

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

July 24, 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**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PAY IT FORWARD**

**BLESSING for NYE**

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Andy Myer

Leader: For in Christ we find in all fullness

**People: the holiness, the justice, the hope of God.**

Leader: We come today to feel God's life in us

**People: flowing through our roots in Christ and establishing our faith.**

Leader: We come to celebrate the mystery of God-with-us:

**People: Christ, who lives fully in us and in whom we fully live.**

**All: Let us welcome the One who was sent to make us alive in the fullness of God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" *(insert)*

**\*PRAYER of INVOCATION** *(unison)*

God, we know you will come to us and give us what is good. Speak peace to us, your faithful, and to all who yearn for you. Help us to be willing to do as you ask, that we may rejoice to be children of the living God. Come, bring your goodness to us your children. Amen.

**ANTHEM** "The Lord's Prayer"  
*Paul Shimer - soloist*

**The SACRAMENT of BAPTISM**

*Noah Daniel Flores*

**Welcome**

**Questions of the Parents and Sponsors  
Congregational Affirmation of Faith**

Leader: Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**Blessing the Water**

**Act of Baptism; Presentation of the Newly Baptized**

**Prayer for the Baptized**

Leader: ... hear the baptismal prayers of the congregation:

**People: Be with Noah through the years, blessing his life, that he may grow in love for you. Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Presentation of Gifts**

*We rejoice in the baptism of Noah, son of Ashley and Raymond Flores. Welcome to his sponsors, Carmen de Jesus and Matthew Flores.*

**\*HYMN** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" *(insert)*

**SCRIPTURE** Colossians 1:3-14

**SERMON** Rev. Robin Bird

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS/MORNING 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.*

**PRAYER RESPONSE/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.*

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

**\*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** "O, How I Love Jesus" (*insert*)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

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

**Please Note:** Sunday School starts at 9 AM. Any children still in church who would like to attend may join them in the educational wing.

**In Our Ongoing Prayers**

**Helen Dyar** recovering from a fall and fractured pelvis; Bill Bennison, friend of Ann Harford; Michael Doyle and his wife Kathy (friend of Kate Cima); Pat Lazeren; Jeff Wadsworth (colleague of Steve Westerberg) and family; Tom Rabideau and family, friend of Steve Westerberg; Dean Hockenberry, Dave Hockenberry's uncle; Helen Dahling; Dave Hollister, Candy Buswell's father; Ryan Meneses; Joyce Smith; John Arthur, Susan DeProspero's father; Brian, 11 years old, fighting cancer; Meg, Bill and Holly Boutwell's sister/sister-in-law; the homeless; the hungry; gun reform; acceptance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; 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*

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Men's Group:** Tuesday, July 26, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Ladies Luncheon:** Tuesday, July 26, noon at Mitchell's

**Support Group:** Friday, July 29, 10:30 AM, Library

**Audit Committee:** Sunday, July 31, 11:30 AM, Library

**Help Needed!** If you like looking at something when it is clean and bright, we need you to help clean the old Day Care rooms before we can paint. If interested, please contact Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.

**Donations Needed:** The stove in the church kitchen needs to be replaced. If anyone would like to make a donation toward the cost, it would be greatly appreciated. Please see Phyllis Chase if you have any questions.

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

<b>Church Office</b>	860-875-7580
<b>Email</b>	church.secretary@firstchurchofvernon.org
<b>Website</b>	www.firstchurchofvernon.org