

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

April 29, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” arr. D. Wood
“Sweet Hour of Prayer” arr. F. Ritter

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “O Perfect Love” arr. J. Barnby

WORDS of REFLECTION

“All great revolutions in a person’s life are made in thought. When a change takes place in someone’s thought, action follows the direction of the thought as a ship follows the direction of a rudder.” Leo Tolstoy

*CALL to WORSHIP Jim Wilson

Leader: In the presence of God, we gather:

People: people burdened and looking for comfort; folks whose spirits need a makeover.

Leader: Like little children, we surround God:

People: hoping for that touch which will refresh us; longing to be embraced in arms of love.

Leader: We look, and find the mysteries of God all around us:

People: blossoming flowers, emerging leaves, rich soil turned over waiting for seeds to bring us new life.

*OPENING HYMN #16 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

PRAYER of INVOCATION *(unison)*

On the lonely paths through life, you are smoothing the way for us. In the barren soil where we till our souls, you are nurturing us with love. Wherever we are, we find you, Crafter of Creation. Bless us anew in this season of new life. Open our hearts to the wonder of your love and presence in our world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 23 p. 734

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

HISTORICAL MOMENT – A TIME with the CHILDREN Joan Apel

The LORD’S PRAYER *(unison...“debts”)*

ANTHEM “The Church at Vernon” M. Kachuba

Steve Westerberg, solo
Transformers and Sanctuary Choir

(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Anthem.)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS – Debbie Marshall and family on the loss of her mother, Dayle Marshall

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

*HYMN #78 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “I Love to Tell the Story” W. Fischer

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #709 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Allegro” J. Stanley

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

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a first time visitor, please take a moment after the worship service and sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table. There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

“**Three Minutes of History**” – Today Joan Apel speaks to the children about the great Hurricane of 1938 when wind blew the steeple right off the church and the roof was ruined. The music is a song written by a Connecticut troubadour, Mike Kachuba, when he worked with students at Northeast School on a history project. Steve Westerberg will be singing with help from the Transformers and the Sanctuary Choir. The DVD that was produced by the students will be playing during Coffee Hour. Mike will visit our church later this year for a family event sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee with the help of other Boards/Committees.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given in celebration of Maddy’s 10th birthday by Tim and Jen Condry.

Transformers: Taylor Boucher, Jason Doty, Justin Doty, Nicholas Giordano, Heather Morgan Russell, Arielle Shivers, Mariah Shivers, Lillian Westerberg
Director: Leanne Connolly

Pay It Forward: Last week, Ron Burr shared with us his gift to the Strong Family Farm Foundation, an agricultural education center where individuals or groups can experience an authentic, historic family farm environment. This week we feature Nancy Bright. The blessings of those who have benefited because of you are on display in Fellowship Hall. Take a moment to reflect during Coffee Hour.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Women’s Fellowship and the Ushering Committee

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Blanket Sunday, Mother’s Day, May 9: 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. **Use the order form included in today’s bulletin or order during Coffee Hour today or next Sunday, May 6. Deadline for ordering is May 6.**

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Communications Committee: 11:30 AM, Library

Confirmation Retreat: 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts Group: Monday, April 30, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Men's Club: Tuesday, May 1, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, May 2, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than today.

Bell Choir: Thursday, May 3, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, May 3, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, May 4, 10:30 AM, Library

Anniversary Committee: Friday, May 4, 2 PM, Library

Teacher/Shepherd/Youth Advisor Appreciation Breakfast, May 6: This breakfast provides us an opportunity to thank those who have worked with our children and youth throughout the year. Breakfast items are needed. Sign up in Fellowship Hall today. Questions? Contact Debbie Bartos at ctdebbie@sbcglobal.net.

Giv2 (youth in 6th-12th grade): May 6 from 1-4 PM at FCCV. We'll be doing yard work. Bring work gloves, rakes, flowers, etc.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

All those responsible for providing a report for the **Annual Organizational Meeting** on June 3 should submit them to the Church Office no later than **Friday, May 11**

Will You Serve? The Nominating Committee invites members of First Congregational Church of Vernon to give serious thought as to how and where you can offer your services. The following positions still need to be filled: Board of Deacons – 1 woman, 1 man; Board of Music – 2 members; Ways & Means Committee – 2 members. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Tony Muro at 872-1757 or tonymuro@sbcglobal.net.

The **R. Leslie Childs Scholarship** is a \$500 scholarship awarded each year to an FCCV church member or child of a member to provide assistance with musical training. The award can be used for music lessons, music education or toward the purchase of a musical instrument. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Board of Music no later than May 10, 2012. For more information contact musicatfirstfccv@gmail.com.

Wanted! Knitters and Crocheters: We are looking for people who would be willing to knit or crochet a shawl to help build up our supply. Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the Library or feel free to make one at home. Questions? Contact Joan Apel, 860-875-7239 or Nancy Parker, 860-872-9069 or quiltblockcreations@yahoo.com.

