

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC
September 16, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC “Afton Water” A. D. Miller
“Etude” Chopin/Rasley
“Variations on ‘Jesus Loves Me’” W. McNair

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Cynthia Carr

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “Dedication” Franz/Wells

WORDS of REFLECTION

“People are born with two eyes and one tongue, in order that they should see twice as much as they say.” Charles Caleb Colton

***RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP** Shirley Bryant

Leader: Your mercies are new each morning; your faithfulness to all creation is great.

People: We praise you, O God, for your goodness to all; for the blessings of a new day and the opportunity to serve.

Leader: We praise you for Jesus Christ and all the ways Christ blesses us.

People: Renew our sense of thankfulness in worship; show us the way to faithful living.

Leader: Forgive us our sin and banish guilt and fear;

People: Give us the zest to live in the present with joy, and enable us to live into the future with hope.

***OPENING HYMN #24 “The God of Abraham Praise”**

UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION

Holy God, look upon our tender hearts with love and grace. In this hour when we are together, speak to us each the words we most need to hear. Move us beyond the demands and desires of our hearts, so that we might live glorying in your blessings and presence. Open our hearts to know your abiding and sustaining peace, for in this broken and sinful world, peace is a quality we all long for. May this time in worship together sustain us in our lives apart, that we might live as models of the peace we learn of here. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm and town,

People: For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found.

Leader: For the freedoms we enjoy here,

People: God, may thanks to you abound!

Leader: For your peace and love unending, breaking barriers that divide,

People: For the joy of cultures blending as we live here side by side,

Leader: God, we thank you and we pray now,

People: May we all be unified!

Leader: May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,

People: May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.

Leader: May we follow where you lead us,

People: God, this is our hope and prayer!

(Adapted from the hymn “For this Land in All Its Wonder” by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, copyright 1999, used with permission)

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

COMMISSIONING of SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRESENTATION of BIBLES

(Children and teachers may leave for Sunday School after the Lord’s Prayer.)

ANTHEM “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” C. Mueller

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER (unison... “debts”)

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE James 3: 1-12

***SERMON HYMN #501 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”**

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Be Thou My Vision” D. Burton

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

***UNISON PRAYER of DEDICATION**

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Wondrous God, may these gifts reflect the joy and thanksgiving of grateful hearts and blessed lives. May they spread the good news which calls us to gather - the joy of your love for us in Jesus Christ. Bless us to be ambassadors and evangelists of this good news. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #683 “O for a World”**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Praise!” D. Eliot

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

The flowers on the Communion Table are given by the Tomko family in memory of Ashley’s birthday. She would have been 27.

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: Nancy Parker and Joan Apel

Coffee Hour: Prayer Shawl Group

4th Graders Receiving Bibles: Abigail Bardon, Eric Bassick, Paul Denning, Jason Dowty, Justin Dowty, Luke Jensen, Chad Moreau, Xavier Rodrigues, Mariah Shivers, Carolyn Sutton

Thank you to all our teachers, shepherds, youth advisors and music teachers for their commitment to this program year.

Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Madden

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: Jen Condry

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent and Toddler Room Coordinator:

Christa Hockenberry

Youth Advisors: Beth Fowler, Halene Fujimoto, Dave and Debi Hockenberry

Sunday School Teachers: Julie Assard, Debbie Bartos, Nick Bartos, April

Calvelli, GloryAnna Hockenberry, Jennifer Jensen, Aarika Mallory, Jena Maki,

Diane Mead, Jacquelyn Mead, Greg Mias, Annie Longo, Lydia Pettigrew, Cheryl

Turner, Steve Westerberg, Kelsey Wilson

Toddler Room: Jaclyn Leonard

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

The **Bank Notes** that were discussed and pictured in the September issue of the Carillon (our newsletter found on our website, firstchurchofvernon.org) will be on display at Coffee Hour throughout the month of September. A **Silent Auction** for them begins TODAY and will continue until the winning bid is announced at Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 30. Feel free to tell friends who may be interested collectors. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of these notes will help defray the cost of our 250th Anniversary Dinner in November.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Memorial Garden: 11:15 AM, Library

Confirmation Orientation: 11:30 AM, PF Room

Carillon Singers: 11:30 AM, Choir Room

Communications Committee: 11:30 AM, Quilters' Corner

Dismantling the Field of Flags: 11:30 AM. Help is needed to dismantle our Field of Flags display. Volunteers are needed to remove the flags, wipe the soil from the flag sticks and number them in groups of 25. They will be placed in buckets to dry thoroughly before being wrapped to ship to the next church which is hosting this memorial in a few weeks.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Garden Crafting Night: Monday, September 17, 7 PM. Join us to make crafts with terracotta pots, pine cones and acorns.

Deacons: Monday, September 17, 7 PM, Chapel

Men's Club: Tuesday, September 18, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Finance: Tuesday, September 18, 7 PM, Quilters' Corner

Furnishings & Memorials: Tuesday, September 18, 7 PM, Chapel

Library Committee: Wednesday, September 19, 1 PM, Library

HR: Wednesday, September 19, 7 PM, Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, September 20, 7:30 PM

Support Group: Friday, September 21, 10:30 AM, Library

Crafts Group: Saturday, September 22, 9 AM-noon, Fellowship Hall. Help us make some crafts for the coming fair. Items include hot/cold packs, pincushions, potholders and more. Please bring a sewing machine if you have one. If not, we will need people to cut, pin and assemble. Lunch will be provided.

