

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 16, 2014

Second Sunday in Lent ~ Mission Sunday

PRELUDE “Cantabile based on ‘St. Patrick’s Breastplate’” Clokey
“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” Wood
“Prelude on ‘Slane’” Martin

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Millie Oliphant

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: On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school—the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else. We come here seeking a shift—from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being.

Reader 2: I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent, a time when God calls to us in a low, urgent voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to go? What is God calling you to do?
(*Silent time.*)

Reader 1: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.
(*A candle is extinguished.*)

Reader 2: Let us pray:

ALL: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. 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

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 “There Is a Redeemer” M. Green
Contemporary Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:34-40
Proverbs 19:17

MESSAGE Josephine Bicknell

***HYMN** #465 “We Are Called to Follow Jesus”

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Because He Lives” Gaither

***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 “The Thirty-Second Psalm” Marcello/Spong

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

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Welcome to our Guest Speaker Josephine Bicknell, Director of Programs for the Dental Association for Dental Outreach.

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!

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Music

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Jan Peacock recovering from surgery; **Julie**, ex-daughter-in-law of Joanne and Andy Myer, suffering from stage 4 cancer; **Nicole Cartier**, Jim and Nancy Wilson's granddaughter; **Bob O'Gara** recovering from emergency eye surgery; **Bonnie Brenner** dealing with a recurrence of cancer; **Heidi**, Linda Dayton's friend; Carol Shea; Marge Salmon; Bobby Kelley, Kathy Bainbridge's brother; Stephen Kasevich; Will and Diane Livermore; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Joyce Smith; Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson; Ben Savage; Lillian Burnett; Debbie Chase; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Rev. Charlie Nichol's granddaughter Devon; Pat Lazeren; Gail Occhialini; Kim Burnham; Alan and Jayne Chesterton; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Claudette Weingart; Jan Peacock; Candy Buswell; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Mike Swan; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs.

New additions in bold print

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Transformers Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, Sanctuary

Memorial Garden: 11:15 AM, Library

Youth Fellowship: 5 PM, Fellowship Hall

TODAY DURING Coffee Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall

The Board of Missions still needs volunteers and donations for **Mission of Mercy**, this year's Church's Wider Mission Project. We will be available during Coffee Hour to answer any questions you may have or to help with registration.

Place your Scrip-Your-All gift card order today for pick up next Sunday. Big Y, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Ninety-Nine Restaurants, Price Chopper, Shop & Shop and Walgreens gift cards are available for purchase today.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Craft Group: Monday, March 17, 5:30 PM, Chapel

Men's Group: Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, March 18, 11 AM, Library

Finance: Tuesday, March 18, 7 PM, Library

Furnishings and Memorials: Tuesday, March 18, 7 PM, Chapel

Library: Wednesday, March 19, 1 PM, Library

S & E: Wednesday, March 19, 7 PM, Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 20, 6 PM at R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, March 20, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 21, 10:30 AM, Library

The Ways and Means Committee will be **selling Southwest Chicken Corn Chowda** during Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 23. This promises to be a tasty soup you will not want to miss. Thank you for supporting Ways and Means as we raise money for the church's general operating budget.

The Victorian Lady: Sunday, March 23, 2 PM in Fellowship Hall sponsored by Women's Fellowship. Kandie Carle will present the wardrobe of the 1860's-era Victorian woman. Enjoy a history lesson on fashion, delivered with a touch of humor. Suggested donation - \$5 per person. Please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

Agape Potluck Dinner: Sunday, March 30, 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for dinner and activities related to Lent. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a main dish; M-S, a salad or veggies; T-Z, a dessert. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Scrip-Your-All Update: Through March 9, participants in this program have helped FCCV earn over **\$2,000!** **Your participation will help add to this amount!** To learn more about Scrip-Your-All, stop by our table during Coffee Hour or visit www.ShopWithScrip.com (enrollment code F2F1CF113843L).

The **Parent Information Meeting for the YSOP Mission Trip** scheduled with Linda Shivers for April 13 has been changed to March 23 at 11:30 AM. If you or your child are planning on participating in this trip, please plan on attending this meeting.

The **Card Ministry** volunteers have been busy sending "Thinking of You," "Get Well," "Coping," "Welcome" and "We Miss You" cards to many of our church family. To help cut costs to the volunteers, donations of these types of greeting cards or blank cards are needed. Cards may be left in the designated basket in Fellowship Hall. Thank you, from the Care Network and the Card Ministry!

Please Note: Girl Scout Troop #10137 is collecting soda can flip tops for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. A donation bucket is located in Fellowship Hall.

The **R. Leslie Childs Scholarship** is a \$500 scholarship awarded each year to an FCCV church member or child of a member to provide assistance with musical training. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. **Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than April 15.**

A **Tag Sale** to benefit the Youth Mission Trips has been scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Donations will only be accepted at the church the week before the sale (April 21-25).

Memorial Garden Committee Members Needed: Have you had an opportunity to walk through FCCV's Memorial Garden? No matter the time of year, it makes for a very spiritual walk. The Committee is always looking for new members to help care for the Garden. We need volunteers who love to get their hands dirty with planting and weeding; people to help families choose a site and then prepare interment sites; someone to handle the paperwork and finances and manual labor for care of the garden. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Chairman Jane Morse.

Please Note: church member, Victoria Madden (pen name Victoria Alexander) has written a book, **The Book of Darkness** (part of the Cora Myers series) available for purchase on Amazon.

2014 LENTEN SEASON

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 11 AM in the Library

Our focus during Lent will be Faith Practices.



Theology on Tap

Thursdays, 6 PM at the R House Restaurant

Our focus during Lent will be Faith Practices.

Agape Dinner

Sunday, March 30, 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall

Potluck Dinner and activities related to Lent. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Palm Sunday

April 13, 10 AM Worship Service

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 17, 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

April 20

Sunrise Service, 6 AM in the Memorial Garden

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

Worship Service, 10 AM