Evening Circle: Monday, May 7, 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. We are holding an "Awful, Awful Auction." For those who have not attended before, you bring an item (in good condition) that you do not want and we auction it off. If you place the winning bid, you pay for it with play money that is given to you prior to the auction, plus you can earn more. Come, join us for a FUN evening. Call Pat Lazeren, 860-644-0475, if you have any questions and to let us know you are coming so we can plan for refreshments.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com). **Volunteers Needed!** The Care Network is looking for volunteers to help with driving. We have had requests for rides to church as well as doctors' appointments. We know that volunteers are not always available when needed, so we need to add more names to our list of drivers. If interested, please contact Jan or Margaret or find us on Sundays at Coffee Hour.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. A staffed **Toddler Room for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

Please Wear Your Name Tag! Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... the firstborn son of Anna and John

Henderson (first grandchild of Richard Bryant's nephew); **Stephen Volovski** at Foxhill with a broken knee; **Jim White**, Linda Shivers' father; **Ann Garrison**; **Corey Glidden**, son of Debbie Marshall; **Hudson Prewo**, son of Erin and Christopher Prewo and grandson of Karen and Karl Prewo; **Ray Turner**, father-in-law of Cheryl Turner recovering from a stroke; **Leanne Connolly**; **Judy Quinn**, friend of Tony and Jan Muro, diagnosed with breast cancer; the **Boutwell family**; **Martha Fowler** dealing with cancer; **Michael Bebrin**; the **leaders, members and friends of Somers Congregational Church**; **Todd Lentocha and family** (Todd is the East Hartford police officer injured in an auto accident); **Ellie Cantlin** (Mary Wheeler's sister-in-law) dealing with stomach cancer; **FCCV Search Committee**; **Mike Swan** dealing with a reoccurrence of cancer; **Caleb**, son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Donna Peacock**; **Kyle**, son of Rob Czaplicki (friend of Rob Horton); **Joyce Smith**; **Thelma Gifford**; **Kaylin Gifford**; **Rick Gagnon**, brother-in-law of Michelle Bower (cancer); **Warren Clay**; **Gary Edwards**, friend of Serena Volovski; **Cooper Doyle**, Al and Marilyn Newton's grandson; **Paul and Susan Shimer**; **Candy Buswell** (heart); **Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger**; **Horst Pohlmann**, friend of the Gerakaris'; **John Mayhew**; **John Kaminski**, Susan Moreau's father; **Bess Howe**; **Jane Morse**; **Melissa Morse**; **Charlotte Driggs**; **Aaron Huneger**; **Donald Chase**; **Audrey Clay** (breast cancer)

The Church at Vernon

M. Kachuba © 2003

“The speaker pauses here to state
That in his humble way,
He helped to raise the meetinghouse
Which Vernon has today.
He helped by sipping at the punch
Which flowed in large supplies.
By tossing pins for men to catch
And eating of the pies.”

Thus Reverend Tarbox spoke on that
Great celebration day.
In verse and rhyme he spoke to all
Of people’s work and play.
The history of this great church
Reflects that of this town.
Just as in life, throughout the years
You rise up when knocked down.

The First Church stood with steeple high
Proudly for all to see.
One hundred years and then nine more
But then, a tragedy.
The hurricane of thirty-eight
Wrecked havoc through the town.
The wind it brought hit with such force
It blew the steeple down.

But later in memoriam
Of Luther and Sara Ford,
Their children paid to resurrect
This symbol to their Lord.
It stood again, this noble church,
‘til nineteen sixty-five.
When a raging fire brought it down
But its spirit never died.

No, it rose again and stands today
A testament to all.
Of how the Vernon citizens
Can rise up when they fall.
And just as Reverend Tarbox said,
So in their humble way,
They helped to raise the meetinghouse
Which Vernon has today. (repeat)

Blanket Sunday, Mother’s Day, May 9

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. **Use the order form below or order during Coffee Hour today or next Sunday, May 6.**



Deadline for ordering is May 6.

BLANKET ORDER FORM

I wish to donate \$5 for a blanket:

In honor of _____

In memory of

Name

Phone _____

Please make your check payable to WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP and mail to:

Daryl Gottier
15 Kenneth Drive
Vernon, CT 06066

Questions? Call Daryl, 860-871-8594.

Save The Date!

FCCV Golf Event Saturday, June 2

Willow Brook Golf Course in South Windsor

Be a player: \$80 per person if you register by June 1
\$95 per person after June 1

Donate an item for raffle, silent auction or live auction

Be a sponsor:

Hole Sponsors	\$50
Contest Sponsors	\$100
Greens Flags Sponsors	\$150
Lunch Sponsors	\$200 and up
Advertising	\$25

Spread the word. Plan to attend. Tell a friend.

**For information on sponsorship opportunities
contact Paul Shimer and Harmon Howe.**

Visit with us during Coffee Hour and try out your putting skills.

RAFFLE PRIZES Needed!

The success of our Golf Event is an integral part of our 2012 operating budget, not to mention that it is certain to be a fun day for all! We count on the support of church members, friends of the church and the community at large to make this event a huge success. One way you can assist is by donating a raffle prize. Raffle prize ideas include: gift certificates/cards to local restaurants and businesses, theme gift baskets, tickets to athletic events, a weekend getaway, 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.

How can you help?

- Personally donate a prize
- Arrange for your business to donate a prize
- Solicit a business you frequent to donate a prize

If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please contact Holly Boutwell at 872-6359 (evenings) or hollyboutwell@comcast.net. Many thanks!