

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC
May 4, 2014

PRELUDE "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" Handel
"He Leadeth Me" arr. Ashford
"Gothic Toccata" Eliot

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Dave Grigg

Leader: In beauty and mystery,
People: We sense the Holy Spirit.
Leader: In the common and the ordinary,
People: We know the love of Christ.
Leader: In the bread and the cup,
People: We taste the presence of God.
Leader: In adoration and gratitude,
People: We offer praise to the Lord.

***OPENING HYMN** #422 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

Holy and mysterious God, Companion on the way, you walk behind us and beside us; you catch us unaware. We muddle through our daily lives as if you are no longer with us – then, you make your presence known. We recognize you in ordinary places, in ordinary faces, in the smallest acts of kindness, in the breaking of the bread. Make your presence known today in every area of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

CALL to PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

BREAKING the BREAD and SHARING the CUP

(Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. Please hold the elements until all are served.)

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:13-35

SERMON

Rev. Meg Watson

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Bread of the World" D. Eliot

***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**

***CLOSING HYMN** #226 "He Lives"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "O Beautiful May!" Strauss

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

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

Greeters: Deacons

Coffee Hour: Board of Christian Education and Teaching Parish Committee

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 worshiping 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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Chuck Brayton, Meg Watson's dad; **Christina Pavela**, daughter of Andy and Joanne Myer; **Marge Salmon** and **Mary White** at Vernon Manor; the **family of Ariana Saegaert** on her death; **Ruth Woodcock** on the death of her daughter, Sarah; Eleanor Sweet; Joyce Smith; Jan Peacock; Julie Wrona; Bob O'Gara; Bonnie Brenner; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Stephen Kasevich; Will and Diane Livermore; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson; Ben Savage; Lillian Burnett; Debbie Chase; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Pat Lazeren; Gail Occhialini; Kim Burnham; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs
New additions in bold print

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Prayer Shawls will be available in the Quilters' Corner of Fellowship Hall

Blanket Sunday, Mother's Day, May 11: 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.**

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Transformers: 11:20-11:40 AM for a brief rehearsal

Board of Music: 11:30 AM, Library

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM, PF Room

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

All Boards and Committees are asked to submit their reports to the Church Office no later than **Monday, May 5.**

Craft Group: Monday, May 5, 6 PM, Library

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

Bible Study: Tuesday, May 6, 11 AM, Library

Council: Wednesday, May 7, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, May 8, 6 PM at R House Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, May 8, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, May 9, 10:30 AM, Library

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, May 10, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Mother's Day Plant and **Bake Sale**, Saturday, May 10 from 9 AM - 2 PM, sponsored by the Ways & Means Committee in the FCCV parking lot next to Center Rd. Baked goods are needed for the bake sale. Please drop them off on Saturday or contact Ann Harford at alharford@att.net.

Evening Circle: Monday, May 12, 7 PM at Millie Oliphant's home for Spa Night

Historical Display Case: Recently we gave thanks for a successful project sponsored by our Board of Missions. Many of us gave of our time, talent and treasure to help people in our area gain needed dental care. Missions giving has been an important part of the life of our church since its earliest times. Be sure to check out the Historical Display Case in Fellowship Hall which has been updated to reflect the story of FCCV's mission efforts through the years. If you have questions or comments contact Lynn Sweet at lynn4447@aol.com.

Raffle Prizes needed for FCCV's 6th Annual Golf Tournament on June 7

The success of this event is an integral part of our 2014 operating budget, not to mention that it is certain to be a fun day for all! We are counting 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 help is by donating a raffle prize. Raffle prize ideas can include: gift certificates/cards to local restaurants and businesses, theme gift baskets, tickets to athletic events, a weekend getaway, golf-related items, etc. Consider purchasing a gift card from our Scrip-Your-All table to donate. FCCV benefits from the original purchase, as well as the donated card!

