

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

**April 21, 2013**

**GATHERING MUSIC** “Prelude” Mendelssohn  
“Children of the Heavenly Father”  
arr. Hughes/Broughton  
“Sonata” Kuhlau

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ACOLYTES**

**PRELUDE** “Invention XIII” Dupré  
\***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Shirley Bryant

Leader: God keeps creating a world of ways to show us God’s love:

**People:** **Towering trees to stretch our eyes toward the heavens,**

Leader: Tender tulips to remind us of the beauty within,

**People:** **Whispering waters to echo the never-ending sound of grace.**

Leader: God is still creating,

**People:** **And forever re-creating,**

Leader: Life and love, beauty and grace.

**People:** **This is why we sing our hymns of grateful praise.**

\***OPENING HYMN** #56 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

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

**God of the vast universe and the tiniest creature, we marvel at your love. It lifts our spirits; it calms our anxious moments; it delights our senses. We rejoice in your creation. Meet us in our praise. In the name of Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE READING** from Psalm 8

Leader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**People:** **What are human beings that you are mindful of them, and mortal that you care for them?**

Leader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

**People:** **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands.**

\***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.**

**SACRAMENT of BAPTISM** – Taylor Cariboni  
Congregational Response (*unison*)

**We promise our love, support, and care to this child and her family as she grows in faith and faithfulness. With God’s help, we promise to guide and encourage her, by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ.**

\***BAPTISM HYMN** #75 “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

**TIME with the CHILDREN**

**The LORD’S PRAYER** (*unison*)

**Our Father, which 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** “For the Beauty of the Earth” Rutter

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 24: 1-2  
Genesis 1: 31  
1 Peter 1: 23-2: 5

**SERMON** Rev. Meg Watson

**COMMISSIONING of SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Congregational Response (*unison*)

**We vow to be partners with you in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ and commission you with joy and hope to the task to which you have been called. We promise to love you, support you, honor your contribution to the church and pray for your success. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you and equip you with every good thing as you seek to do God’s will in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Creation” Haydn

\***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*)

**Oh God of miracles, thank you for helping us help others. You are there when we have to make decisions about our ministries. We pray that you will continue to guide us to make this church a place of welcome, compassion and love for all people. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

\***CLOSING HYMN** #61 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “March in D” Mendelssohn

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

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

**We rejoice in the baptism of** Taylor Cariboni, daughter of Krysta and Raul Cariboni.

## 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!

**The flowers on the Communion Table** are given by Paul and Susan Shimer in honor of the marriage of their son, Gregory Alan Shimer and Tracey Gamer Fanning on Saturday, April 20 – a very joyous family event!

**Deacons assisting with the Baptism:** Pam Lyons and John MacDougall

**Greeters and Coffee Hour Preparation:** Board of Finance

### In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

The **people of Boston and West, Texas;** the **Search Committee;** Margaret Klukas' sister, **Roberta,** diagnosed with cancer; Steve Bright, diagnosed with cancer; Rachel Meneses, cousin of the Hockenberrys, diagnosed with cancer; 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 Kermod; 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*

## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*following the Worship Service*

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

**Memorial Garden Committee:** 11:15 AM, Library

**Hats, Hats, Hats:** Today at 2 PM, sponsored by Women's Fellowship 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.

**Youth Fellowship:** Today from 5-6:30 PM for conversation, a Bible lesson, snacks and games.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Bylaws Committee:** Monday, April 22, 7 PM, Library

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

**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.

**Search Committee:** Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 PM, Chapel

**Trustees:** Wednesday, April 24, 7 PM, Library

**Sanctuary Choir:** Thursday, April 25, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, April 26, 10:30 AM, Library

**Contemporary Choir Rehearsal:** Saturday, April 27, 5 PM, Sanctuary

**Confirmation Class:** Sunday, April 28, 11:30 AM-1 PM, Library

### **Music at First Concert: April in Paris - French Music Across the Centuries**

Sunday, April 28, 4 PM in the Sanctuary. Oboist Stephen Wade and flutist Barbara Hopkins of the Hartford Symphony orchestra join pianist and organist Kevin Murphy for a variety of great works. Proceeds from the concert support the Les Childs Music Scholarship. Suggested donation: \$7 adults/\$5 seniors and students.

### ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

All Boards and Committees are asked to submit their reports to the Church Office no later than **Monday, May 6.**

**Can and Bottle Fundraiser:** June 1, sponsored by the Youth Mission Group Please drop donations off at the FCCV parking lot (Center Road side) between 9:30 AM-12 noon that day. Proceeds will help pay for our summer mission trip.

**Vacation Bible School, June 24-28** at Rockville United Methodist Church, Grove St., Vernon. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the hallway near the Library or from Linda Shivers, Debi Hockenberry or the Church Office. Interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School? Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com.

**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.

# **FCCV Golf Tournament**

at Willowbrook Golf Course in South Windsor

**Saturday, June 1**

## **Golf as a Spectator Sport? NOT!**

Golf as a spectator sport is pretty dull  
unless you are watching Tiger Woods and other golf phenoms.

**Golf is a sport for players...Not just the best players...  
All players!**

Please consider playing with us at the FCCV Golf Tournament.  
We'll have more fun if you do.

**Place an AD in our Golf Program.**

*Contact Paul Shimer or Harmon Howe to place your AD today!*

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## **Raffle Prizes Needed for FCCV Golf Tournament**

The success of our church's annual golf tournament is an integral part of our 2013 operating budget, as well as being a fun day for all who participate. We are counting on the support of church members, friends and the community at large to make this event a huge success. One way to assist is to donate a raffle prize. Ideas include: gift cards/certificates to local restaurants or businesses, gift baskets, tickets to athletic events, a weekend get-away, golf-related items, etc. We are also looking for a few "show stopper" items such as a handmade quilt or a week's vacation at a golfing location.

You can help by...

- Donating a prize
- Arranging for your business to donate a prize
- Soliciting a business you frequent to donate a prize

If you have any questions or wish to donate, please contact Holly Boutwell at 872-6359 (evenings) or [hollyboutwell@comcast.net](mailto:hollyboutwell@comcast.net).

Many thanks!