

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

~ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany ~

January 31, 2016

**WELCOME!**

*If you have thirst, our love will quench it. If you are lonely, our hope will be your company. If you are hungry, God's peace and joy will fill you and feed you.*

(~ Peter, 8 years old)

Or, if you need a meal, ask and you shall receive.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP**

James Burr

(written by Rev. John A. Nelson, Niantic Community Church)

Leader: We have come to worship God, the living God,

**All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**

Leader: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

**All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**

Leader: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**All: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN #90** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

**God of the prophets, is it possible that you will speak to us? We have gathered in your name and we pray: Come, Holy One! Fill us with the story of your people; fill us with your loving Word. Take us as we are, and have your way in us. Grant us courage to speak, and to live out your Way of Love, Grace, Justice, Peace, and Joy. In Jesus' name: 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**

"Answer to the Call"

M. McDonald

**SCRIPTURE**

Epistles: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (p. 175)

**SERMON**

"ToughLove"

Rev. Suzanne Personette

**\*HYMN #579**

"Standing in the Need of Prayer"

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

"Come to Jesus"

C. Rice/M. Hayes

**\*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 the prophets, we bless this offering as people who have received your gifts of Love, Voice, Truth, and Hope. We return to you a portion of the abundance you have given to us. We dedicate all that we give, to your loving purposes: bringing in those who have been cast out; standing strong on behalf of those who are weak; speaking out with your Word of Joy and Justice for all people. May your loving realm increase! In Jesus' name: Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #614**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

**\*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.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given by Kurt and Gaile Dembeck in honor of their granddaughter, Sydney Asikainen's baptism on January 17.

#### In Our Ongoing Prayers...

**Joyce Smith** having surgery; **Becca**, friend of Glory Hockenberry healing from a broken back and neck; the **Hall/Walden family** on the loss of Eddie Weeks, a family member; the **people of Flint, MI**; the **homeless**; Gregg Moffatt; Linda Vogt, friend of Marilyn Newton, diagnosed with kidney cancer; those with upcoming surgeries; the hungry; the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Linda Rentler; Carol Brusa, Halene Fujimoto's friend; stricter gun laws; acceptance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Terri Karr; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Bess Howe; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Gilmay Markunas and family; Bobby Dwire; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness; Ed Rockland; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Michael Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle

*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.

**Lenten Candle Readings:** There are 6 Sundays in Lent, and we will be offering the Lenten candle wreath again, lighting 6 candles and extinguishing one each Sunday. We'll need 2 readers per Sunday, so we'll need 12 in all! Would you like to take part? Please let Rev. Robin or Rev. Suzanne know. Thank you.

#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**Audit Committee:** 11:30 AM, Library

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

#### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

The **Prayer Shawl Group** has shawls available for anyone who would like to give one to someone who is ill, has lost a loved one or just needs to know that someone cares. Please take a moment to see how much love and caring goes into the making of these shawls. Several shawls were donated to Syrian refugees. Some have also been given to a nursing home. Our group is not always aware of someone in need, so please let us know if one is needed.

#### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

The J\*Walkrz are taking orders for **FCCV sweatshirts** and **polos** (\$25 each) and **tee shirts** in green or gray (\$20). They are also **selling FCCV pens** for only \$1. Proceeds will help us attend the National Youth Event in July.

**Super Bowl Grinders:** The Ways and Means Committee is taking orders today. Grinders may be picked up next Sunday, February 7.

#### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Bible Study:** Monday, February 1, 11 AM, Library

**Men's Breakfast Group:** Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Craft Workshop:** Wednesday, February 2, 10 AM-12 PM, Fellowship Hall.

We'll be decorating coasters and trivets for the Fair.

**Council:** Wednesday, February 3, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Basket Group:** Thursday, February 4, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

**Theology on Tap:** Thursday, February 4, 6 PM at Mitchell's Restaurant

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, February 4, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, February 5, 10:30 AM, Library

**Bible Study:** Friday, February 5, 6:30 PM, Library

**Line Dancing:** Saturday, January 5, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Family Night Out:** Saturday, February 6, 5-9 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Fat Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper:** Tuesday, February 9, 5-6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee.

**God and Me/God and Family:** Any scouts in our congregation interested in participating in the God and Me or God and Family program this year, please contact Debi Hockenberry.

The youth will be having a **Tag Sale** on April 23. Donations may be dropped off the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep us in mind when you are Spring Cleaning! Thank you!

There is an issue with the **AED** (automatic external defibrillator) located in Fellowship Hall and we have been advised to replace it - the unit is over ten years old. The cost to replace can run from \$800-\$2,000, depending on what model we choose and the warranty plan that would serve us best. We feel it is very important to have one, with a group of people trained to use it in case of an emergency. We are asking the congregation to fund this, as they did in the past. There is some urgency to this request, as the operation of this unit is in question at this time. Questions? Contact any of the Parish Nurses.

It's not too early to make **reservations** at **Silver Lake** for your youth. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway down from the Library for more information.

**If you would like to become a member of FCCV**, please speak with Rev. Robin, Rev. Suz or one of our Deacons. We'd like to schedule a New Member Class soon, as well as a New Member Sunday in which we receive new members! Thank you.

**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. Folks are also needed to help prepare meals at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall.

**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.

# LENTEN *Schedule*

The **Lenten Series**, led by our seminarian, Barbara Hesse, started on Friday, January 29. It is based on the movie "Conversations with God." The series will continue on **Fridays, February 5, 12, 19 and 26 and March 11 and 18** at 6:30 PM in the Library. Dessert and beverages will be served at all sessions and childcare will be available.

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Tuesday, February 9 from 5-6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

**Ash Wednesday Service**, February 10, 7 PM in the Sanctuary

The **Agape Dinner** (Agape Love: selfless, unconditional love) will be held on **Sunday, March 6** at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall. This dinner, provided and served by the Deacons, has been a tradition in our church since the early 1990's. The elements of the Jewish Passover meal, the Seder, are offered to taste and are explained by the Pastor. There will be a game for the children before dinner. There is no charge but please bring a non-perishable food item to put in the shopping carts for the pantry/soup kitchen. All are welcome!

Please put these dates on your calendar and make this a truly meaningful Lenten season!

**Easter Cantata**, Sunday, March 13 during the Worship Service

**Palm Sunday**, March 20

**Maundy Thursday Service**, March 24, 7 PM in the Sanctuary

**Easter Sunrise Service**, Sunday, March 27, 6:30 AM in the Memorial Garden

**Easter Worship Service**, Sunday March 27, 10 AM in the Sanctuary