

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

~ Third Sunday of Easter ~

April 10, 2016

WELCOME!

We're 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.

PRELUDE "Sonata" Haydn
"Romanza" Wieniawski
"When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" Black/Livingston

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey...

People: You are welcome here, at First Congregational Church of Vernon, United Church of Christ!

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP** (~ Katherine Hawker) Bob Warner

Leader: Once upon a time a wise man offered a challenge; "What is the greatest commandment?" The calendars on our desks share a vision of greatness; bills to pay, phone calls to return, appointments to keep.
Love the Lord your God.

People: The cameras of our memories share what commands us; children to bathe and partners to help, parents calling and grandchildren hopeful.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

Leader: Still, the Spirit lures us to new priorities; open spaces to experience wonder, strangers becoming friends, devotion to that which transcends. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
And, Love your neighbor as yourself.

***OPENING HYMN** #494 "They'll Know We Are Christians"

DECOMMISSIONING of FIELD PLACEMENT STUDENT, Barbara Hesse
(see insert)

TIME with the CHILDREN

The LORD'S PRAYER (*unison, "debts"*)

***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.

LITTLE BELLS

SCRIPTURES Old Testament: Ruth 1:1-19 (*p. 241*)
New Testament: Mark 12:28-34 (*p. 49*)

SERMON "Whatever Happened to Orpah?" Rev. Dr. Thomas Clough

***HYMN** #295 "In This Very Room"

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Be Still" D. Evans

***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** (*unison*)

Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people. Grant that this offering given in thanksgiving for all the blessings you have given us will fill empty hearts with love and will proclaim your honor and glory in the name of Christ Jesus to all people. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #434 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Broughton

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
~ based on Luke 4:18-19

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

We welcome The Rev. Dr. Tom Clough, our Eastern Regional Conference Minister of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, to FCCV's pulpit today! Rev. Clough will offer a Q & A in Fellowship Hall following worship. Do you have any questions about the work of the Conference?

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

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Sharon Dombek dealing with bladder cancer; sisters, **Tina** and **Maria**, friends of the Muros, having serious medical issues; Donna Burgess, family and friends on the death of her husband, Frederick; Ryan Meneses; Joyce Smith; John Arthur (Sue DeProspero's father); Becca; Michele, daughter of Althea Madigan's cousin; Brian, 11 years old, fighting cancer; Meg (Bill and Holly Boutwell's sister/sister-in-law); the homeless; the hungry; Linda Rentler; gun reform; acceptance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Terri Karr; Daniel Burnett-Pollack; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Gilmay Markunas and family; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness, and their families; the people of Syria, Belgium & Pakistan; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Michael Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle

New additions in bold print

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

++In an effort to keep the Sabbath holy, we would like to refrain from talking with church leaders about church business before or after worship. If you need to speak with someone, please contact them late in the day or in the coming week.++

If you would like to become a member of FCCV, please speak with Rev. Robin, Rev. Suz or one of our Deacons. We'd like to schedule a New Member Class soon, as well as a New Member Sunday in which we receive new members!

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Q & A with Rev. Tom Clough, Conference Regional Minister: 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Junior Choir: 11:30 AM, PF Room

Golf Committee: 11:30 AM, Library

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, April 11, 11 AM, Library

Mind & Spirit Support Group: Monday, April 11, 7 PM, Library

Ways & Means: Monday, April 11, 7 PM, Chapel

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Prayer Shawl: Tuesday, April 12, 1 PM, Library

Deacons: Tuesday, April 12, 7 PM, Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, April 14, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, April 14, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, April 15, 10:30 AM, Library

Ham Dinner: Friday, April 15, 5-7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Adults - \$10, children less

Pairs and Spares: Saturday, April 16, 4:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. **Paint, Sip, Fun.** Cost - \$30. Sign-up online at paintsipfun.com (click on April 16 and our event). Bring your friends. This event is being extended to older children accompanied by an adult (each can sign up or share a painting).

Stephen Ministries Presentation: Sunday, April 17 at 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall. For more information, go to firstchurchofvernon.org/stephen.html.

The youth are having a **Tag Sale** on April 23. Donations may be dropped off the week of the 23rd. Please keep us in mind while doing your spring cleaning!

Holiday Fair: We are making crafts items and meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. We can also plan some evening or Saturday meetings. Let us know if you'd prefer those times. All are welcome. We are in need of large glass container/jars and old conventional light bulbs.

Help Needed! Ten youth, college students and adults are attending the UCC National Youth Event in Florida this summer. The trip is quite expensive – \$909 per person for plane flight and Conference. We have been fundraising but **we still need help.** If you'd like to donate, please contact Debi Hockenberry.

Instrumentalists Wanted to accompany the choir and/or to play a solo. Summer singers and players for special music are also needed. Contact Choir Director Leanne Connolly at 860-462-4694 or lconnolly1825@gmail.com.

Applications for the **R. Leslie Childs Memorial Scholarship must be submitted** to the Board of Music **no later than April 15.**

FCCV Fun-Filled Festival, Sunday, May 22, 2 PM, Fellowship Hall: A fundraiser for the Les Childs Scholarship, sponsored by the Board of Music. Enjoy snacks while enjoying the talent of our FCCV family. Anyone (all ages), including their talented pets, is invited to participate. Contact Leanne Connolly at 860-462-4694 or lconnolly1825@gmail.com.

Evening Circle is **collecting items for a Center Road family.** Now that winter is behind us, we are requesting more spring-like items. Suggestions are...books, games, art projects, in addition to household items.

Take a Vet Fishing is a day for vets starting with coffee and bagels, all fishing equipment and bait provided. Lunch is served and usually consists of a barbecue. Mentors are provided for vets who need assistance that day. No cost for veterans to participate but food, poles, bait and chairs are needed. If you can help sponsor this program or are a vet who would like to be taken fishing, please call Coordinator Jeff Arnson, 860-331-3131.

Please Note: To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.