

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

~Third Sunday in Lent~

Seminary Sunday

February 28, 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 "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" Diemer
"Sonata No. 3" Guilmant
"I Preludio"
"II Adagio molto"
"III Fuga"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAY IT FORWARD Lynn Sweet

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 63)

Leader: O God, you are our God, we seek you, our souls thirst for you;

People: Our flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Leader: We look up to you in this sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you.

All: We will bless you as long as we live; We will lift up our hands and call upon your name.

***OPENING HYMN** #510 "Out of the Depths"

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY J J Uldrikis family

Reader 1: There is so much during the day that clamors for our attention. Friends, family, work, classes, household tasks. And the noise! We are bombarded with sound, from the clock that awakens us to the telephone, the radio, the television, the conversations that we have or overhear. Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God?

Reader 2: Listen now. There is a place of quiet rest, and it is the place where God dwells within you. Close your eyes. Be aware of the indwelling spirit. In Lent we journey to parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamor. Let the story of Jesus reach us there. Let it teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.
(Silent time.)

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

Reader 2: Let us pray:

All: Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. 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.

(All children are invited downstairs for Sunday School.)

ANTHEM "God Will Make a Way" D. Moen
Kurt Dembeck - solo

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:1-9 (New Testament, p. 70)

SERMON "Help Me! I'm Stuck!" Barbara Hesse

***HYMN** #513 "Now I Have New Life in Christ"

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "My Lord What a Mornin'" Spiritual

***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 Creator and Benevolent Redeemer, you have blessed us in so many different ways and with such wonderful opportunities. Please bless this offering. May the money we have freely and lovingly given go on to bless others, as it has already been used to bless us. We ask this in Jesus' Holy Name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #344 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Go Out With Praise" Paxton

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

Collette, daughter of Sarah Summers, healing from RSV; **Brian**, 11 years old, fighting bone cancer; Meg (Bill and Holly Boutwell's sister and sister-in-law) on the aggressive return of a tumor; the homeless; the hungry; Linda Vogt, friend of Marilyn Newton, diagnosed with kidney cancer; Linda Rentler; gun reform; acceptance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Terri Karr; Daniel Burnett-Pollack; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Gilmay Markunas and family; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness, and their families; 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

~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.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be collected on March 6. Twenty-nine denominations will participate in this offering on that day. It benefits individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict or severe economic hardship. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to FCCV with "OGHS" in the memo. There will be a special offering envelope in the church bulletin on March 6. Thank you for your donation.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall The Flower Committee is taking **orders** for **lilies** and **daffodils** that will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter.

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.com.

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.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, PF Room

Stewardship Committee: 11:30 AM, Library

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, February 29, 11 AM, Library

Informational Meeting on Staff Reconfiguration: Monday, February 29, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall. Child care and pizza will be provided for any children who accompany their parents. A congregational meeting will be held on March 13 in Fellowship Hall following the church service to vote on the reconfiguration.

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, March 2, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Basket Group: Thursday, March 3, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 3, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 3, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 4, 10:30 AM, Library

Search Committee: Friday, March 4, 7 PM, Library

Family Night Out: Saturday, March 5, 5-9 PM, Fellowship Hall

Pairs and Spares- Saturday March 5

Met Opera: *Manon Lescourt*, 12:55 PM, Rave Theaters, Buckland Hills. Use your Rave gift card!

All Request Line Dancing, 6:30-11 PM at TKB, Vernon Ave., Vernon, \$10 per person.

Agape Dinner

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 will be explained by our student, Barb Hesse. There will be a game for the children before dinner. There is no charge but please bring a non-perishable food item for the pantry/soup kitchen.

All are welcome!

Please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.

FCCV FUN-FILLED FESTIVAL, Sunday, May 22, 2 PM, Fellowship Hall

This fundraiser for the Les Childs Scholarship, sponsored by the Board of Music and Leanne Connolly, will offer light snacks and finger foods while our FCCV family and friends present their talents for us to enjoy.

Members and friends (all ages), including their talented pets, are invited to share their talents (singing, playing an instrument, reading, telling jokes, dancing, etc.). If you wish to participate or have any questions, please contact Leanne at lconnolly1825@gmail.com or 860-462-4694.

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. An application must be completed and submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Questions? Contact any Board of Music member.

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 while doing your spring cleaning! Thank you!

Pay It Forward: If you would like to participate in Pay It Forward, fill out a card and place it in the PIF box in the Narthex or by the PIF sign near the Scrip-Your-All table. If you would like to make a donation of any size, checks may be placed in the offering basket (marked PIF in the memo) or in the PIF box in the Narthex near the stairs to Fellowship Hall.

Pairs and Spares Upcoming Events

The Ten Commandments shown on the big screen at Rave Theater at Buckland Hills on Sunday, March 20 at 2 PM. Cost - \$8.50. Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table if interested.

Scrip-Your-All Update: to date, approximately \$646 has been earned towards our \$5,500 goal for 2016. Remember, you get the **full value** for any cards purchased, so it is win-win all around. Please take a look at our FCCV 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 for more information.

The **AED** located in Fellowship Hall needs to be replaced. The cost can run from \$800-\$2,000 depending on the model and warranty chosen. We are asking the congregation to fund this as they did in the past. Questions? Contact any of the Parish Nurses.

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 in Rockville and to the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Folks are also need to help prepare meals at the Soup Kitchen. A sign-up sheet is posted in fellowship Hall.

Please Note: To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.

Evening Circle is **collecting items for 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 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.

LENTEN *Schedule*

The **Lenten Series**, led by our seminarian, Barbara Hesse, is based on the movie "Conversations with God." The series continues on **Fridays, 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.

Agape Dinner, Sunday, March 6 at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

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