

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC
September 2, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC
“Sonata” Haydn
“Aria” Handel/Guil mant
“Grand March” Wagner

CHIMING of the HOUR
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS
ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “Prelude and Toccata on ‘Hymn to Joy”” **A. Fedak**

WORDS of REFLECTION

"I submit to you that if a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."
Martin Luther King, Jr. June 23, 1963

***CALL to WORSHIP** **Debbie Marshall**

Leader: God has taken his place in the divine counsel; in the midst of the gods, He holds judgment.

People: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?”

Leader: Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

People: **Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”**

Leader: They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

People: **I say, “you are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;**

Leader: Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.”

People: **Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!**
(Psalm 82, NRSV)

***OPENING HYMN #6 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”**

UNISON PRAYER of CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we have walked in our own way in recent days, wasting our days in the pursuits of our hearts and destroying the precious gifts you entrust to us. We have grasped for bread that does not satisfy and turned away from living water that brings life. Our worst enemies are within us. Deliver us, we pray, from your indignation and anger as we seek new ways to relate to you and one another. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Leader: God has claimed us through Christ and pours our grace to heal us and give us new life. We are redeemed and forgiven through the good news of Jesus Christ. We are blessed with the opportunity to live as disciples and sent into the world as ambassadors of the good news.

People: **Let us live this truth with grace-filled hearts. Thanks be to God!**

***GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)**

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER (unison...“debts”)
PRAYER RESPONSE “I Sing Praises” **T. MacAlmon**
 Joanne Myer and Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Majesty” **J. Hayford**

***DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)**

***UNISON PRAYER of DEDICATION**

As recipients of the bread of life, we offer bread to the hungry. For the gift of living water, we reach out to those who are thirsty. In the name of the One who has shared our flesh and put life on the line for justice and truth, we gladly dedicate our time, talents, and treasure. Bless us as we seek to imitate your generosity and grace. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE **John 10: 11-18**

SERMON **The Rev. David Minnick**

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

officiated by the Revs. Cynthia Carr and Joanne Myer

INVITATION to the TABLE

CALL to COMMUNION

Leader: The table will soon be set.

People: **And all the children of God are welcome to come and find their places.**

Leader: For this is a sacred meal.

People: **A time to remember the limitlessness of God’s love for us;**

Leader: A time to have our hearts renewed, our souls refreshed.

People: **So, let us gather—broken, hungry, thirsty, desperate,**

All: **That we may find here nourishment for heart, soul, mind and strength.**

***COMMUNION HYMN #419 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

BREAKING of the BREAD

(Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon serving communion. Please wait until all are served before eating the bread and drinking the cup.)

SHARING of the CUP

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

***CLOSING HYMN #717 “Let All Things Now Living”**

BENEDICTION “Sanctuary” **Thompson/Skuggs**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Menuet from ‘Music for the Royal Fireworks”” **Handel**

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

Deacons assisting with Communion: Michael Swan (Deacon-in-charge), Michelle Bower, Sue Pilkons, Phyllis Chase

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a guest, please take a moment after the worship service to sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table.

There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

Guests are encouraged to use the Pew Cards to request information about our church, to provide addresses/emails for communication purposes or to ask for a pastoral visit. The Pew Cards can be placed in the plates with the offering.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Board of Deacons and Women's Fellowship

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Labor Day: Monday, September 3. The Church Office is closed.

Men's Club: Tuesday, September 4, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, September 5, 7 PM. Agenda items should be submitted to Moderator Tony Muro no later than today.

Sanctuary Choir Party/Rehearsal: Thursday, September 6, 6 PM at the home of Joanne and Andy Myer. Anyone interested in being a part of the choir is invited to join us. Please call Joanne (872-9222) if you plan to attend.

Support Group: Friday, September 7, 10:30 AM, Library

RALLY SUNDAY

September 9

the start of the Sunday School Program year

School Store, Rally Sunday, September 9 during Coffee Hour: The Board of Missions has purchased school supplies that will be available for you to "buy" at our **School Store** by making a donation to cover the cost of the item(s). The supplies will then be taken to the Hockanum Valley Community Council for distribution to local children in need to insure they start the new school year with school supplies. Please consider supporting this worthy cause in making a difference in another child's life.

Evening Circle - Potluck Supper: Monday, September 10, 6:30 PM at the home of Doe Simmonds. We will be making crafts for FCCV's Holiday Fair in November. Come and enjoy some good food and fun. Please contact Pat Lazeren, (860) 644-0475, if you plan to attend so we can have the right amount of beverages.

Carillon Singers Organizational Meeting: Sunday, September 16, 11:30 AM.

The Board of Christian Education **invites all families and teachers of Sunday School** to a **Continental Breakfast** on **Sunday, September 23 at 9 AM** in Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teachers and board members. We will be reviewing our new curriculum, learning about mission projects for the coming year and discussing why Christian education is important to your child and family. You will also be able to ask any questions you have about our Christian Education program. Hope to see you there!

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. A staffed **Toddler Room** is open all summer for **children 12 months - 5 years old**.

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 (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).

In Our Ongoing Prayers... Mike Kermode deployed in Afghanistan; Mike Swan;

Allan Chesterton; Claudette and Art Weingart; Bill Harford, Ann's husband; Peggy Ellis (broken hip); Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross, 3 year old daughter of Megan and Eli (friends of Emily Westerberg), diagnosed with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL); Deborah Costello, friend of Angel Hockenberry, (breast cancer); Richard Brooke, Betsy Gerakaris' brother; Stephen Volovski; Ann Garrison; Ray Turner, father-in-law of Cheryl Turner (stroke); Judy Quinn, friend of Tony and Jan Muro, (cancer); Martha Fowler (cancer); Michael Bebrin; the leaders, members and friends of Somers Congregational Church; FCCV Search Committee; Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle, Al and Marilyn Newton's grandson; Paul and Susan Shimer; Candy Buswell (heart); Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger; Horst Pohlmann, friend of the Gerakaris'; John Mayhew; John Kaminski, Susan Moreau's father; Bess Howe; Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Donald Chase

Plot Summary for "Of Gods and Men"

Brotherhood. Religions. Faith. Martyrdom. Love. The film "Of Gods and Men" tells the story of a group of French Trappist monks living, working and praying in a monastery in Algeria in the '90s. During this time, a civil war is starting within the nation. The film begins by showing how the Muslim community and the Trappist monks co-exist in harmony. The monks sell their honey and vegetables in the local farmer's market and run a medical clinic for all who need help.

As the Algerian Muslim fundamentalists grow in number, tensions increase within the entire community. As the escalating violence comes closer to where they live and serve, the Trappist monks begin to discuss, debate, pray about and consider whether to stay where they are serving and are greatly needed or return to the safety of their homeland France.

Committed to maintaining a sanctuary of non-violence, the monks decline the military's offer to protect them. The monks have seen instances of corruption and abuse within the military and are wary to trust them.

As the violence all about them escalates, the decision of whether to stay or go becomes more challenging.