Please Note: The Maundy Thursday service was recorded and is available to purchase for a donation of \$5. If interested, please contact the Church Office.

Our **Pictorial Directory** is here! If you participated in the Directory, your free **copy can be picked up during Coffee Hour.** If you did not participate, you can still receive a Pictorial Directory for a \$5 donation. A limited number of extra directories are available, so pick up yours today before they disappear!

Scrip-Your-All: In the past 5 months, your support of this program, has raised \$2,600 for FCCV programs! Thank you! Come down during Coffee Hour to the Scrip-Your-All table to check out the gift cards you can order and the ones we have on hand. Some of the cards we have (our earnings in parenthesis) - iTunes (5%), Rave movie theater (4%), Ninety-Nine Restaurants (8%), Dunkin Donuts (3%), Panera (10%), Lowes and Home Depot (4%), along with the standard grocery and pharmacy cards (4% to 6%)! You can also visit ShopWithScrip.com (enrollment code F2F1CF113843L) for more information.

Vacation Bible School, June 23-27 from 9 AM-noon at Rockville United Methodist Church, Grove Street, Vernon with Family Night held here on Thursday, June 26. This year's theme is "Workshop of Wonders, Imagine & Build with God." Registration forms are available by contacting Linda Shivers or Deb Hockenberry or by stopping by the Church Office. **VBS volunteers are needed** to assist in all areas. Training will be provided. All volunteers must fill out a volunteer form and those over 18 years of age are required to have a background check. Contact Linda Shivers at 860-871-9164 or necsvga@aol.com, if interested or with any questions.

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 and should be returned to the Women's Fellowship mailbox by May 31.

Prayer Shawls and Their Beginnings

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary, gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program.

Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting were combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance. Since the inception of the Prayer Shawl Ministry in 1998, the members of this ecumenical organization have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls. What started as a grass-roots movement has quickly grown into an international cause, with countless numbers of shawls being given to grateful recipients around the globe. The ministry's message of caring is simple, universal and enduring. And as has been seen time and time again, the creation and presentation of a prayer shawl enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls or Mantles, the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient, known or unknown. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl, and upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is given away.

Information Sources

Article in the Hartford Courant, August 7, 2002

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, Reaching Those in Need, by Leisure Arts, © 2005

Prayer Shawl Ministry at FCCV

The FCCV Prayer Shawl Ministry began about 15 years ago with approximately a dozen church members meeting sporadically at each other's homes. We estimate that during this time we have given away more than 300 shawls.

Currently, there are about 8 members who meet in the church Library **each month** on the **2nd Wednesday from 1-3 PM** (or come when you can and leave when you need to) to knit, crochet, chat and share our ideas and patterns.

We begin with prayer and end by blessing the shawls. We would LOVE to have more members join us. There are no set patterns or types of yarn that must be used – there are no quotas for how many must be made. Glad hearts and willing hands are the only prerequisites. If you're not sure about knitting or crocheting, don't worry, we will be glad to assist you. If you can't make the group times but want to work on a shawl at home, that would be wonderful.

Prayer Shawls are given **free of charge** – they are made with love to be given away.

If you would like a shawl to give to someone you know, they will be available at Coffee Hour this morning. Stop by the table to look them over and choose an appropriate prayer to go with it. If you have questions or if you would like to request a Prayer Shawl in the future, call Joan Apel, 875-7239 or Phyllis Chase, 875-8653.

If you would like to read more about Prayer Shawl ministry you may be interested in borrowing the book "Knitting Into the Mystery" by Susan Jorgensen and Susan Izard which is available in our church Library.

2014 FCCV Golf Event



June 7

Willow Brook Golf Course
South Windsor

- Be a sponsor (tee sign, lunch, on-course games)
- Be a player
- Buy raffle tickets
- Enter the 50/50 putting contest

Help make 2014 a success!

**Drop by the “Golf Shop” in Fellowship Hall
during Coffee Hour today.**