

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 15, 2015

Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ Mission Sunday

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Taunya Bird

Leader: Deep is God's love;

People: Wide is God's care.

Leader: God's peace echoes through the canyons;

People: God's warmth rests upon the mountaintops.

Leader: God's faithfulness reaches to the heavens;

People: God's mercy is deeper than the ocean.

Leader: How good is our God, whose loving hands have formed us!

People: How great is our God!

***OPENING HYMN #33 "How Great Thou Art"**

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

Reader 1: It's Sunday morning. Last week with all its demands, is over. The coming week, with yet another round of challenges and demands, is not quite here. I invite you to close your eyes and be fully present in this moment. No matter where you are in your thoughts and feelings, I encourage you to set all that aside and consider where you are right now.

Reader 2: Whatever is true for you today – whether it be joy or sadness, gratitude or anxiety – let it come to the front of your mind in this moment. Then listen...for God is present in these moments, too. God meets you where you are and calls you forward, breath by breath, guiding you slowly but surely toward transformation.
(Silent time.)

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain caused by poverty and the lack of basic needs like food, shelter, healthcare and love.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise – that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. 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.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM – Kaelyn Rae Neyers

Congregational Response (*unison*)

We promise our love, support, and care to this child and her family as she grows in faith and faithfulness. With God's help, we promise to guide and encourage her, by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

***BAPTISM HYMN #75 "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"**

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.

ANTHEM "The Wise Man Built His House Upon a Rock"
Sunday School Singers

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-45

MESSAGE

Mr. Pieter Nijssen

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Lord, I Give Myself to You" V. Johnson

***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 #467 "Fill the World with Love"**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**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. 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 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.

We rejoice in the baptism of Kaelyn Rae Neyers, daughter of Breahn and Jason Neyers. Welcome to Kaelyn's sponsors, John and Alycia Mulhern.

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.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Memorial Garden Committee: 11:15 AM, Library

Board of Music: 11:30 AM, PF Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Men's Group: Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, March 17, 11 AM, Library

BCE: Tuesday, March 17, 7 PM, Library

Library Committee: Wednesday, March 18, 1 PM, Library

Finance: Wednesday, March 18, 7:15 PM, Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 19, 6 PM, R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, March 19, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 20, 10:30 AM, Library

Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, March 21, 9:30 AM, Sanctuary

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.

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 mgioriano2@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 (jmontlik@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.