

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

~ Fifth Sunday of Easter ~

Candidate Sunday

April 24, 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.

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|----------------|---------------------------|---------|
| PRELUDE | "Les collines d'Anacapri" | Debussy |
| | "Sixth Organ Concerto" | Handel |
| | "Voices of Spring" | Strauss |

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAY IT FORWARD

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP** Jim Montlick

Leader: Children of God, do you love the God who called the worlds into being?

People: Yes, you know that we do.

Leader: Then feed God's children.

Leader: Do you love the God who was revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ?

People: Yes, you know that we do.

Leader: Then take care of God's children.

Leader: Do you love the God who breathes new life into us even as we gather this day?

People: Yes, you know that we do.

Leader: Then feed God's children.

***OPENING HYMN #91** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

PRAYER of INVOCATION

We are your Easter people, Holy One. Doubters, saints, sinners, questioners, spiritual and religious, who skip, run, and stumble on the journey. We pray that whoever we are this journey, that you might open our ears and eyes to your call, to be your love, where ever we are. In the name of Christ we pray, 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.

(All children are invited downstairs for Sunday School.)

ANTHEM "Lord, I Give Myself to You" V. Johnston

SCRIPTURE John 21:15-17 (*p. 108*)

SERMON Rev. Robin Bird

***HYMN #349** "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "In Christ Alone" Getty/Townend

***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*)

Generous God, in grace you freely give and in love you command us to "feed your sheep". Let these gifts bear witness to the justice for which you long and offer a faithful response to the loving care that you have first given us. Receive them and bless them, in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #352** "Spirit Song"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Majestic Postlude" Parker

*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.**

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 (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

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Today

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.

Junior Choir: 11:30 AM, PF Room

Audit Committee: 11:30 AM, Library

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Blanket Sunday, Mother's Day, May 8: Purchase a blanket "in honor" or "in memory" of a special woman in your life. Just \$5 will purchase a sturdy, wool blanket through Church World Services. These blankets are used in the United States and abroad in times of need and disaster.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, April 25, 7 PM, Library

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, April 26, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Ladies Lunch: Tuesday, April 26, noon at Mitchell's Restaurant

Trustees: Wednesday, April 27, 6:30 PM, Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, April 28, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, April 28, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, April 29, 10:30 AM, Library

Compassion Experience: Friday, April 30-Monday, May 2

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 Arnsen, 860-331-3131.

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

First Congregational Church
of Vernon
United Church of Christ

April 24, 2016