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, September 22, 10 AM

Please Note: The Board of Trustees has hired Robert Morgan Steeple Restoration to refurbish our steeple! We're hopeful the project will begin this month and expect it to be completed in 3-4 weeks. Safety for everyone is our top priority. Access into the Narthex (Route 30 side of the church) will be limited while the workers are onsite (Monday-Saturday). We hope to have access through these doors on Sundays. Please remind your Boards and Committees of the limited access and to be very careful in this area during the project. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Boutwell at 860-872-6359 (evenings).

A **Sunday School teacher is still needed** for 6th-8th grade. Contact Linda Shivers.

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!

Blood Drive, Monday, October 1 from 1-6 PM

Volunteers are needed to give blood and help out that day. Sign up on the sheets posted in Fellowship Hall or call Doe Simmonds, 860-872-0841.

AED/CPR Class, Saturday, November 10 at 9 AM. The class usually lasts from 2-3 hours and will cover the basics of CPR and usage of the AED. Since we have an AED on the church property, we, as a congregation, are required to have members, who in the event of an emergency, would be qualified to perform CPR and use the AED properly. The class will be given by CPROHeart and should be attended by those who were certified two years ago and by anyone interested in learning this life-saving skill. The class is being sponsored by the Parish Nurses who will pay half the cost (the more attending, the less the cost will be). Contact Delythe Kracke (DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004) with questions or to sign up for the class.

Acolytes Needed! To all parents of Sunday School children...if your child would like to be an acolyte, please contact Delythe Kracke at DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004. This is a great way for your child to be involved in the church service with minimal commitment.

Youth Fellowship is in need of personal items (deodorant, razors, soap, tooth brushes, etc) for our monthly mission service to Peter's Retreat. Please put items in bag in the Breezeway.

PAY IT FORWARD RETURNS!

Want to Participate?

What began as a two-week journey on October 10, 2010 has continued through the 2012 fall season thanks to generous contributions by members and friends of

FCCV. The **Pay It Forward** program has supported over 65 charities, organizations and individual families in our local community and beyond. Much has been accomplished and we are thankful. Additional contributions will allow Pay It Forward to continue for another month or two on a bi-weekly basis.

Want to participate? Here's how it works. This is strictly voluntary.

- Write your name on a blank index card or a piece of paper and place it in the offering basket or the Pay It Forward box located on the table in Fellowship Hall. Index cards are located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary or on the table in Fellowship Hall.
- Every other week a winner is selected. You must be in attendance during the worship service to receive the Pay It Forward gift. The winner receives a \$50 bill that they may do with as they wish, as long as the money is given to a worthy charity, cause, family or person in need in the community.
- The winner returns to share with the congregation what they chose to do with the \$50 gift. The winner selects a person who will then have the opportunity to share a blessing.

Next Drawing Will Be Held September 23

If you wish to donate, please make your check payable to FCCV with "PIF Program" in the memo and drop in the Assistant Treasurer's or Treasurer's mailbox.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... Alec Montgomery having wrist surgery on September 26;

Mike Kermode deployed in Afghanistan; **Mike Swan; Allan Chesterton; Claudette and Art Weingart; Bill Harford**, Ann's husband; **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); **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**

MUSIC at FIRST

Airborne Jazz

Sunday, September 23 at 4 PM

A multi-cultural jazz trio from New Haven, Airborne has a beautiful trademark jazz sound of Island Passion and Urban Emotion.

A century of jazz music will be performed.

The music will be fun, motivating and inspirational.

Proceeds from this concert series support the Les Childs Music Scholarship.

Suggested Donation: \$7 adults/\$5 senior or student

Become a Sponsor!

Individual sponsorships are \$40 per person (\$30 for seniors)

Corporate sponsorships start at \$50

Sponsors have admission to all concerts plus your name in our program.

For more information visit Music at First during Coffee Hour today or next Sunday, September 23

FAMILY POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, September 28 at 6 PM

The 250th Anniversary Committee is presenting an evening of family fun. The main course will be provided with potluck salads and desserts. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a salad. If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring a dessert. Come and enjoy an old-fashioned evening with your church family, followed by....

It HAPPENED in CONNECTICUT

Friday September 28, 7:30 PM

Mike Kachuba and Jeff McQuillan, both former CT State Troubadours and multi-instrumentalists have combined their talents to present a program of original and traditional music to audiences of all ages. In 2003, Mike worked with Northeast Elementary School in Vernon to produce a collection of 12 songs about Vernon's history. As part of our 250th Anniversary celebration, Mike and Jeff will perform songs about Vernon, as well as celebrate the "lesser known" yet interesting people who have contributed to Connecticut's colorful past. Meet Jack Arabas, the slave who was given his freedom in a New Haven court of law; John Hinson, the first man to escape from Granby's Newgate Prison; the "Leatherman," one of the first folk legends in the state and many more! A free will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.