

We are pleased to welcome our special guest speaker, Robin Bird.

Robin is a recent seminary graduate, a third generation preacher, and a candidate for ordination in the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ. She comes to ordained ministry as a second career, with more than twenty years of experience working in public schools as an elementary school teacher and behavioral specialist.

I Know Why I Believe

(Words & music by Erwin Drake, Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl, Al Stillman)

I believe for every drop of rain that falls
A flower grows.
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night
A candle glows.
I believe for every one who goes astray,
someone will come to show the way.
I believe, I believe.

I believe above the storm the smallest prayer
Will still be heard.
I believe that Someone in the great somewhere
Hears every word.
Every time I hear a newborn baby cry,
Or touch a leaf, or see the sky,
Then I know why I believe.

I believe above the storm the smallest prayer
Will still be heard.
I believe that Someone in the great somewhere
Hears every word.
Every time I hear a newborn baby cry,
Or touch a leaf, or see the sky,
Then I know why I believe.

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!

Deacons assisting with Communion: Phyllis Chase (Deacon-in-charge), Jan Muro, Mary Wheeler, Delythe Kracke, Don Peacock, Larry Bates, Marilyn Newton

Greeters: Deacons Delythe Kracke and Mary Wheeler

Coffee Hour Preparation: Board of Finance

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday School children will meet in Fellowship Hall for the Children's Message before going to their classrooms.

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM, PF Room

Board of Music: 11:45 AM, Library

Peter's Retreat: Youth Fellowship will meet at FCCV today at 3 PM. Pick up at FCCV at 7 PM. We will be prepping and cooking for the residents.

One Great Hour of Sharing: A brochure explaining this special ministry has been included in today's bulletin. If you wish to make a donation please use the envelope provided. Please make checks payable to FCCV with OGHs noted in the memo.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Stop by the **Book Nook** and check out our selections on Earth Day and spring. See what books are available on gardening and being a good steward of God's creation. Please return books to the box in the Library within 2 weeks. The Library is open whenever the church is open.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Ways & Means: Monday, April 8, 7 PM, Library

Men's Club: Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

Deacons: Tuesday, April 9, 7 PM, Library

Prayer Shawl Group: Wednesday, April 10, 1 PM, Library

BCE: Wednesday, April 10, 7 PM, Library

Missions: Wednesday, April 10, 7 PM, Chapel

S & E: Wednesday, April 10, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, April 11, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, April 12, 10:30 AM, Library

Youth Fellowship - Famine: April 13-14. Youth may participate for 24 or 36 hours and must not eat during this time (water only). You will be on the honor system.

Please Note: There will be no Sunday School on April 14 due to Spring Break. On **April 21**, we will celebrate **Earth Day**. All children will meet upstairs with their flowers for a blessing and the Children's Message. We will then meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall to divide work on the church grounds - raking, weeding, planting and cleaning up. Wear play clothes. Bring in rakes, small shovels (last name on them), gardening gloves and a cell pack or more of flowers to plant around the church.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 21
following the Worship Service

Hats, Hats, Hats: Sunday, April 21, 2 PM, sponsored by Women's Fellowship. The hat show will offer a display of designer hats. Tea sandwiches and sweets will be served. Guest speaker, Grace Durgin will discuss how hat styles have changed over the past century. Attendees are encouraged to wear a hat! Prizes will be awarded for the funniest, most creative and favorite hat of the day! This event is open to the public and space is limited, so reservations are required. Please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board. A free will offering will be collected.

Reminder: Applications for the **Les Childs Memorial Scholarship** are due April 10. This scholarship is available to church members who are music students. Application forms may be picked up at the Church Office.

New Members Class, Tuesday, April 23, 7 PM in the Pastor's Study: Anyone interested in attending is asked to drop a note in the offering basket or call the Church Office, 860-875-7580.

Vacation Bible School, June 24-28 at Rockville United Methodist Church, Grove St., Vernon. Family Night will be held at First Congregational Church of Vernon on Thursday, June 27. This year's theme is **"Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together."** Registration forms are available from Linda Shivers, Debi Hockenberry and the Church Office. Interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School? Contact Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com. All volunteers will have to fill out a volunteer form. Background checks, paid for by FCCV, will be done on all those 18 years and older.

Women's Fellowship Retreat: Our Fall Retreat, entitled "Transitions" will be held Friday and Saturday, September 27-28 at the CONNRI Camp in Ashford, CT. We will carpool and leave the church on Friday around 4 PM and return home on Saturday by about 4 PM. The cost is \$113 and includes double occupancy lodging with private bathrooms, dinner Friday night and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Payment will be collected in two installments of \$56.50 on June 1 and September 1. The cost is based on at least 25 attendees. If you would like to be a part of this fun getaway, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.

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** located downstairs in the Kellogg wing is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old**.

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.

Reminder: FCCV has been video recording its complete Sunday services since 2004. These worship services, edited to 58 minutes, 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. Check your local listings or go to www.CVCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Want to Meet New People? Volunteer to Serve! Whether it's welcoming others at the door before the Worship Service or providing a baked good or snack, making coffee or setting up and cleaning up after Coffee Hour, volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All help is welcome.

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 (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com) or Jon Dunlap (875-7254).

Please Wear Your Name Tag! Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

In Our Ongoing Prayers...

Jim Anderson, friend of Bob Shoemaker; Lois Montlick; Janet Boucher, diagnosed with breast cancer; Marine Corps Lance Corporal Steven Carr and his wife, Angel Hockenberry Carr – he has deployed to the Middle East; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert; Libby Ann Parker; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Will Livermore; Dick Saich; Mike Kermode; Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ann Garrison; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Paul and Susan Shimer; Candy Buswell; Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; Horst Pohlmann; John Mayhew; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Donald Chase

New additions in bold print