way of faithful living. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts so that we can be the people you call us to become. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our teacher, our model, our guide. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

A TIME with the CHILDREN

The LORD'S PRAYER (unison... "debts")

ANTHEM-TTRANSFORMERS "Down in My Heart"

(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Anthem.)

A HISTORICAL MOMENT Joan Apel

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS - Marge Salmon having eye surgery on January 24

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Jonah 3: 1-10

SERMON HYMN Psalm 100 (insert)

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise" Wm. Billings

\*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

\*PRAYER of DEDICATION (unison)

Move us O God, in the course of our days, from seeing this time as one of obligation to one of opportunity; from giving out of a sense of resentment to giving out of a sense of joy. You have richly blessed us in the course of our days, faithful Creator. May we give out of a sense of blessedness this day. Receive these gifts O God in the same spirit in which they are offered and may the endless work of proclaiming your love be furthered and enriched. We offer these in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN #67 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Tocatta on Psalm XIX"

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given in celebration and thanks for the birth of Clara Ann Wurst on January 15. Clara is the daughter of Donald and Shelly Wurst and the grand-daughter of Dick and Betty Ann Wurst.

Transformers Choir: Taylor Boucher, Nicholas Giordano, Jack Longo, Heather Morgan Russell, Arielle Shivers, Mariah Shivers, Sarah Turner, Lily Westerberg

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Missions and Outreach

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a first time visitor, please take a moment after the worship service and sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table. There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

Pay It Forward: Last week, Gaile Dembeck inspired us with her story of how years ago as a teacher with a disruptive student, she anonymously gave that student a coat that he embraced with warmth, thus changing the life of a child. Gaile gave her Pay It Forward gift that was further matched to the Maple Street School to provide the same gift she gave years ago. This week we feature Betsy Gerakaris, last week's winner. The blessings of those who have benefited because of you are on display in Fellowship Hall. Take a moment to reflect during Coffee Hour.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL FISCAL MEETING

Today

immediately following the Worship Service

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM, Library

Memorial Garden: 11:20 AM, Library

Search Committee: 7 PM, Library

## TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

In conjunction with Joan Apel's "Three Minutes of History" this morning, the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary display case in Fellowship Hall has been refreshed with information related to Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg and his times. Please take a moment to look at the case this morning or any time during the month of February. You might be surprised at how interesting some of these items can be. We have tried to make the case as "interactive" as possible without the aid of a computer! A notebook has been provided for your questions and comments...there is even an opportunity for you to help us "translate" some of the handwriting on a church-related document dated 1770! If you have any questions, jot them down, and our Historian and her helpers will be happy to head to "the vault" in search of an answer.

**Super Bowl Grinders:** It's time for the Super Bowl and time to order your grinders for the game. The Ways & Means Committee will be taking orders during Coffee Hour **today** and next Sunday, January 29. Grinders will be available for pick up on Sunday, February 5 – Super Bowl Sunday. Questions? Contact Michelle Bower, 860-872-7274 or any committee member.

Have your **blood pressure checked** by one of our Parish Nurses.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Deacons:** Monday, January 23, 7 PM, Chapel

**Crafts Group:** Monday, January 23, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Board of Music:** Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 PM, Library

**Trustees:** Wednesday, January 25, 7 PM, Library

**Bell Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, January 26, 6:30 PM, PF Room

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, January 26, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

**Caring and Sharing Support Group:** Friday, January 27, 10:30 AM, Library

**Old Time Meal at Old Time Prices:** Saturday, January 28, 5-7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Reminder:** Agenda items for the February 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting should be submitted to Vice Moderator, Tom Sweet, no later than Sunday, January 29.

**Youth Fellowship (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade):** Laser Quest, February 5. We'll leave the church at 12:10 PM and return at 3:30 PM. Cost - \$16 per person (extra money needed for arcade games). Your friends are welcome. Permission slip needed. Sign up on the bulletin board.

