

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC
February 12, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC "Aria" Handel
"Sing Aloud to God Our Strength" Hughs
"One Heart, One Mind" Strauss

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

PRELUDE "Close to Thee" Vail/Broughton

WORDS OF REFLECTION

"Our worship has to do with who God is, but it also has to do with who we are and who we wish to God we were."

*CALL to WORSHIP Shannon Kelly

Leader: Doors open. Hearts ready, God beckons.

People: Looking for a center point to life, for a union of all the scattered and torn edges.

Leader: May your soul find communion here.

People: Searching for honesty, for a truth spoken in love.

Leader: May your faith be challenged here.

People: Looking for a place to offer your time and talents.

Leader: May your spirit enrich this community.

People: Searching for joy to blossom and hope to grow.

Leader: May our songs reach the heavens, touch our hearts and spread love into the world.

*OPENING HYMN #21 "Let the Whole Creation Cry"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison) Ashley Markunas

We gather today as fellow travelers. Some of us are on the mountaintops of life, celebrating milestones. Some of us are traveling the deepest and darkest of valleys. But we gather together today, regardless of where we are on our journey, seeking the same thing: God's presence. Lord, we gather seeking you on our journeys. Be with us today in this worship in a way that gives us hope for the future. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 30 Melina Toolan

Leader: Sing praise to the Lord, all his faithful people! Remember what the Holy One has done and give him thanks!

People: His anger lasts only a moment, his goodness for a lifetime.
Tears may flow in the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Leader: I felt secure and said to myself, "I will never be defeated."

People: You were good to me, Lord; you protected me like a mountain fortress. But then you hid yourself from me, and I was afraid.

Leader: Hear me, Lord, and be merciful! Help me, Lord!

People: You have changed my sadness into a joyful dance; you have taken away my sorrow and surrounded me with joy.

Leader: So I will not be silent; I will sing praise to you.

People: Lord, you are my God; I will give you thanks forever.

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

A TIME with the CHILDREN

The LORD'S PRAYER (unison..."debt")
(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Lord's Prayer.)

ANTHEM "Awake, My Heart" J. Marshall

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

*PRAYER HYMN #259 Spirit of the Living God"

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Mark 1: 40-45

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Behold Now, Praise the Lord" E. Titcomb

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*PRAYER of DEDICATION (unison)

Wondrous God, whose glory stretches beyond the power of any eye or any telescope, open our minds and hearts to new understandings of your love and mercy. Touch and transform us to grow into sacred living and selfless service. Bless these gifts we offer today that your limitless love, which transcends and exceeds our greatest imagination, may be tasted and experienced by all your children. We offer these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #70 "God of the Sparrow God of the Whale"

BENEDICTION

Leader: As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,

People: Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.

Leader: May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;

People: Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

(God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens, verse 3)

POSTLUDE "Gloria" Mozart

*All who are able are invited to stand.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given in loving memory of Don Newton on his Valentine's Day birthday with love from Mom and Dad.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees

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.

The special offering envelopes in today's bulletin are for Somers Congregational Church. As you know, the Somers Church suffered a tragic fire just as we did many years ago. Your gift of love will help the Somers Congregational Church rebuild. Thank you for your support. Board of Missions

Pay It Forward: Last week, Donald Montgomery, matching the gift he received, shared with us his donation to Foodshare, a program that is the heart and center of the Hartford area's fight against hunger. Foodshare serves 42 towns and distributes 16 tons of food each day to a network of 300 local partners in the community. This week we feature Jim Wilson, 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

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM-1 PM, Library

Prospective Members Class: 11:30 AM, PF Room in Kellogg Hall

Transformers: 11:30 AM, Choir Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Deacons: Monday, February 13, 7 PM, Chapel

Crafts Group: Monday, February 13, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

March CARILLON Deadline
Tuesday, February 14

Men's Club: Tuesday, February 14, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Library Committee: Wednesday, February 15, 1 PM, Library

HR: Wednesday, February 15, 7 PM, Library

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, February 16, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, February 16, 7:30, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, February 17, 10:30 AM, Library

Crafts Central: Saturday, February 25 from 9 AM-1 PM in Fellowship Hall
Sometimes it's hard to get to a meeting at church after a long day of work, so we are trying something different. At "Crafts Central," you can stop in for a few minutes or stay for a few hours. You can learn a new craft or bring supplies to teach something new. We will be making 5-6 different craft items for the next Fair, suited for all crafting abilities. If you can paint, glue or stitch, there will be something for you. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call Daryl at 860-871-8594.

Soup & Scripture: Join us for Soup & Scripture led by Joseph Tobin from 6-7 PM on February 28, March 13 and March 27. During this time together we will explore the Gospel lessons for Lent, reflect on the meaning of the season for our faith journey and lessons to be learned during this very sacred time that may influence our way of living. You will leave spiritually nourished and physically satisfied. If you are interested, please call or email the church office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.net).

Tag Sale, April 28, sponsored by Youth Fellowship. Please save items you no longer want and donate them to us.

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. If this request touches your heart, please contact Jan or Margaret or find us on Sundays at Coffee Hour.

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.

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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... **Flora Batz**, friend of Jan Peacock, dealing with pancreatic cancer; **Marge Salmon** recovering from eye surgery; **Helen Dyar** 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; 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); **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)