

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

February 22, 2015

Black History Month

PRELUDE “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder, arr. Martin
There Is a Balm in Gilead”
“Deep River” arr. Glyncannon
“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” arr. Smith
“Spiritual Medley” Utterback
“Come Sunday” Duke Ellington
Paul Shimer, solo

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Pam Lyons

Leader: Amazing grace,

People: Lifting us up when we have fallen,

Leader: Bringing us hope when we despair,

People: Healing our hearts when they are broken.

Leader: Amazing grace,

People: Making a way in the wilderness,

Leader: Shining a light on our path,

People: Leading us back to joy and peace.

***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 CHILDREN

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

“Swing Lo, Sweet Chariot”
Meg Watson, Paul Shimer, duet

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:9-15

SERMON

Barbara Hesse

***HYMN #590 “Kum ba Yah”**

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**

***CLOSING HYMN #630 “We Shall Overcome”** *(vs. 1, 3 and 6 only)*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Johnson

**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 Missions

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of VERNON!

We are glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Becky Burr; Deborah Liebl; Gilmay Markunas and family; Hal Cummings; Pat Lazeren; Margaret Klukas; Karen Rowell; Gail Brewer; David and Elizabeth Hollister; Joel Covington; Jack Allen; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Frederick Burgess; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Joyce Smith; Bess Howe; Paul Westerberg; Michelle Darby; people struggling with mental illness; Debbie Chase; Sharon Lacey; Ed Rockland, Bettye Kramer's brother-in-law; Maggie and David Minnick; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Pat Melville; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Christa Hockenberry; Cindy Madden; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Lillian Burnett; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Kim Burnham; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Donna Peacock; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

New additions in bold print

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Memorial Garden: 11:15 AM, Library

J*Walkrz: 3:30 PM, PF Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mind + Spirit Support Group (MSSG): Monday, February 23 in the Library. Please join us for our first meeting. This support group is designed for those in our faith community who are challenged with mental health issues and for family and friends who need support. We will gather to support each other in a sacred, safe and confidential environment. This group is NOT a therapeutic session and is NOT intended to replace a person's medical or behavioral health provider and/or therapist. We will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. Please contact Leanne Connolly (Lconnolly1825@gmail.com or 860-462-4694) if you have any questions.

Men's Group: Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, February 24, 11 AM, Library

Trustees: Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 PM, Library

S & E: Wednesday, February 25, 7 PM, Chapel

Theology on Tap: Thursday, February 26, 6 PM, R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir, Please Note: There will be **NO Rehearsal** on Thursday, February 26.

Support Group: Friday, February 27, 10:30 AM, Library

Sunday School Mission for February - "Love One Another." We are collecting new baby clothes, diapers, bottles, formula, onesies...anything that a new Mama would need for her baby. Donated items will be given to Vernon Social Services to be given to mothers and babies in need. A collection box is located outside the DCE Office door.

Ongoing Sunday School Mission: We're collecting pre-packaged, non-perishable snacks and juice boxes for kids in Vernon who may not have a snack when they get home from school. Donations may be left in the box outside the DCE Office door.

Needed! The Board of Missions is need of a few volunteers to help make lunch at the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen on the first Saturday of every month. Please contact Emily Westerberg if you are interested. Thanks!!

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. Anyone with concerns about the Crib Room should contact Sally Sullivan, 871-1473. A staffed **Toddler Room**, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing, is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old**.

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 jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

Reminder: FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Acolytes Needed! To all parents of Sunday School children...if your child would like to be an acolyte, please contact Delythe Kracke at DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004.

Name Tags: If you need a name tag, you can order it any Sunday during Coffee Hour or contact Jim Montlick (jamontlik@aol.com). You have a choice of a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather: Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.