

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

April 28, 2013

GATHERING MUSIC

“Andante molto”

Grieg

“Allegretto”

Mendelssohn

“Trumpet Tune and Air”

Purcell

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Mansfield

INTROIT - TRANSFORMERS

“I Am the Light of the World”

Phelps

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

Jim Wilson

Leader: God is holy and transcendent,

People: Yet, God is among us.

Leader: God is unknowable, incomprehensible,

People: Yet, God desires to be known.

Leader: Where God is, anything is possible.

People: God is here!

***OPENING HYMN** #280 “God Is Here”

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

You have gathered us here, O God, and we belong to you. You created us, you called us by name and you have claimed us as your own. You have drawn us into your presence, filled us with your holy love, and surrounded us with others whom you adore. Come into our hearts and make your presence known in us, for we are your people, open to you, and ready to do your will. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Covenant of Membership

Leader: As members of the First Congregational Church of Vernon, we share in this covenant:

People: We believe in God, we hold a deep and abiding love for Jesus Christ, and we are willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit as revealed to us in Scripture and through prayerful discernment.

Leader: We are a faith community, part of the body of Christ,

People: Proclaiming the good news of Christ’s resurrection and the freedom of new life for all who follow his ways, sharing God’s love with others by reaching out to those in need, and continuing to deepen our knowledge and understanding of God’s call in our lives.

Leader: With the help of God and the support of this body of Christ,

People: We covenant to do our best to follow Christ’s example and embrace the great commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself,” and his new commandment, “Love one another.”

Leader: As we journey together,

People: We promise to support and pray for one another, ever mindful that we are to lift up one another with dignity and Christian love.

Leader: We will support this Body of Christ to the best of our ability,

People: By participating in worship and sacraments, through our work and financial support, and in mission and fellowship, in order to strengthen its ministries and deepen our commitment as a faith community that is welcoming and accessible to all.

***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, 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 – CONTEMPORARY CHOIR “Indescribable” L. Story

SCRIPTURE Romans 12: 1-18

SERMON

Rev. Meg Watson

***HYMN** #490 “Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant”

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

Congregational Response

We welcome you with joy into the life of this church. We promise our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Blessings”

L. Story

***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*)

Dear Lord, we thank you for our house of worship. We thank you for all the volunteers who give of their time and money to help others. We are so blessed, Holy Father. Please continue to guide us in the use of our gifts and our volunteering to make this world a better place to live. In Jesus name we pray to you, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #494 “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in F”

Guilmant

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

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

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!

Welcome to our New Members: Dan and Karen Bradford, Deborah Hampton, Gary Hart, Adam and Jennifer Jensen, Dean and Meg Watson

Transformers: Nicholas Giordano, Ava Kristoff, Jack Longo, Avery Prewo, Arielle Shivers, Mariah Shivers, Tommy Shivers, Sarah Turner, Lillian Westerberg, Paul Westerberg

The flowers on the Communion Table are given in celebration of Maddy's 11th birthday from Jen and Tim Condry.

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 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 DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Munson Candy Sale: Money earned will go toward the Youth Fellowship Mission Trips.

Blanket Sunday, Mother's Day, May 12: 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. **Place your order during Coffee Hour today or next Sunday, May 5.**

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM, Library. **Reminder:** All assignments must be completed and turned in by May 5. **Sponsors:** Your Confirmand's bio and words of faith and wisdom must be turned in by May 5.

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

Today, 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.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

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

Council: Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro by today.

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, May 2, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, May 3, 10:30 AM, Library

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

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

Flower Sale, Saturday, May 11, 9 AM-1 PM: Just in time for Mother's Day. The Ways and Means Committee will be selling flower baskets and plants in the church parking lot. Pick out some flowers for a loved one or add a splash of color to your home. Any questions? Call Michelle Bower @ 872-7274 or ask any member of Ways and Means.

Women's Fellowship Scholarship: This \$500 scholarship is available to any church member who is continuing their education. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Deadline for applying is May 31.

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.

We Need Your Help! We no longer have a need for the Baldwin organ located in the Chapel. Anyone who would like to have it should contact Sally Sullivan, 860-871-1473, or any member of the Furnishings and Memorials Committee. Savers in Manchester will accept it but we need a volunteer to drive it there. We are looking to remove it ASAP.

SUMMER YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

What is your 10 year old, middle schooler or high schooler doing this summer? This year we have two opportunities for our youth to get out into the community, letting everyone know that they put their faith into action. Contact Linda Shivers for more information.

We have formed a **Youth Mission Corporation** (Presidents - Marissa Fujimoto, Ryan Fujimoto, Christa Hockenberry) - **“God’s Love Incorporated”**

Our Motto: “FCCV Youth Spreading ‘Sonshine’”

Our Purpose: To nurture, within ourselves, the kind of faith that shapes one’s being, thinking and acting as Christians.

Our Goal: To build character, foster inner strength, and put our faith into action.

Our Company has 2 divisions: Division A - Week of Hope
Division B - Hands on Hartford

Please support our Youth with the following fundraisers.

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.

Stockholders Fundraiser during Coffee Hour starting today

All stock sold will support Divisions A and B of our Youth Company. Come visit our “Corporation Company” table and learn what your stock purchase gets you. Dividends will be high as you learn who was helped, how many and how this affected our youth.

Munson Candy Sale during Coffee Hour

MISSIONS

The HVCC Food Pantry is in **URGENT** need of canned fruit and canned pasta (ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti and meatballs). Can you help us?

The HVCC Pantry is always in need of the following:

Non-perishable food items, such as peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, pasta and sauce, cereal, boxed macaroni and cheese, canned spaghetti or ravioli, canned or dry soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, beverages, including juice boxes, bottled juice and dry or powdered milk. Also needed are household items and toiletries such as toilet paper, paper towels, plastic wrap, soap, toothpaste and shampoo. Donations should be in cans, boxes, plastic containers or other sealed packages. We also ask that you check the expiration date of your donations. We cannot accept any items past their expiration date.

Donations of non-perishable items may be dropped off in the Mission boxes in the Breezeway.

There is no tag sale this year, so please donate any other items to a local goodwill.

Thank you for all your support.

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!

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.

Many thanks!