



Welcome to a church where everyone matters
and everyone belongs.

**Prelude
Welcome**

4/30/2017

*Alive! Alive! Alive forever more. My Jesus is alive, alive forever more.
Alive! Alive! Alive forever more. My Jesus is alive.
Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!
My Jesus is alive, alive forever more
Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!
My Jesus is alive.*

Light of Christ

***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.**

Call to Worship/Prayer

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, what shall we do?
People: We shall praise God who hears our prayers, who
draws near to us, and brings new life out of death.
Leader: Sisters and Brothers, how shall we live?
People: With the confidence of God's beloved children, with
security and joy of God's saving grace.
Leader: Sisters and Brothers, what is the promise?
People: New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as gift!
Leader: Sisters and Brothers, how shall we praise?
People: **We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and
praise! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

Leader: Let us pray ... **Loving God, we welcome your living
presence in our midst. Share our joy and our thanks for the**

**life you give us. Sing with us! Dance among us! Pray with us!
Shower us with your love! Amen!**

***Opening Hymn** #454 "Come, Celebrate the Call of God"
Anthem "Then Sings My Soul" M.
McDonald

Leanne Connolly, Minister of Music

Children's Message

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.***

(Children may leave for Sunday School.)

Scripture Acts 6-7:2a, 51-60

Sermon

Rev. Robin Bird

***Hymn** #588 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory

"Redeemer"

N. Mullen

***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*)

**Jesus, God has made you both Sovereign and Christ.
Therefore, we pray your blessing upon these gifts, upon us,
and those whose lives will benefit from them. May your
victory over death empower all whom you call to trust in God.
In faith and hope we pray. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** #93 "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

***Benediction**

Postlude "Built on a Rock, the Solid Rock" arr. Broughton

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

Today's Preludes

James Burr, organist

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| "In Heavenly Love Abiding" | arr. Pethel |
| "How Dear to Me Is Your Dwelling" | Powell |
| "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" | Brahms/Chesterton |
| "In Christ There Is No East Nor West" | arr. Hughes |
| "The Church's One Foundation" | Wesley |

**Please join us downstairs after the service
for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.**

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Kathleen Gilbert, family friend of the Cimas, diagnosed with terminal cancer; Carol Whitney; Helen Dahling; Janet Boucher; David Nelson; Mark McPartland and Doug Penhall, friends of Shar Christman; Elizabeth Fry; David Drouin; Doris Brown; Gregg Moffatt; Shirley Bryant; Amy Robinson; Dean Hockenberry; Steve Carr, Sr.; James Purnell; Sara Levy; Julie, friend of the Turner family; Geraldine Strong; Pat Lazeren; Helen Dyar; Dave Hollister; John Arthur; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness and their families; the people of Syria; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle

*New additions in **bold print***

Reminder...Sunday School ends at 11:15 AM, *Debi Hockenberry, Director of Christian Education*

Today's Activities

Blanket Sunday, Mother's Day, May 14: 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.

Orders will be taken during Coffee Hour today and next Sunday.

Coffee and Conversation: Join the Board of Missions during Coffee Hour to learn how you can help local families transition from homelessness to housing. You will have the opportunity to sign up to donate new or gently-used items on the "registry list." We will also gladly accept Script-Your-All gift cards, monetary donations and offers to help deliver the household items. Donations will be collected throughout the month of May during Coffee Hour.

Junior Choir: 11:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Audit Committee: 11:30 AM, Conference Room

Grounds Committee: 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

J*Walkrz: 3:30 PM

This Week's Activities

Bible Study: Monday, May 1, we will be taking a field trip to Spencer, MA to see the Trappist Monks and will have lunch in Sturbridge. On May 8, we will begin a new series, "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton. Feel free to drop by.

Stephen Ministry: Monday, May 1, 7 PM, Kellogg Hall

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

AA: Tuesday, May 2, 7 AM, Kellogg Hall

Grief Support Group: Tuesday, May 2, 10:30 AM, Library

Women's Fellowship Retreat Committee: Tuesday, May 2, 7 PM at Millie Oliphant's home

Stephen Ministry: Wednesday, May 3, 1 PM, Kellogg Hall

Council: Wednesday, May 3, 7 PM, Kellogg Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, May 4, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanc. Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, May 4, 7:30 PM, Kellogg Hall

Caring & Sharing Group: Friday, May 5, 10:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Memorial Garden Work Day: Saturday, May 6. Anyone interested in helping us clean up winter's mess is invited to join us. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Kids' Club: Saturday, May 6, 5 PM, Kellogg Hall

The Sunday School is collecting peanut butter during April.

Card Bingo Night: Wednesday, May 17 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Women's Fellowship. Try your luck at this fun card game. Each participant is asked to bring 10 dimes and each foursome needs to bring a deck of cards. Join us for an evening of laughs and refreshment. Please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board.

Please Note: Several new books have been added to the Library thanks to some generous donations. One of the great resources loaned to our library is *Cancer: Now What* by Kenneth Haugk. All too often we hear that someone we know is facing cancer. During such a difficult time, we want to reach out with support and care, to offer help and hope. This book, from Stephen Ministries, is a comprehensive how-to guide that helps cancer patients and their loved ones navigate the medical, emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges of cancer.

Child Care is available for church activities when notice is given 3 days

prior to the event. Call Child Care Coordinator, Jen Jensen, 860-836-5824.

9th Annual Golf Tournament, June 3, Willow Brook golf course in South Windsor. There is a need for golfers and people to sponsor a hole, a contest and lunch. Donations are needed for raffle prizes and silent auction items. Questions? Contact a committee member or Michelle Bower (860-872-7274).

Heartsaver CPR/AED Classes: May 11 and June 8 from 6:30-9:30 PM at the Public Safety Complex, 280 West Rd. Cost - \$35, part of which can be reimbursed by the Parish Nurses. Please contact Delythe Kracke @delythek@yahoo.com for more information. You can also register at learncprvfd@yahoo.com.

Women's Fellowship Retreat, October 13-14 at the Evangelical Christian Center in Ashford. Cost for overnight and meals is \$78. If interested, sign up on the sheet posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board. Questions? Contact Millie Oliphant (860-872-7106). Check out the venue at www.eccministries.org.

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, contact Cheryl Purnell, 860-712-8124 or Sue Pilkons, 860-875-4122.

Teddy Bear Ministry: Teddy Bears in the pews are for you to take and give to someone in need of caring love. Contact Joanne Myer at 860-872-9222 or jmyer0146@yahoo.com if you have questions.

To request a visit with the pastor, please call the Church Office, 860-875-7580.

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| Website | www.firstchurchofvernon.org |
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| Church Office | 860-875-7580 |
| Email | church.secretary@firstchurchofvernon.org |

