

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

~ First Sunday in Lent ~  
(music to honor Black History Month)  
February 14, 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** "Prelude on 'Deep River'" arr. Troutman  
"O Perfect Love" Barnby/Smith  
"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" arr. Livingston

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST**

**INTROIT** "Come Sunday" D. Ellington  
Paul Shimer

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 25, 1-3) Joanne Myer

Leader: To you, O GOD, we lift up the spirit of our whole selves.

**People: O God, we trust unashamedly in you; seeking that you be not ashamed of us;**

Leader: May we begin our Lenten journey together in right relationships;

**People: Teach us. Show us. Guide us in your paths. Grow us to know your ways more clearly.**

Leader: You are the God of our salvation and the Sustainer of good relations.

**People: For you we wait.**

Leader: May integrity, a clean conscience, and upright living preserve us.

**\*OPENING HYMN** #623 "Woke Up This Morning"

**LENTEN WREATH LITURGY**

Reader 1: This is the sacred center of our faith - the truth made manifest in Jesus Christ - that God is in each and every one of us, quietly transforming us and the world. In his pain and suffering, Jesus speaks to every pain and loss you have endured and offers you the promise of transformation.

Reader 2: It's an old story, but it still has the power to reveal, to heal, and to redeem. Jesus is at the heart of our faith, in the depth of our souls. He is waiting for us, inviting us to leave ordinary time and follow along with him on the journey that brought him to the Cross. Listen in silence, for Jesus is calling you. (*Silent time.*)

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice and oppression in the world. (*A candle is extinguished.*)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

**All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. 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.*

**LITTLE BELLS** "How Great Thou Art"

**SCRIPTURE** New Testament: Luke 4:1-13 (p. 61)

**SERMON** "Can I Entice You...?" Rev. Suzanne Personette  
**Sermon response: Get behind me, Satan!**

**\*HYMN** #529 "I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Ain't Got Time to Die" Hall Johnson  
Paul Shimer - Solo

**\*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 Deliverance, you led your chosen people long ago out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land. Their contributions were a symbol of devotion to your mighty presence in their lives and in the lives of following generations. Guide our gifts so that they may be multiplied to help those still in the wilderness of uncertainty. Help our giving to inspire others as they journey on the path of truth and life. Through your holy son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #615 "I Shall Not Be Moved"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Unity and Brotherhood" Chesterton

*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 . . .**

**Dan Bradford and family** on the loss of his mother, Janet; **Bob Langone's** (Karen Bradford's father) recent PET scan is clear of cancer; 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 (Bill and Holly Boutwell's sister and 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; 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; Linda Rentler; stricter gun laws; acceptance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Terri Karr; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Bess Howe; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Gilmay Markunas and family; 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***

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Board of Mission

**~ 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.

**TODAY'S ACTIVITIES**

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

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

**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.

**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:** Happy Valentine's Day! An FCCV mug makes a nice gift. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table to pick up yours today. Chocolate Mug Cake recipe included! The cost is \$10 and goes to support FCCV outreach.

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Presidents' Day:** Monday, February 15. The Church Office is closed.

**Bible Study:** Monday, February 15, 11 AM, Library

**Men's Breakfast Group:** Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**BCE:** Tuesday, February 16, 7 PM, Library

**Furnishings and Memorials:** Tuesday, February 16, 7 PM, Chapel

**Library Committee:** Wednesday, February 17, 1 PM, Library

**Finance:** Wednesday, February 17, 7:15 PM, Library

**Basket Group:** Thursday, February 18, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

**Theology on Tap:** Thursday, February 18, 6 PM at Mitchell's Restaurant

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, February 18, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, February 19, 10:30 AM, Library

**Bible Study:** Friday, February 19, 6:30 PM, Library

**Line Dancing:** Friday, February 19, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Golf Meeting:** Saturday, February 20, 10 AM, Library

**Informational Meeting on Staff Reconfiguration:** Sunday, February 21, 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall.

### **Pairs and Spares Upcoming Events**

**Beginner's Line Dancing** each Friday in February from 7:30-9 PM. A \$2 donation goes to support Pay It Forward.

**Willimantic Orchestra Winter Concert,** Saturday, February 27, 7:30 PM at Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC) building at Eastern CT State University, Willimantic. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table if you want to carpool.

**The Ten Commandments** shown on the big screen at Rave Theater at Buckland Hills on Sunday, March 20 at 2 PM. Cost - \$8.50. This event is open to all ages. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table if you are interested in attending.

**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.

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.

**FCCV Fun-Filled Festival,** Sunday, May 22, 2 PM in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Board of Music. This talent show with finger foods is a fundraiser for the Les Childs Music Scholarship. Members and friends of all ages are invited to share their talents (singing, dancing, reading, joke telling, pet tricks etc.). If you have a talent to offer or have questions, contact Leanne Connolly at 860-462-4694 or lconnolly1825@gmail.com

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.

**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 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.

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!

**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

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