

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 3, 2013

Third Sunday in Lent ~ Holy Communion

GATHERING MUSIC

“Piano Piece”  
“Promenade”  
“Prelude No. 3”

Grieg  
Dubois  
Mendelssohn

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Scriveyner

\*CALL to WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Debbie Marshall

Leader: All you looking for comfort,

**People: Find here the arms of a loving God.**

Leader: All you seeking direction,

**People: Find here a holy word to guide you.**

Leader: All you hoping to end loneliness,

**People: Find here a community of friends.**

Leader: All you searching for meaning,

**People: Find here a purpose that brings life.**

Leader: All you pursuing happiness,

**People: Find here a deep and lasting joy that leads to perfect peace.**

\*OPENING HYMN #420 “I Come with Joy”

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

Loving God, keep our minds and hearts directed toward you. Keep us focused on your love and grace. Turn our eyes to truth and beauty. Turn our thoughts to life and peace. In everything, show us the path that leads to everlasting joy in you. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING from Psalm 27

Leader: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

**People: Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

Leader: Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may follow only you.

**People: Lead me on level paths now and forever.**

\*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.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 16: 21-27

SERMON

Rev. Meg Watson

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

The LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

Our Father, which 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*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*)

Good morning, Lord. Thank you for this day of worship, this beautiful building where we meet, and your closeness to all of us as we share what we have with you and for you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

\*COMMUNION HYMN #384 “Here at Thy Table, Lord”

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

WORDS of INSTITUTION

BREAKING the BREAD and SHARING the CUP

(*Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. Please hold the elements until all are served.*)

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

We give thanks to you, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this remembrance of your love and have granted us the presence of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In communing with you and with one another, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the resurrection power of your Holy Spirit, which brings new hope, new life, and new possibilities. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN #357 “We Call Ourselves Disciples”

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE      “Canticle of Glory”      Blake

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

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. 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 worshipping 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!

**Greeters:** Board of Deacons

**Coffee Hour Preparation:** Board of Music

**Deacons assisting with Communion:** Delythe Kracke (Deacon-in-charge), Phyllis Chase, Jim Wilson, Jan Muro, Pat Lazeren, Michelle Bower, Bob Warner

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...**

**Donna Peacock:** Arianna Saegaert, neighbor of Ann Harford in Boston Children's Hospital with multiple respiratory problems; Libby Ann Parker, great niece of Nancy and Richard Parker, born with epilepsy; Phyllis Chase recovering at home; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid, son-in-law of Cathy and Gary Foote; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Will Livermore; Dick Saich; Mike Kermod; Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ann Garrison; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Paul and Susan Shimer; Candy Buswell; Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; Horst Pohlmann; John Mayhew; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Donald Chase

*New additions in **bold print***

**TODAY'S ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday School children** meet in Fellowship Hall today for the Children's Message before going to their classes.

**Youth Fellowship (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) Meeting:** Sunday, March 3, 11:30 AM, Library. We'll be planning our summer mission project, 24-hour famine and other activities. Would love to have your input and suggestions. Bring a friend. Lunch will be provided.

**TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall**

**Book Nook:** Once a month, the Library Committee will be setting up a Book Nook at Coffee Hour. Stop by and see what items are available for loan. This week, there will be books and DVDs for children and adults about the Easter story. Items can be checked out and returned to the Library at any time.

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

**Hats, Hats, Hats!** Women's Fellowship will be hosting a Hat Show on Sunday, April 21. Anyone interested in helping out, by making centerpieces, snacks for the tea or more, is invited to attend an **Organizational Meeting** on **Tuesday, March 5** at 7 PM.

**Council:** Wednesday, March 6, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than today.

**Bread and Broth Lenten Series:** Thursday, March 7, 6 PM in the PF Room

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

**Support Group:** Friday, March 8, 10:30 AM, Library

**Contemporary Choir Rehearsal:** Saturday, March 9, 10 AM, Sanctuary

**Reminder:** Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

**Confirmation Class Mini Retreat:** Sunday, March 10, 1- 7 PM at church. Bring your red folder and Bible.

**PMS (Prepare Meals Simply):** Tuesday, March 12, 6 PM, sponsored by Women's Fellowship. We will prepare and enjoy three simple meals, including turkey sausage pizza, a pasta dish and vegetarian quinoa. Try some new recipes, meet some new friends and re-connect with some old ones. Please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board.

**Please Note:** The **Cherub Singers** will be singing two songs on Sunday, March 17. Letters will be going out to parents on March 10.

**Youth Fellowship** will be meeting in the Library from 5-6 PM on April 21, May 19 and June 16.

**Youth Basketball (open to 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade):** March 16 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Wapping Church in South Windsor.

**Pay It Forward:** In 2010, Pay It Forward (PIF) started as a temporary outreach to help those in our community. A person was selected to receive \$50. That person would then use the money to Pay It Forward. Due to the enormous support from the FCCV congregation, PIF continues 2½ years later and generates interest from other churches as well as our community, as seen by the visits to our church website. In recognition of this part of our ministry, our church is making PIF permanent. PIF recognition will be the fourth Sunday of each month when we will hear how the previous \$50 was used to pay it forward and a new PIF person will be chosen. If you would like to participate in PIF, write your name on an index card and place it in the PIF box in Fellowship Hall. Donations are also being accepted to ensure that the PIF program continues. If you choose to make any size donation, you can place a check in the offering plate, marked for PIF or give a donation downstairs in Fellowship Hall in the PIF box.

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** located downstairs in the Kellogg wing is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old.**

**Reminder:** FCCV has been video recording its complete Sunday services since 2004. These worship services, edited to 58 minutes, 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. Check your local listings or go to [www.CVCCT.org](http://www.CVCCT.org) for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

**Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to [wfsb.com](http://wfsb.com).

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## 2013 LENTEN SEASON



### **Bread and Broth Lenten Series**

***Thursdays, March 7 and 14, 6-7 PM in the Pastor's Study***

Nourish your body and soul this holy season with an overview of classic spiritual disciplines while enjoying homemade soup and bread. We will cover the topics of prayer, worship, Sabbath-keeping, scripture reading, Christian hospitality and more. Please sign up by sending an email to [RevMeg@yahoo.com](mailto:RevMeg@yahoo.com) or by calling the Church Office.

### **Agape Dinner**

***Sunday, March 17, 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall***

Dinner and activities related to Lent

### **Palm Sunday**

***Sunday, March 24, 10 AM worship service***

### **Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae**

***Thursday, March 28, 7 PM in the Sanctuary***

### **Easter Sunday, March 31**

***Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM in the Memorial Garden***

Coffee, juice, muffins, etc. following in Fellowship Hall

***Worship Service, 10 AM***