

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

~ Fifth Sunday in Lent ~
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

EASTER CANTATA
March 13, 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	"Lenten Meditation"	Cassler
	"Cantilène Pastorale"	Guilmant
	"Hear Me, O Lord"	Dubois

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP** Valerie Moffatt

Leader: Sweet Spirit, Heavenly Dove, Laughter Maker, Joy Sustainer,
Body Baptizer, Glory Source, Tear Catcher, Servant-Leader,
Love Giver, Light within all Light:

**All: We worship You! We name You! We sing You! We smile You!
We hug You in the friend! We meet You in the stranger! We
live You in the day! We dream You in the night! And today –
Your day – our day – we say, "This is the day the Lord has
made, we will rejoice and be glad in it!"**

***OPENING HYMN #4** "Holy, Holy, Holy" (vs. 1 and 4)

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY Dan and Kate Cima

Reader 1: When we arrived this morning we entered into the normal rhythm of a busy church on a Sunday morning: friends greeting each other, choir members getting their robes, children bringing their energy and enthusiasm. Now that we are sitting together in the pews, I invite you to close your eyes, and consider the word "sanctuary."

Reader 2: A sanctuary is a place set aside for sacred things. It is a place of refuge and protection. This room is a sanctuary. The season of Lent is a kind of sanctuary in time. One of the things Lent

teaches is that you, too, are a sanctuary. There is inside you a place for sacred things, a place where God abides.

(Silent time.)

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of war and hostility in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you are already there.

Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the world to work for justice and peace. 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.

LITTLE BELLS "Were You There"

The SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Hayden John Cima

Parents: Dan and Kate Cima

Sponsors: Matthew Costello, Amanda Cima

Welcome

Questions of the Parents and Sponsors

Congregational Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Blessing the Water

Act of Baptism; Presentation of the Newly Baptized

Prayer for the Baptized

Leader: ... hear the baptismal prayers of the congregation:

People: Be with Hayden through the years, blessing his life, that he may grow in love for you. Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts

***HYMN #585** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
(All children are invited downstairs for Sunday School.)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER/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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" Denton

***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)*

Faithful Giver of Life, you have done great things for us. In the life and teaching of your Son Jesus, you welcome us into your heart. Help us open our hearts to others, that we may be ever more willing to offer our hospitality, our support, and our material resources wherever they are needed. Bless these offerings in your holy name. Amen.

EASTER CANTATA

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Postlude on 'The Church's One Foundation'" Smith

*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.

EASTER CANTATA
Selections from "Lamb of God"
by Lloyd Larson

- I. Narration
"Praise the Holy Lamb of God"
- II. Narration
"What Wondrous Love Is This"
- III. Narration
"Hallelujah, What a Savior"
- IV. Narration
"Kyrie"

Narrators: Gaile Dembeck, Kurt Dembeck, Nan Dreselly, Carol Mento, Joanne Myer, Joyce Smith, Lynn Sweet, Tom Sweet

The flowers on the Communion Table are given in memory of Karen Heebner by Larry, Jon and Ben Heebner.

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Nancy Bright and **family** on the loss of her mother, Helen Lane; **Rita Cima** (Dan Cima's grandmother) mourning the loss of her husband after 65 years; the family and friends of Barbara Sheridan (FCCV member) on her death; Becca, Glory Hockenberry's friend; Joyce Smith; Michele, daughter of Althea Madigan's cousin, for healing, and prayers for her doctors; 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.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Today

in Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service
to hear and act upon the staff configuration as recommended
by Church Council and the 2016 budget extension as discussed
at the January Annual Fiscal Meeting.

++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!

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. **Today is the last day to place your order.**

The J*Walkrz are 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

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, March 14, 11 AM, Library

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, March 14, 7 PM, Library

Ways and Means: Monday, March 14, 7 PM, Chapel

April CARILLON Deadline

Tuesday, March 15

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

BCE: Tuesday, March 15, 7 PM, Library

Furnishings and Memorials: Tuesday, March 15, 7 PM, Chapel

Library Committee: Wednesday, March 16, 1 PM, Library

Finance: Wednesday, March 16, 7:15 PM, Library

Basket Group: Thursday, March 17, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 17, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 17, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 18, 10:30 AM, Library

Bible Study: Friday, March 18, 6:30 PM, Library

Easter Egg Hunt: Next Sunday, March 20. Donations of treats to fill Easter Eggs are needed. Please leave them in the box outside the DCE's office or give them to Debi Hockenberry or Deb Hampton. Thank you!

Wanted - Cheerful Ambassadors for Easter Sunday, March 27:

The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee is looking for volunteers (individuals, couples or families) to greet visitors, members and friends outside the church as they make their way from the parking lots. A few people are also needed inside to greet and help visitors navigate their way to the elevator or stairs. This only requires 40 minutes of your time from 9:20 to 10 AM. Sign up at the Scrip-Your-All table.

Instrumentalists Wanted to accompany the choir and/or to play a solo. Anyone interested should contact Choir Director Leanne Connolly at 860-462-4694 or lconnolly1825@gmail.com.

Scrip-Your-All Help Wanted! Are you looking for a way to be more involved at FCCV? Consider helping out at the Scrip-Your-All table. Volunteers are needed to man the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour from 11 AM-noon (once a month or once a quarter - your choice!). You'll be teamed with an experienced Scrip-Your-All volunteer. If interested, stop by the Scrip-Your-All table or contact Kate Fowler at 860-614-9747 or kfowler64@yahoo.com.

Help Needed! Ten youth, college students and adults are attending the UCC National Youth Event in Florida this summer. This event happens every four years and includes workshops, service projects, a day at Disney and, most importantly, worship with UCC youth from all over our nation and the world! As you can imagine, it's quite expensive – with the plane flight and Conference it costs \$909 per person. We have been fundraising up a storm but **we still need help.** If you'd like to donate "in memory" or in "honor" of someone specific, please let Debi Hockenberry know when you write your check. Your name will be included in the bulletin on Youth Sunday in September when we tell you all about our trip! Thank you!

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!

Pairs and Spares Upcoming Events

Next Sunday, March 20, 2 PM - The Ten Commandments shown on the big screen at Rave Theater, Buckland Hills. Cost - \$8.50. Open to all - pairs, spares, kids, teens, families. If interested in attending, stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour. Remember to use your Rave gift card (available at the Scrip-Your-All table.)

Saturday, April 16, 4:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall - **Paint, Sip, Fun**. Cost - \$30. Paint and create your own work of art. [Sign-up during Coffee Hour or online](#) at paintsipfun.com (click on April 16 and our event).

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.

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.

FCCV Stephen Ministry Website: firstchurchofvernon.org/stephen.html

LENTEN *Schedule*

The **Lenten Series**, led by our seminarian, Barbara Hesse, is based on the movie "Conversations with God." The series concludes on **Friday, March 18** at 6:30 PM in the Library. Dessert and beverages will be served at all sessions and childcare will be available.

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