

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**  
**January 29, 2012**

**GATHERING MUSIC** “Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth”

Mendelssohn/Kendall  
Pflueger/Wilson

**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**

*The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor mortals perfected without trials.*

*Chinese proverb*

**PRELUDE** “Pastorale”

Archer/Smith

**\*CALL to WORSHIP**

Hal Cummings

Leader: On your feet now, honor God! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourself into the presence of our Creator.

**People: Know this anew: God has made us and we belong to God. We are God’s children, the sheep of God’s pasture.**

Leader: Enter with the password, “thank you.” Make yourselves at home, praising God, thanking God, worshipping the Almighty.

**People: For God is sheer beauty, all generous in love, loyal always and forever.**

*(Psalm 100, adapted by Eugene Peterson)*

**\*OPENING HYMN #100 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

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

Glory be to you O God, whom we worship in awe and wonder. You are the author of all beginnings and all that is pronounced “good.” In you, both day and night have purpose, both calm and storm have meaning. Open the eyes of our imagination that we may be ready to receive your gifts and be ever aware of your movement in our lives and throughout the world. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**CONFESSION of SIN**

Leader: The apostle Paul tells us that what is most essential in our conduct as Christians is not knowledge, but love. And that what we know is less important than our being known by God. And so we confess: the times when we have used knowledge in ways which put others down rather than build them up.

**People: God, source of all knowledge, forgive us.**

Leader: When we see people being exploited because of their lack of knowledge, and do nothing.

**People: God, source of all goodness, forgive us.**

Leader: When we have idolized knowledge at the expense of loving and caring for others,

**People: God, source of all love, forgive us.**

Leader: When we have ridiculed others for having a weak and feeble faith because they appear to lack wisdom,

**People: God, source of all wisdom, forgive us.**

**ASSURANCE of PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** *(#35 in hymnal)*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Deacons Pat Lazeren and Cheryl Purnell

Parental and Sponsors' Vows

Congregational Vow

*Leader: (Question ends with "faithful service in Christ's Church?")*

**People: We will with joy.**

**Baptism of Jacob Daniel Bilodeau and Nolan Oliver Darcy**

**Baptismal prayer and giving of gifts**

**BAPTISMAL HYMN #75 “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”**

**A TIME with the CHILDREN**

**The LORD’S PRAYER** *(unison...”debts”)*

*(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Lord’s Prayer.)*

**ANTHEM** “Seek Ye First, the Kingdom of God” M. McDonald

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS** Joseph Tobin

**the Ferguson family on the loss of Olive Ferguson; Maggie Minnick**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE** I Corinthians 8: 1-13

**SERMON**

The Rev. David Minnick

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Only Thou Art Holy!”

M. McDonald

**\*DOXOLOGY** *(#46 in hymnal)*

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

Gracious God, you have enriched our lives in so many ways, especially through the life, love and teaching of Jesus and through the wonders of creation which we experience in this land. Bless these gifts which we bring as signs of our gratitude and bless us as we seek to be proclaimers of the gospel in word and deed. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #628 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** “Built on a Rock”

Broughton

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

**We rejoice in the baptism of** Jacob Daniel Bilodeau, son of Arista and Daniel Bilodeau and Nolan Oliver Darcy, son of Lindsay and Ryan Darcy. Welcome to Jacob’s sponsor, Tommy Bilodeau and to Nolan’s sponsors, Jesse and Julia Darcy.

**The flowers on the Communion Table** are given in loving memory of Richard A. Bryant by his family.

**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, Betsy Gerakaris shared with us her gift to help those in need of food, clothing and shelter in the local community. Matching her PIF gift, she “paid it forward” to the Cornerstone Foundation that has served thousands in the Vernon area. This week we feature Lily Westerberg 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

**Memorial Garden Committee:** 711:20 AM, Library

**Confirmation Class:** 11:30 AM, Library

**Transformers:** 11:30 AM, Choir Room

### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

**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**. Grinders will be available for pick up on next Sunday, February 5 – Super Bowl Sunday. Questions? Contact Michelle Bower, 860-872-7274 or any committee member.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Funeral Service for Olive Ferguson:** Monday, January 30 at noon

**Crafts Group:** Monday, January 30, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Council:** Wednesday, February 1, 7 PM, Chapel. Agenda items should be submitted to Vice Moderator, Tom Sweet, no later than today.

**Bell Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, February 2, 6:30 PM, PF Room

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, February 2, 7:30 3, 10:30 AM, Library

**Anniversary Committee:** Friday, February 3, 2 PM, Library

**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 Basketball**, February 11 and 25 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Wapping Community Church, South Windsor.

**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.

**Evening Circle**, Monday, February 6 at 7 PM at Marilyn Newton's home Please mark your calendars. We will be making cookies and decorating the packages for delivery to the homebound. All women of the church are welcome. If you are on the call list, you will be contacted. Otherwise, please contact Pat Lazeren, 860-644-0475, for directions and more information.

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). **Volunteers Needed!** The Care Network is looking for volunteers to help with driving. Recently, we have had requests for rides to church as well as doctors’ appointments. We are aware that volunteers will not always be available when a ride is needed, so we need to add more names to our list of drivers. We want to be able to get our church family members where they need to go. If this request touches your heart, please contact Jan Muro or Margaret or find us on Sundays at Coffee Hour after our church service. You won’t be sorry. It’ll cost you a little gas, but the rewards are heavenly.

**WANTED – Knitters and Crocheters!** Our supply of finished Prayer Shawls has been depleted. We are looking for people who would be willing to knit or crochet a shawl to help build up our supply. Please join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the Church Library or feel free to make one at home. FCCV Prayer Shawl Ministry questions? Contact Joan Apel, 860-875-7239 or Nancy Parker, 860-872-9069 or quiltblockcreations@yahoo.com.

### UCC Opportunities: Transform Your Life...Transform the World

Young adults looking for service opportunities in 2012? Don’t miss your chance. Application deadlines coming up soon. UCC Young Adult Service communities (YASC) – 11 months – ages 21-30 and Summer Communities of Service (UCC & Alliance of Baptists) 10 weeks – ages 19-30. <http://act.ucc.org/site/>

**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.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. A staffed **Toddler Room for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

### 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.

**Want to Meet New People? Volunteer to Serve!** Whether it's welcoming others at the door before the Worship Service or providing a baked good or snack, making coffee or setting up and cleaning up after Coffee Hour, volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All help is welcome.

**Please Wear Your Name Tag!** Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** Kathleen McClure on the loss of her grandmother, Ruth Gallo; **Flora Batz**, friend of Jan Peacock, dealing with pancreatic cancer; **Marge Salmon** recovering from eye surgery; **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 Lentocho 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**; **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)