

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

~ Holy Communion ~

February 7, 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 yrs. old)

Or, if you've come here today without food in your belly,
we can provide you with a meal.
(Please see one of our Pastors.)

PRELUDE

"Fantasie"	Mendelssohn
"Partita on 'Nettleton'"	Salvatore
"A Trumpet Fanfare"	Martin

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Paul Shimer

Leader: We come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence, God.

People: We are comforted by your holiness and your glow.

Leader: You are so close and so accessible,

People: and there is no doubt of your glory.

Leader: The mountain top reminds us why we worship you.

People: We witness your bright power, and your plan for the nations of the earth.

Leader: As we prepare for worship, God bring us to the mountain top;

People: bring us to the mountain top so that we may be inspired to do your work in the valley below.

***OPENING HYMN #595 "Be Thou My Vision"**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

O God of the covenant, who revealed your Son on the mountain top, transform our lives in his image; write your law of love on our hearts, and make us prophets of your glory so that we may lead others into your presence. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion.

INVITATION

People: Jesus' message is there's a place for everyone at this table - baby, child, teen, young adult, middle adult, older adult,

Leader: gay, straight, black, white, special needs, homeless,

People: doubters, believers, wounded, secure, or a little bit of each.

ALL: THAT'S THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

PRAYER of BLESSING/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.

WE REMEMBER (recalling Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper)

SHARING the BREAD and the CUP (served in the pew; gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. We will receive the elements when all are served.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

(youth may leave for Sunday School)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:28-32 (p. 64)

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 (p. 166)

SERMON

Rev. Robin Bird

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Bread of the World"

D. Eliot

***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*)

Gracious God, we give these gifts because you ask us to share. We dedicate this offering and our lives to your service that the hungry may be fed, the oppressed may receive justice, and the stranger may be welcomed in our midst. By our giving, transform us from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory so we may honor you. In Jesus name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** "Shine Jesus Shine" (*insert*)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Psalm of Glory" Barnett

*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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers...

Millie Oliphant and **family** on the loss of her mother, Addie McGee; **Heidi Morse** and family on the loss of her brother, Johnny McHugh; **Halene Fujimoto** and **family** on the loss of her mother, Lillian Burnett; **Meg** (Holly and Bill Boutwell's sister-in-law) on the aggressive return of a tumor; **Armond**, Gretchen Fisher Orr's husband; the **Zika virus** – for those stricken and for a cure; Joyce Smith; 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; 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***

Deacons assisting with Communion: Elly Swan (Deacon-in-charge), Megan Hasty, Delythe Kracke, Pam Lyons, Greg Mias, Sue Pilkons

Greeters: Board of Deacons

Coffee Hour: Board of Missions

~ 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. ++

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.

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

Board of Music: 11:30 AM, Library

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, PF Room

J*Walkrz: 3:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

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.

If you ordered Super Bowl Grinders don't forget to pick them up today.

Name Tags: If you ordered one, you can pick it up today from the Scrip-Your-All Table. If you'd like to order one, three options are available - magnet, pin, or clip. You can also include a hang tag should you belong to a board/committee. A \$3 to \$5 donation is requested, but not required. Order today or contact Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.

FCCV Coffee Mugs: The weather is getting colder. Perhaps you need a new mug for the hot chocolate, coffee or tea that will keep you warm this winter. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table to pick up yours today. The cost is \$10 and goes to support FCCV outreach.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, February 8, 11 AM, Library

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, February 8, 7 PM, Library

Ways and Means: Monday, February 8, 7 PM, Chapel

March CARILLON deadline

Tuesday, February 9

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Prayer Shawl: Tuesday, February 9, 1 PM, Library

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

Deacons: Tuesday, February 9, 7 PM, Library

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 10, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Theology on Tap: Thursday, February 11, 6 PM at Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, February 11, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, February 12, 10:30 AM, Library

Bible Study: Friday, February 12, 6:30 PM, Library

Line Dancing: Friday, February 12, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Board of Missions: Saturday, February 13, 10 AM, Library

Pairs and Spares – Game Night: Saturday, February 13, 5-8 PM, Fellowship Hall. BYO dinner or a \$5 donation to Pay It Forward for a lasagna meal.

Please Note: a new thermostat has been installed in the Crib Room (upstairs near the balcony). It is on an automatic timer so the room will be toasty during the worship service. There is a speaker in the room, allowing you to listen to the service while tending to your baby's needs.

The **R. Leslie Childs Memorial Scholarship** is a \$500 scholarship awarded each year to an FCCV church member or child of a member to provide assistance with musical training. The award can be used for music lessons, music education or toward the purchase of a musical instrument. Each candidate must complete an application describing their musical training and accomplishments, their planned music studies and how the scholarship will be used. Each candidate will be evaluated on their present ability, dedication, need and church involvement. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15. For more information, contact a Board of Music member.

Scrip-Your-All Update: We're off to a great start, earning just under \$500 in January toward our \$5500 goal for 2016. Remember, you get the **full value** of cards purchased - it's a win-win for all. Check out our website for complete information on how to sign up (firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all) or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour where some gift cards are available for immediate purchase.

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 23rd. 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.

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.

The loose offering collected today is placed in the Deacons' Fund for aid, in time of emergency, to people within the congregation.

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, is based on the movie "Conversations with God." The series continues on **Fridays, February 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. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service, February 10, 7 PM in the Sanctuary
During a very moving worship experience, we will observe our Ash Wednesday practice of imposing ashes on our foreheads, hands or wrists as we remember our humility these 40 days and 40 nights of Lent. Following the service, we will go outside and burn pieces of paper on which we've written our sin(s), harmful behavior or regrets. Youth might appreciate this service, too – they might find receiving ashes "kind of cool!"

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