

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 8, 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.

PRELUDE "Meditation on 'St. Agnes'" Ritter
 "Ave Maria" Bach/Gounod
 "Prelude and Fugue in E-flat" Koury

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP** Bill Duncan

Leader: We have come together as one.

People: One people, gathered in the name of the one God.

Leader: We will worship together as one.

People: One community, giving praise and honor to the Righteous One.

Leader: We are being empowered as one by One.

People: One body and one Spirit. One people, giving witness to the power of One.

***OPENING HYMN** #90 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*adapted by Rev. Susan Blain*)

Meet us here today, O Unifying God, and teach us to be one: One in love for each other, One in understanding with all who find in Jesus the Way to You, One in peace with all who find other paths to your Truth. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, whose fervent prayer was ever: "May they all be one." 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.

ANTHEM "Circle of Life" Little Bells
(All children are invited downstairs for Sunday School.)

The COMMISSIONING of STEPHEN MINISTRY DIRECTOR

SCRIPTURE John 17:20-26 (p. 104)

SERMON Rev. Robin Bird

***HYMN** #261 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"
(sing once through, then repeat refrain)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Down to the River to Pray" L. Harris

***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** #550 "There's Within My Heart a Melody"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" Handel

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

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

If you would like to become a member of FCCV, please speak with Rev. Robin or one of our Deacons. A New Member Class has been scheduled for Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 AM.

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Val Ellis on the loss of two close friends; Maurice O'Brien, friend of Gilmay Markunas; Carol Whitney; Richard Brooke, Betsy Gerakaris' brother; Serena Volovski on the loss of her brother, Stephen; Sharon Dombek dealing with bladder cancer; sisters, Tina and Maria, friends of the Muros, having serious medical issues; 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

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Junior Choir: 11:30 AM, PF Room

TPC: 12:15 PM, Library

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Stop by the Golf Committee table to place your bids on auction items, purchase raffle tickets, take part in a putting contest or sponsor a Hole (\$200), Luncheon or a Meal (\$25). See insert for more information on the Golf Tournament.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, May 9, 7 PM, Library

Ways and Means: Monday, May 9, 7 PM, Chapel

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Prayer Shawl: Tuesday, May 10, 1 PM, Library

Deacons: Tuesday, May 10, 7 PM, Library

Women's Fellowship Program - Drumming: Wednesday, May 11, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Sign up on the sheet posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board.

Theology on Tap: Thursday, May 12, 6 PM, Mitchell's Restaurant

Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, May 12, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

for Boards and Committees to submit their reports to the Church Office for the **Annual Report** for the Annual Organizational Meeting in June is **Friday, May 13. No exceptions, please.**

Support Group: Friday, May 13, 10:30 AM, Library

Bible Study: Friday, May 13, 11 AM, Chapel

Line Dancing: Friday, May 13, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Missions: Saturday, May 14, 10 AM, Library

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 22

following the Worship Service to finalize the 2016 budget

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.

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.

Needed! Our shopping carts (located in the Narthex and Breezeway) are running low. Each month Board of Missions members alternate taking non-perishable food to the Soup Kitchen in Rockville and to the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Folks are also need to help prepare meals at the Soup Kitchen. A sign-up sheet is posted in fellowship Hall.

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 Jan Muro at 872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

Please Note: 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 later in the day or in the coming week.

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

Church Office 860-875-7580

Email church.secretary@firstchurchofvernon.org

Website firstchurchofvernon.org

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Willow Brook Golf Course

Saturday, June 4

We Need Your Help!

The success of this event is an integral part of our 2016 operating budget, not to mention that it is certain to be a day of fun and laughter for all! We are counting on the support of church members, friends and the community to make this event a huge success.

Please consider how you might participate...

- Register to Golf (single, pair or foursome)
There is room for all skill levels from beginner to expert. Contact Holly Boutwell (hollyboutwell@comcast.net or 860-716-0758).
- Donate a Raffle Prize
Ideas include: gift cards to local restaurants or businesses, theme gift baskets, tickets to athletic events. Contact Tony Muro (tonymuro@sbcglobal.net).
- Donate a Silent Auction Item
Do you have a “show stopper” item, such as a handmade quilt or a vacation get-away spot? Contact Taunya Bird (mzbird123@gmail.com).
- Be a Sponsor
Luncheon Sponsor (\$200), Contest Sponsors (\$100), Hole Sponsors (\$100). Contact Tony Muro.

Many Thanks!