

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 8, 2015

Third Sunday in Lent ~ Scout Sunday

PRELUDE "In Silent Forests" Strauss
"Take Time to Be Holy" Stebbins
"March" Schubert

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PRESENTATION of COLORS

*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (*unison*)

*POSTING of COLORS

SCOUT REPRESENTATIVES

*CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Ever-present God, forever seeking us and keeping us,

People: **Open our minds to the truth of your care.**

Leader: Open our hearts to the healing touch of grace.

People: **Open our lips to share stories of faith.**

Leader: Open our hands to do justice and to show kindness.

People: **Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit and fill us with your love.**

*OPENING HYMN #261 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

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

GOD and COUNTRY AWARDS

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 "Let Us Break Bread Together"
Little Bells

SCRIPTURE Exodus 20:8-11

SERMON Rev. Meg Watson

*HYMN #575 "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Amazing Grace" J. Newton

*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 #560 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Marche" Gounod

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

Scouts Receiving Awards: "God and Me" - Alexis Hayes, Michael Turner, Sarah Turner, Lillian Westerberg, Paul Westerberg; "God and Family" - Sarah Turner, Lillian Westerberg

The flowers on the Communion Table are given by the Ferguson family in memory of Whitney T. Ferguson, III who died in action in Vietnam on March 11, 1969 and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor in combat.

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 . . .

Chris Kunz, Daryl Gottier and family on the loss of Russ Kunz, husband, father and grandfather; **Phyllis Chase; Dillon and Tanner Peterson and family**, friends of Christa and Ryan; Mike Lazeren; Becky Burr; Deborah Liebl; Gilmay Markunas and family; Hal Cummings; Pat Lazeren; Margaret Klukas; Karen Rowell; Gail Brewer; David and Elizabeth Hollister; 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; 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

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Music

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.

The Ways and Means Committee is selling **corn chowder**.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

J*Walkrz: 3:30 PM, PF Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mind + Spirit Support Group (MSSG): Monday, March 9, 7-8:30 PM, Library. 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 meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month. Please contact Leanne Connolly at 860-462-4694 or Lconnolly1825@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Ways and Means: Monday, March 9, 7 PM, Chapel

April CARILLON Deadline
Tuesday, March 10

Men's Group: Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, March 10, 11 AM, Library

Prayer Shawl: Tuesday, March 10, 1 PM, Library

Trustees: Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 PM, Chapel

Deacons: Tuesday, March 10, 7 PM, Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 12, 6 PM, R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, March 12, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 13, 10:30 AM, Library

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 29 after the Worship Service and before the Potluck Luncheon. **Donations of candy are needed** to fill Easter eggs and may be dropped off until March 22.

Thank you to all who donated baby items to Vernon Social Services. We will be delivering these items by March 17. If you have not already contributed but would still like to, please drop off your items in the basket located in Fellowship Hall outside the DCE's office.

Our Sunday School will be "**Reading to Feed**" this Lenten season. Each child will come home with a little bank and a pledge sheet to earn money for reading to give to Heifer International. We are going to help fill an "Ark" of animals to help folks in need around the world. If you see a Sunday School-aged kid ask, "Can I sponsor you?" They'll be happy you did!

Applications for the **Les Childs Music Scholarship** may be picked up in the Church Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15, 2015. Questions? Contact mgiorzano2@gmail.com.

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.

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.