

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

February 26, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC "Arabesque" Debussy
"Pieces for Children" Mendelssohn

CHIMING of the HOUR
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Joseph Tobin
(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

INTROIT "Jubilee" O. Brownson/C. Wesley

WORDS of REFLECTION

One human life is like a single letter of the alphabet. It can be meaningless or it can be a part of something with great meaning.

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

People: **A time to be born and a time to die.**

Leader: *A time to plant and a time to harvest what has been planted.*

People: **A time to break down and a time to build up.**

Leader: *A time to look within so we can prepare ourselves to go out.*

People: **A time to confess and a time to be forgiven.**

Leader: *Lent is the season of facing ourselves in the mirror so as to see where God is missing.*

People: **Strengthen us in faith, O God, so we can know anew our need for you and eagerly follow Jesus into the wilderness and into your presence.**

*OPENING HYMN #108 "Lift High the Cross"

CALL to CONFESSION

CONFESSION of SIN (*unison*)

O God, this day we seek for You with hearts full of guilt and minds bewildered and frustrated. You have heard our prayers before and responded with grace and mercy and so we seek you again. If you, O God, were to keep an account of our failings and fallings, no one could ever face You again. Yet we reach for You because You look with loving mercy upon our broken lives. You accept and forgive and will renew us according to our need. Hear our prayer and bolster our efforts to live in faith. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Psalm 130: 1-4 from Psalms Now by Leslie Brandt, adapted)

ASSURANCE of PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Cynthia Carr

Parental and Sponsors' Vows

Congregational Vow

Leader: *(Question ends with "faithful service in Christ's Church?")*

People: **We will with joy.**

Baptism of Oliver Wilhelm Beermann

Baptismal prayer and giving of gifts

ANTHEM - TRANSFORMERS "Victory Chant" J. Vogels
A TIME with the CHILDREN Linda Shivers

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

HISTORICAL MOMENT Joan Apel

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS – the Boutwell family

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

COMMISSIONING of the SEARCH COMMITTEE

People: As the family of faith gathered here, today we bless your response to this calling. Giving thanks for your willingness to serve, we pledge our support and encouragement to the important work which is ongoing. In the days ahead, we will continue to be mindful of your work as we remember your service in prayer. May the Holy Spirit guide, nurture, and strengthen you in the days ahead.

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The Saints Bound for Heaven" J. King/W. Walker

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*PRAYER of DEDICATION (*unison*)

Receive these offerings, O God, and bless them for your service. May they provide places where the voice of Jesus may be heard. May they serve to proclaim a Word that can lead your children through the wilderness. Bless our continuing efforts to hear your voice and follow in your way. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Mark 1: 9-15 The Rev. David Minnick

SERMON

*CLOSING HYMN #651 "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Firm in the Faith I Stand" L. Smith

**All who are able are invited to stand.*

In keeping with the sacred nature of the worship service, we kindly ask that no photos or video be taken during worship. We invite you to take them after the service as a remembrance of this special occasion. Thank you.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given by the Tomko family in loving memory of Ashlee Hazel Tomko on the 3rd anniversary of her passing.

We rejoice in the baptism of Oliver Wilhelm Beermann, son of Mariah and Adam Beermann. Welcome to Oliver's sponsors, Melissa Basch and Bill Basch.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees

Today during "Three Minutes of History, Joan Apel will speak about "The Second Meeting House" and the choir will be singing anthems appropriate to the time period. In March, we will highlight "The Civil War Era."

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.

Pay It Forward: This week we feature Dave Bower. We are so grateful to our donors who have allowed Pay It Forward to continue for the past 15 months. The blessings of those who have benefited because of you are on display in Fellowship Hall.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 4, 2012

following the worship service
for the purpose of voting on New Members

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM, Library. **Reminder:** On Wednesday, March 7 we will meet here at church at 5:30 PM to attend Purim Service at Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor.

Communications Committee: 11:15 AM, Quilters' Corner

Puppet Show and Dinner: 5 PM in Fellowship Hall for dinner followed by the show at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary. See insert for more details.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Have your **blood pressure checked** by one of our Parish Nurses.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts Group: Monday, February 27, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Men's Club: Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Board of Music: Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 PM, Library

Soup & Scripture: Tuesday, February 28, 6 PM, Chapel

Golf Committee: Tuesday, February 28, 7 PM, Chapel

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 1, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 1, 7:30, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, March 2, 10:30 AM, Library

Anniversary Committee: Friday, March 2, 2 PM, Library

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).

Thank you for your gift of love. Through your generosity, we collected \$1327 to help support our neighbor, the Somers Congregational Church. We could not have done this without you. Thank you, the Board of Missions

2012 Church-wide Mission - March Out Hunger sponsored by the Board of Missions. Please join us in Fellowship Hall next Sunday, March 4 during Coffee Hour for our Bake Sale. This year we will be helping our local Hockanum Valley Food Pantry. A list of most needed items has been provided in today's bulletin. Missions will be collecting these items, along with cash and grocery gift card donations during the month of March. Together we can prevent hunger and homelessness through our support as a congregation. Thank you for your much needed donations!

Sunday School: On Sunday, March 4 grades 4 and up will remain upstairs with their parents for Family Communion. Grades 3 years-3rd will meet in Kellogg Hall for a group Sunday school class. Drop your broken crayons in the bucket for "Crayons for Cancer" and receive a new box.

Youth Group: Youth in 5th grade and up interested in attending Tolland Congregational Church for the **Jonah play** on **March 4**, please sign up on the bulletin board. We will leave FCCV at 9:15 AM and return after the service. **March 16** (youth in 6th grade and up) **sleepover** at church, 7 PM-9 AM. We'll work on our mission, "Crayons for Cancer." **Youth Basketball**, March 3 and 17 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Drop off at Wapping Community Church in South Windsor.

Reminder: Agenda items for the Council meeting on March 7 should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than Sunday, March 4.

Evening Circle: Monday, March 5 at 7 PM at Betty Ann Wurst's home. We invite you to join us for **GAME NIGHT**. We will have various games (e.g., Scategories, Mexican Train Dominos, Uno, etc.). If there is a game you like to play, please bring it with you. Call Pat Lazeren, 860-644-0475, to let us know that you are coming so that we can have an accurate head count for refreshments.

Music @ First Concert- Guitar and Mandolin Duo, Saturday, March 10, 7 PM
Husband and wife duo Judy Handler and Mark Levesque blend Brazilian, Latin American, swing, gypsy, classical and folk music influences to create their sophisticated and expressive arrangements.

Furnishings & Memorials Memory Book: Jane Burr has compiled a new, beautiful Memorial Book containing notes and photos of acquisitions over the last few years. Stop by when you are passing through the Breezeway and take a look! It's in a drawer of the cabinet where the Memorial Garden Committee has their book on display. You might be interested in looking at the old Memory Books as well. They are located in the back of the Sanctuary in the bookstand that holds the Bible. If you are a newcomer, they provide some interesting history. If you are a long-time member, you will be reminded of old friends and former members who have passed away, as well as some past events.

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.

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.

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. A staffed **Toddler Room for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

Please Wear Your Name Tag! Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... 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)