

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

March 22, 2015

Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE “Concerto” Druckmüller
 “The Pleading Voice” Chopin/Rasley
 “Prelude” J. S. Bach

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Peg Leary

Leader: Each day is a gift from God;

People: each moment is that opportunity to reach out in service to all creation.

Leader: Each day is a reminder of the new covenant;

People: not written on stone tablets easily broken, but inscribed on our hearts filled with joy and hope.

Leader: Each day we draw closer to God;

People: who has forgotten more than we ever learn; who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.

***OPENING HYMN #518 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”**

LENTEN WREATH LITURGY

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.

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 “What Wondrous Love Is This” Molly Ijames

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 31:31-34

SERMON

Rev. Robin Bird

***HYMN #214 “Rock of Ages”**

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “His Life for Mine” R. Peck

Duet – Leanne Connolly and Joanne Myer

***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 #99 “O, How I Love Jesus”**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Toccata Sonabile” Smith

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

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

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Music

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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

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

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Today is the last day to order lilies or daffodils that will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter. See a member of the Flower Committee to place your order.

The Ways and Means Committee is selling **chili**.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

J*Walkrz: 3:30 PM, PF Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mind + Spirit Support Group (MSSG): Monday, March 23, 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.

Men's Group: Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, March 24, 11 AM, Library

Trustees: Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 PM, Library

S & E: Wednesday, March 25, 7 PM, Chapel

Theology on Tap: Thursday, March 26, 6 PM, R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, March 26, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, March 27, 10:30 AM, Library

Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, March 28, 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 today.

Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, March 29 following the Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring something to share.

Please Note: Due to Holy Week, **Church Council** will meet on Wednesday, **April 8** at 7 PM, not on April 1 as originally scheduled.

Lasagna Dinner: Saturday, April 11, 5:30 PM, hosted by the Ways and Means Committee.

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 mgiordano2@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.

Scrip-Your-All Update

Your participation has helped FCCV raise just over \$900 for 2015! Gift cards are available for purchase during Coffee Hour, but don't forget about those that you can order or get almost instantly with Scrip Now! (e-cards). Gift card orders placed this week will be available during Coffee Hour next Sunday.

Here's a sample of the cards and earnings for FCCV, available during Coffee Hour:

Amazon	3%
Barnes & Noble	9%
Bed, Bath	7%
Bertucci's	10%
Big Y	6%
CVS	6%
Dairy Queen	3%
Dunkin' Donut	3%
Friday's	9%
Home Depot	4%
iTunes	5%
Kohl's	4%
Long Horn	9%
Lowe's	4%
Macy's	10%

Ninety Nine	13%
Outback	8%
Panera	9%
Papa Gino's	10%
Price Chopper	5%
Rave	4%
Shell	3%
Starbucks	7%
Stop & Shop	4%
Subway	3%
Sunoco	0%
Target	3%
T J Maxx	7%
Walgreens	6%
Walmart	3%

Thank you to all you are participating. We hope others will consider doing so! Visit ShopWithScrip.com (enrollment code **F2F1CF113843L**) or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour for more information.