

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 4, 2012

Holy Communion

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cynthia Carr

(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

CHIMING of the HOUR

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.

Hubert H. Humphrey

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP

Debbie Marshall

Leader: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent,

People: towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

Leader: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

People: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

Leader: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

People: whose promises take on new meaning in the good news called Jesus.

*OPENING HYMN #24 "The God of Abraham Praise"

PRAYER of CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of our ancestors in the faith, we are a people who have known the hurt of broken promises, and have spoken words we could not keep. We are quick to condemn those who make wrong choices, but want only gentle criticism directed our way. We let our lives be guided so much by our past, rather than opening our eyes, our hearts, our hopes to your amazing future. Forgive our distrust of the vows you have made to us, God of Sarah. Forgive our disbelief that you can bring hope to those places where we see only despair, God of Abraham. Forgive our hesitancy in denying all that keeps us from committing ourselves completely to you, God of Peter and the psalmists. Forgive us, so we may take up the life you offer to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Leader: Listen carefully, dear friends. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not back out of the relationship created so long ago, God restores it to its original purpose. God does not hold back, but pours abundant forgiveness into our lives.

People: Forgiven, we can follow; filled with hope, we can empty ourselves for others; restored to new life, we can live in relationship with God, with our neighbors and enemies, with ourselves. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

A TIME with the CHILDREN

Meg Bebrin

The LORD'S PRAYER *(unison... "debts")*

(Children in grades 3 year-3rd may leave for a group Sunday School class in Kellogg Hall. Grades 4-8 will remain upstairs with their parents for Family Communion.)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Mark 8: 31-38

SERMON

Mr. David Engelson, CEO, HVCC

CALL to OFFERING

The Rev. David Minnick

OFFERTORY "Here I Am Lord"

C. Courtney

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Pastor: Come for the table is set and Christ calls you to be his guest here.

People: We come joyfully, eager to know his presence and embrace his call.

Pastor: We come faithfully, eager to share here both brokenness and healing, grace received and extended to others.

People: We come hopefully, eager to embrace the promise of life; full, abundant and never ending.

All: May we be the family of faith this day and in the days to come.

*COMMUNION HYMN #393 "One Bread, One Body"

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

BREAKING of the BREAD

(Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon serving communion. Please wait until all are served before eating the bread and drinking the cup.)

SHARING of the CUP

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN #453 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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

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.

Greeters: Deacons Delythe Kracke and Greg Mias

Coffee Hour: Ways & Means Committee

Deacons assisting with Communion: Phyllis Chase (Deacon-in-charge), Debbie Marshall, Greg Mias, Delythe Kracke, Mike Swan, Pam Lyons, Margaret Klukas

Congregational Meeting
TODAY
following the worship service
for the purpose of voting on New Members

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Transformers: 11:30 AM, Choir Room

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

2012 Church-wide Mission - March Out Hunger sponsored by the Board of Missions. Please join us in Fellowship Hall **today** during Coffee Hour for our **Bake Sale**. All proceeds will be donated to the Hockanum Valley Food Pantry. Missions will be collecting food items (see insert for more information), along with cash and grocery gift card donations during the month of March. This food drive will make a tremendous impact on many families in the Tolland County area who risk hunger on a daily basis. If you would like to volunteer at Hockanum Valley or for the food share at Stop & Shop and Highland Park on April 14 and 15, please sign up with us in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to become a part of this community food drive. In doing so, we strengthen our community. The Board of Missions

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts Group: Monday, March 5, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Evening Circle: Monday, March 5, 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.

Search Committee: Monday, March 5, 7 PM, Library

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

Confirmation Meeting: Wednesday, March 7. Meet at FCCV at 5:30 PM to go to the Purim Service at Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor. Invite your sponsor to attend with you.

Council: Wednesday, March 7, 7 PM, Chapel. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro by today.

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 8, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 9, 7:30, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, March 9, 10:30 AM, Library

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.

Sunday School Reminder: Drop your broken crayons in the bucket for "Crayons for Cancer" and receive a new box.

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Remember to set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour.

Youth Group (6th grade and up): March 16 sleepover at church, 7 PM-9 AM. We'll work on our mission, "Crayons for Cancer." Bring sleeping bags, personal items, a snack to share, movies, games, etc. Your friends are invited to attend. Youth Basketball, March 17 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Drop off at Wapping Community Church in South Windsor.

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.

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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... the **Boutwell family**; **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)