**Youth Fellowship Tag Sale:** This year our Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, April 28 instead of in conjunction with the Holiday Fair in November. If you are doing any winter or spring cleaning, please consider putting unwanted items aside. Drop off will be in the Quilters' Corner of Fellowship Hall (behind the white wall) after April 1. Large items should be dropped off either the night before (April 27) or on the morning of the sale. Items in good condition only, please. This event is a major fundraiser for our youth group that is only held every other year.

## 2012 Stewardship Drive ~ Count Yourself Blessed

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all FCCV members and friends who shared their gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure during our recently concluded 2012 Pledge Drive, especially this year as we celebrate 250 Years of Faith and Service at The First Congregational Church of Vernon and as we begin our search for a new Senior Pastor. A Special "Thank You" to those who took up the challenge of "A Baker's Dozen" by adding one extra month to their annual pledge. Thanks also to those who made an additional contribution to help achieve our pledge goal of \$241,700. Today as we head into our Annual Fiscal Meeting, we have received \$233,900 in pledges. Combined with the Baker's Dozen contribution of \$3,900, our total pledged amount for the 2012 budget stands at \$237,800, \$3,900 short of our budget goal.

**Search Committee Members:** Sue Mias (chairperson), Serena Volovski (secretary), Tom Sweet (corresponding secretary), Mike Swan, Steve Boucher, Gaile Dembeck, Bess Howe, Karen Prewo, Nick Bartos, Deb Hockenberry, Bob O'Gara, Cheryl Turner, Emily Westerberg. **Please Note:** Any written correspondence to the Pastoral Search Committee can be left in the Vice Moderator's mailbox.

### **Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please listen to any of the following radio stations: WTIC AM (1080), WTIC FM (96.5), WRCH FM (100.5), watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

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, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** Helen Dyer recovering from a compressive fracture of her lower spine; Martha Fowler dealing with cancer; Ann Garrison; Michael Bebrin; the leaders, members and friends of Somers Congregational Church; Todd Lentocha and family (Todd is the East Hartford police officer recently injured in an auto accident); Ellie Cantlin (Mary Wheeler's sister-in-law) dealing with stomach cancer; FCCV Search Committee; Alexandra Fisher, Mike Swan undergoing chemo for a reoccurrence of cancer; Kathy Fuller, Barbara Evensen's sister; Caleb, son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); Donna Peacock; Carol Whitney; Kyle, son of Rob Czaplicki (friend of Rob Horton); Joyce Smith; Dolores Tomolonis, friend of Mary and Jim White, (cancer); baby Ava; Thelma Gifford; Kaylin Gifford; Rick Gagnon, brother-in-law of Michelle Bower (cancer); Warren Clay; Gary Edwards, friend of Serena Volovski; Cooper Doyle, Al and Marilyn Newton's grandson; Paul and Susan Shimer; Candy Buswell (heart); Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; Horst Pohlmann, friend of the Gerakaris'; John Mayhew; John Kaminski, Susan Moreau's father; Bess Howe; Jane Morse;

Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Stephen Volovski; Donald Chase; Audrey Clay (breast cancer)



## ONCE UPON AN APRON

An Old Time Meal at Old Time  
Prices...featuring recipes from FCCV  
cookbooks through the years!

**When:** Saturday, January 28 (snow date, February 4)  
**Where:** FCCV Fellowship Hall  
**Time:** 5 to 7 PM  
**Menu:** Baked Ham with Pineapple Sauce/Baked Beans/  
Scalloped Corn/Coleslaw/Gingerbread

**Old fashioned cost:** \$5/person. Children under 12 free.

**Sign up:** Women's Fellowship Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. There are sign-up sheets for attending and for helping with food prep, set-up or clean-up.

**Special Display:** As many aprons as we can get! Please check your cupboards and closets and lend us an apron or two. It would help if we could have them before the event. Please put your name on the apron and leave at the Church Office. For further information, contact Lynn Sweet, 860-875-3172 or [lynn4447@aol.com](mailto:lynn4447@aol.com). We hope to have a contest where people can vote for their favorite various aprons in categories.

