

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

July 31, 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

CALL to WORSHIP

Sue Pilkons

Leader: Come and worship Christ,

People: the visible image of the invisible God,

Leader: the firstborn of creation,

People: the eternal God:

Leader: the one through whom all things were created,

People: and in whom all things are held together.

All: This is our God! Let's worship together.

***OPENING HYMN** "O Worship the King" *(insert)*

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

Holy God, we gather this day to give thanks for your steadfast love. With Christ as our guide, we seek to grow into "a new self" in your image: generous, compassionate, welcoming. We seek to love all of our sisters and brothers with Christ's inclusive love that sees beyond difference and extends the hand of peace to strangers. Send your Spirit among us. We pray in the name of the One who was called the Prince of Peace, Amen.

ANTHEM "The Cold Within"

Steve Westerberg - soloist

SCRIPTURE Colossians 1:15-23

(insert - verses 15-20 will be read by the congregation)

SERMON Rev. Robin Bird

***HYMN** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" *(insert)*

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 "It's Amazing"

***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** "How Great Thou Art" *(insert)*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

Welcome to our guest organist Jim Purnell.

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

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

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.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Audit Committee: 10:30 AM, Library

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Council: Wednesday, August 3, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Church Grounds Committee: Thursday, August 4, 6 PM, Library

Support Group: Friday, August 5, 10:30 AM, Library

Family Night Out: Saturday, August 6, 5-9 PM, Fellowship Hall

Please Note: Jean Chaplin will celebrate her 90th birthday on August 6. For anyone wishing to send her a card or note, her address is The Elms - Chestnut Cottage, 22 Elm St., Westerly, RI 02891.

Volunteers and Donations Needed: The Church Grounds Committee is in need of sprinklers, nozzles and clippers and volunteers to weed in the Memorial Garden. Contact Gaile Dembeck, 860-871-1265.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Colossians 1:15-20

Hymn about Christ's work:

- ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the one who is first over all creation,
¹⁶ Because all things were created by him:
both in the heavens and on the earth,
the things that are visible and the things that are invisible.
Whether they are thrones or powers,
or rulers or authorities,
all things were created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He existed before all things,
and all things are held together in him.
¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church,
who is the beginning,
the one who is firstborn from among the dead
so that he might occupy the first place in everything.
¹⁹ Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him,
²⁰ and he reconciled all things to himself through him—
whether things on earth or in the heavens.
He brought peace through the blood of his cross.