

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 18, 2012

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING MUSIC

“Near the Cross”

W. Doane

“Trio in Eb”

J. S. Bach

“Offertory”

A. Guilmant

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cynthia Carr

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

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

Genuine forgiveness is participation, reunion overcoming the powers of estrangement. And only because this is so does forgiveness make love possible.

Paul Tillich

PRELUDE

“Lenten Meditation”

Burger

***CALL to WORSHIP**

The Rev. David Minnick

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and evermore.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

People: The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

***OPENING HYMN #275 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”**

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison)

We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross, sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Like Jesus, we would follow faithfully in your way; like Jesus we would live to you and die to you. We are your people; we belong to you. We offer you our worship and our lives. May your name be glorified in your church as we are open to your presence today; through Jesus the Christ. Amen

CONFESSION of SIN

Leader: Gracious God, we have come to see that our lives fall far short of your glory.

People: Have mercy and forgive us.

Leader: You have given your Son for us, and poured out your Spirit, yet we fail to return your love with all our heart.

People: Have mercy and change us.

Leader: Too often we are selfish and proud, ignoring you and neglecting others.

People: Have mercy and cleanse us.

Leader: When we do not truly trust and obey you, we are overwhelmed by self-pity, fear and worry.

People: Have mercy and deliver us.

Leader: In Christ we are given a sure hope and secure love, yet we follow the false hopes and desires of this world.

People: Have mercy and renew us.

Leader: Through the redeeming death of your Son, by your Spirit, and through your word, enable us to follow you with joy.

People: All this we ask, confident of your faithfulness and love. Amen.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)**

***HYMN #90 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”**

A TIME with the CHILDREN

Linda Shivers

The LORD’S PRAYER (unison...”debts”)

(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Lord’s Prayer.)

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

ANTHEM “The Wonderful Cross”

C. Tomlin

Contemporary and Sanctuary Choirs

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING John 3: 14-21

SERMON “Jesus the Man of Nazareth”

Joseph M. Tobin

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

Rodgers/Wyse

***DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)**

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN #439 “God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “In Cruce Gloria”

R. Wilson

**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.

Welcome to our New Members: Charles and Michelle Harlow; Ryan and Lindsay Darcy; Sarah Wojteczko and Jon Piela; Elisabeth Werling and Evan Morel; Kenneth Morgan; Alma Brigham

The flowers on the Communion Table are provided by the Gail Slicer Flower Fund.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Ways & Means Committee

Pay It Forward: Last week, Sophie Becker and her dad, Brad, displayed the food items they purchased and donated to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry. Last week's winner was Dave Kemp. As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, he is often called out of town to help in emergencies locally or across the country. He will share his story with us when he returns.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Transformers Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, Choir Room

Agape Dinner: 5 PM, Fellowship Hall. See insert for more information.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

2012 Church-wide Mission - March Out Hunger: We continue to be blessed by the generosity of our congregation. To date, the Church-wide Mission Project to benefit HVCC has collected 40 snack bags containing 2 healthy snacks and a juice box, \$886, a \$20 gift card and 466 non-perishable items. To reach our goal, we still need \$614 and 1034 non perishable items. **Soup mixes will be sold today.** All proceeds will benefit HVCC. We appreciate all the help we can get in reaching our goal.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts Group: Monday, March 19, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Search Committee: Monday, March 19, 7 PM, Library

Deacons: Monday, March 19, 7 PM, Chapel

Men's Club: Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Prayer Squares: Tuesday, March 20, 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

Finance: Tuesday, March 20, 7 PM, Library

Furnishings & Memorials: Tuesday, March 20, 7 PM, Chapel

Library Committee: Wednesday, March 21, 1 PM, Library

MOTHER/CHILD BANQUET

Wednesday, March 21, 6-8 PM

Enjoy a pasta dinner followed by entertainment provided by the Lutz Museum. The program "Fur, Feathers and Scales" provides children with an opportunity to interact with nature. Please bring a dessert to share.

Sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board.

Human Resources: Wednesday, March 21, 7 PM, Chapel

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 22, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, March 22, 7:30, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, March 23, 10:30 AM, Library

Brass Rehearsal: Friday, March 23, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Music @ First

The Rosewood Chamber Ensemble

Sunday, March 25 at 4 p.m.

Music performed on Baroque, Classical, and Early American flutes with guitar

Golf Committee Meeting: Monday, March 26, 7 PM in the Library

Please Note: New "Visitor Parking" signs have been installed in both church parking lots. As a way of welcoming visitors to our church, we ask that you not park in these spots, but leave them for our Sunday morning visitors. Thank you for your cooperation.

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. The award can be used for music lessons, music education or toward the purchase of a musical instrument. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than May 10, 2012. For more information contact musicatfirstfccv@gmail.com.

It's that time of year again when the Nominating Committee is asking church members to give serious thought as to how and where you can offer your services. Many Boards and Committees have vacancies to be filled for the coming year. Anyone with questions or interest should contact Moderator, Tony Muro.

2012 LENTEN SEASON

Soup and Scripture

Tuesday, March 27, 6-7 PM in the Library, led by Joseph Tobin

Join us for a light meal and scripture.

Agape Dinner

Today, 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall

Dinner and activities related to Lent

Mother/Child Banquet

Wednesday, March 21, 6-8 PM in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Enjoy a pasta dinner followed by "Fur, Feathers and Scales, a program presented by the Lutz Museum that provides children an opportunity to interact with nature.

Music @ First Concert – The Rosewood Chamber Ensemble

Sunday, March 25, 4 PM in the Sanctuary

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1, 10 AM worship service (no Communion)

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 8

Sunrise Service, 6:15 AM in the Memorial Garden

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

Worship Services at 9 AM and 11 AM



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.

Wanted! Knitters and Crocheters: Our supply of finished Prayer Shawls has been depleted. We are looking for people who would be willing to knit or crochet a shawl to help build up our supply. Please join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the Church Library or feel free to make one at home. FCCV Prayer Shawl Ministry questions? Contact Joan Apel, 860-875-7239 or Nancy Parker, 860-872-9069 or quiltblockcreations@yahoo.com.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... Leanne Connolly; Judy Quinn, friend of Tony and Jan Muro, diagnosed with breast cancer; **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 Lentocho and family** (Todd is the East Hartford police officer 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; **Caleb**, son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Donna Peacock**; **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)

CHURCH COVENANT

We believe in God and hold a deep and abiding love for Our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit as it is revealed to us in Scripture and through prayerful discernment.

We are a faith community. As members of this Body of Christ, we

- **proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection and the freedom of new life for all who follow in his ways;**
- **share God's love with others by reaching out to those in need; and**
- **continue to deepen our knowledge and understanding of God's call in our lives.**

With the help of God and this Body of Christ, we covenant to do our best to follow Christ's example and embrace the Great Commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself," and his new Commandment, "Love one another." As we journey together, we promise to care and pray for one another, ever mindful that we are to lift up one another with dignity and Christian love.

We will support this Body of Christ to the best of our ability, through participation in worship, sacraments, work, programs and events, financial commitment, mission and fellowship. We promise to work together to strengthen the ministries of First Congregational Church of Vernon, United Church of Christ, and deepen our commitment as a faith community that is welcoming and accessible to all.