

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

~ Fourth Sunday of Easter ~

Mission Sunday

April 17, 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** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Smith  
"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Scholtes/Smith  
"I Love to Tell the Story" Fischer/Rogers

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** Emily Westerberg

**WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** Tony Muro

Leader: Our lives are blessed and we have so much to be thankful for.

**People:** But we know there are so many in the world, especially children, who are not as fortunate as we are.

Leader: They need help.

**People:** We know this, but what can we do?

Leader: We can open our hearts and minds to the opportunities that come our way.

**All:** Lord, let us be aware of all the ways we can help the children of the world.

**\*OPENING HYMN** #132 "When God Is a Child"

**PRAYER of INVOCATION** (*unison*)

God, we praise you for the love and mercy you have shown toward us. Teach us to show love and mercy to others. You call us to serve you. Open our hearts to see the needs in our world, and to respond with your love. May we be living examples of your love in our world, treating one another with compassion and respect, and with love and integrity. Thank you for your presence among us. 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** Taunya Bird

**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.*

*(All children are invited downstairs for Sunday School.)*

**JUNIOR CHOIR** "Share the Easter Joy" M. Patterson

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 18:10 (*p. 18*)  
Isaiah 58:6-10; 61:1-3 (*p. 650, 653*)

**SERMON** "Broken but Beautiful" Valerie Ellis

**SONG with VIDEO** "Beautiful"

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS** Cathy Foote

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING** Monica Becker

**OFFERTORY** "Be My Hands and Feet" T. Alonso

**\*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** #464 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Share His Love with All the World" Watkins

*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.**

**Offering Ushers:** Emily Westerberg, Susan Moreau, Taunya Bird, Tony Muro

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

### **In Our Ongoing Prayers**

Sharon Dombek dealing with bladder cancer; Tina and Marisa, friends of Jan and Tony Muro, having serious medical issues; Donna Burgess, family and friends on the death of her husband, Frederick; Ryan Meneses; Joyce Smith; John Arthur (Susan 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; 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**

**Junior Choir:** 11:30 AM, PF Room

**Memorial Garden:** 11:30 AM, Library

**Stephen Ministries Presentation:** 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

**J\*Walkrz:** 3:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

### **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Please Note:** Rev. Suzanne is on vacation through this Friday, April 22.

**Men's Breakfast Group:** Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**BCE:** Tuesday, April 19, 7 PM, Library

**Furnishings & Memorials:** Tuesday, April 19, 7 PM, Chapel

**Library Committee:** Wednesday, April 20, 1 PM, Library

**Finance:** Wednesday, April 20, 7:15 PM, Library

**Basket Group:** Thursday, April 21, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

**Craft Group:** Thursday, April 21, 12:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. We are making crafts items for the Holiday Fair and meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the

month. 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 donations of large glass container/jars and old conventional light bulbs.

**Theology on Tap:** Thursday, April 21, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

**Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, April 21, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, April 22, 10:30 AM, Library

**Tag Sale:** Saturday, April 23. Donations may be dropped off this week.

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, April 24, 2016**

***immediately following the 10 AM Worship Service***

for the members of the congregation to hear and act upon  
the Call for our new Senior Pastor  
as recommended by the Search Committee.

**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. Anyone interested should contact Choir Director Leanne Connolly at 860-462-4694 or lconnolly1825@gmail.com.

**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 light snacks while our FCCV family and friends present their talents for us to enjoy. Everyone (all ages), including their talented pets, is invited to share their talents. If you wish to participate or have any questions, please contact Leanne at lconnolly1825@gmail.com or 860-462-4694.

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** 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 go fishing, please call Coordinator Jeff Arnson, 860-331-3131.

**Be My Hands and Feet**

Touch that soothes and heals the hurting,  
Hands that break a loaf of bread;  
Steps that walk beside the weary,  
Bearing burdens in their stead:

Refrain:

See my hands and feet, said Jesus,  
Love arisen from the grave.  
Be my hands and feet, said Jesus,  
Live as ones I died to save.

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked,  
Visit ones in need of care,  
Give the homeless warmth and shelter:  
Christ will find a welcome there.

Refrain

Love and serve without distinction  
All earth's people, first and least.  
Know within each act of kindness  
Hope and wholeness are increased.

Refrain

Alleluias

Hands that beckon little children,  
Bind a wound, prepare a meal,  
Feet that rush to share good tidings,  
Christ arisen, still reveal.

Refrain