

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC
September 30, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cynthia Carr

(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PRELUDE

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Ryan Moreau

Leader: Among the certain, among the scared, among the poor, among the privileged

People: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God’s Way.

Leader: In the living room, in the boardroom, in the classroom, where there is no room

People: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God’s Way.

Leader: With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love

People: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God’s Way.

Leader: In our fretting, in our attending, in our moments of indecision, in our faithfulness

All: Christ is calling us to trust and live in God’s Way.

***OPENING HYMN #490 “Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant”**

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison)

GloryAnna Hockenberry

Holy God, we cannot serve two masters, but how often we try! Open our minds and hearts to hear your call in the voices of others as we begin this day together. Confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live; confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn. Let us draw inspiration from the witnesses of others in their efforts to live faithfully. We ask not for what we want but for what you know we need, as we offer this day and ourselves to you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Nicholas Bartos

Leader: God is alive in the energetic children in our midst.

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in the beloved face lined with wisdom's folds.

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in the persons with whom we often disagree.

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in the family whose values run counter to our own.

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in the poor and broken of our world and with all who we may fear or feel uncomfortable around.

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in the rich of our world who cannot fathom the value of "enough."

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in the youth of the world who ask demanding questions and who are honest about their doubts.

People: Lord, bless us as we love them.

Leader: God is alive in all that breathes.

People: May our love nurture and welcome the Spirit in our midst, guiding, summoning and pushing us to a fuller life.

Leader: God is alive.

All: Amen.

(Based upon God's inclusive call of love. ©Katherine Hawker, 2002)

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

A TIME with the CHILDREN

Ashley Markunas

The LORD’S PRAYER (unison...“debts”)

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

ANTHEM “Blessings”

Story

Contemporary Choir

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

Michelle Darby

***PRAYER HYMN #477 “Pass It On”**

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

Sophie Becker

OFFERTORY “Indescribable”

Courtney

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

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

Lord, in these times, when we fear we are losing hope or feel that our efforts are futile, may these gifts help others get a glimpse of your love and mercy. Let these gifts become a sign that we serve you alone, trust you alone and choose to live in hope. We offer them in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 146

Brianna Markunas

Matthew 25: 31-46

Christa Hockenberry

A TIME of SHARED REFLECTION

Cherish Hockenberry, Debi Hockenberry, Greg Mias, Nicholas Bartos, Sophie Becker, April Calvelli, Michael Calvelli, Michelle Darby, Christa Hockenberry, GloryAnna Hockenberry, Tyler Johnson, Ashley Markunas, Brianna Markunas, Ryan Moreau, (Marissa and Ryan Fujimoto attended mission week but are unable to participate in today’s service.)

***CLOSING HYMN #452 “Here I Am Lord”**

BENEDICTION

April Calvelli

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Glory to God”

D. Paxton

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

Today's prayers and responses were written by the Rev. David Randall, a UCC pastor and USAF chaplain.

The flowers on the Communion Table are given through the generosity of the Slicer Fund in celebration of autumn and its beautiful colors.

Ushers: April Calvelli, Michael Calvelli, Tyler Johnson, Brianna Markunas
Greeters and Coffee Hour: Women's Fellowship

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.

Included in today's bulletin are inserts that support Neighbors in Need. A collection will be taken next Sunday, October 7. Imagine a world without hunger, violence, discrimination, oppression and poverty. Please find it in your heart to help support these ministries.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Today is your last chance to put in a bid for the Silent Auction of the **Bank Notes**. The winner will be announced today at Coffee Hour. The 250th Anniversary Committee is also continuing their sale of **nails** salvaged from the 1965 fire. All proceeds from these sales will be used to help defray anniversary expenses.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Youth Fellowship Informational Meeting: 11:30 AM, PF Room. Youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Blessing of the Animals: 12:30 PM in the parking lot on the west side of the church or in Fellowship Hall if it rains. This is a service in which families bring their pets to the church for a prayer or special blessing. It is a way to honor the important bond we have with the created world and to recognize that all creatures, including our pets, are gifts of creation given by God.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Blood Drive, Monday, October 1 from 1-5:45 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.

Craft Group: Monday, October 1, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Evening Circle: Monday, October 1, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Men's Club: Tuesday, October 2, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, October 3, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than today.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, October 4, 7:30 PM

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

Please Note: The Steeple Restoration has begun and we're hopeful the project will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Safety for everyone is our top priority.

Access to 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 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.

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.

Non-Perishable Food items are still being collected in the Mission Boxes located in the Breezeway and routinely delivered to the Food Pantry. Donations are greatly appreciated. The HVCC Food Pantry is currently in **urgent need** of the following: canned vegetables and fruit, pork and beans or baked beans, canned spaghetti or ravioli, instant potatoes, canned gravy (turkey or chicken), soup (canned or dry), rice or noodle side dishes, canned tomatoes (stewed, diced, etc.), brownie or cookie mixes, cake mixes and frosting, pudding or jello, canned tuna, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Furnishings and Memorials keeps a record of donations and items acquired in the Memory books. Take a look when you have a minute! The most up-to-date one is beautifully done and can be found in the cabinet in the Breezeway where the Memorial Garden books are kept. The other books are in the Sanctuary on the Bible Stand under the restored Bible.

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.

Please Wear Your Name Tag! Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

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** located downstairs in the Kellogg wing is open for **children 12 months to 3 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).

Want to Meet New People? Volunteer to Serve! Whether it's welcoming others at the door before the Worship Service or providing a baked good or snack, making coffee or setting up and cleaning up after Coffee Hour, volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All help is welcome.

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**

In Our Global Prayers... After a mission trip through Youthworks to an impoverished town in southern Illinois, Congregational Church of Batavia, Ohio, felt like it could do more. It met with a student mentor who said the biggest struggle in the area was the low number of high school graduates that continued on to college - only about five out of eighty graduates. The youth group decided they could help by working to remove some of the obstacles preventing the students from going to college. A program was planned to educate parents and students on financial aid, ACT and SAT tests and then take 15 students on an all-expenses paid tour of six colleges in the area.