

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

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2015

**WELCOME!**

*We are 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.*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	"Air"	Blake
	"Children of the Heavenly Father"	arr. Hughes
	"Shall We Gather at the River"	Livingston
	"We Greet Thee, Heavenly Dove"	arr. Rinehart

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The BLESSING of the INTERIM TIME** *(insert)*

**\*HYMN** #490 "Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant"

**WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP and INVOCATION** Bill Duncan

Leader: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**People: The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters;**

Leader: then God said: *Let there be light,*

**People: and God saw that it was good.**

Leader: At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John.

**People: The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove;**

Leader: then God said: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Let us pray.

**All: God of heaven and earth, we gather in the name of Jesus to hear your holy Word and to be immersed in your Spirit. Speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh. Amen.**

**\*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.***

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Anthony Sebastian Valvo; Logan Eric Valvo

Parents: Paul and Karissa Valvo

Sponsors: Bridgete Kaldry, Matthew Kelly

**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 and Anointing; Presentation of the Newly Baptized**

**Prayer for the Baptized**

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

**People: Be with Anthony and Logan through the years, blessing their lives, that they 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**

**\*HYMN** to introduce Anthony and Logan

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" *(insert)*

**TIME with the CHILDREN**

**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.***

**ANTHEM** "We Are So Blessed" Nelson/Gaither  
Duet - Joanne Myer and Tom Sweet

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 1:1, 9-11

**SERMON** "You Are My Beloved" Rev. Suzanne Personette

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

“Blessings”

L. Story

**\*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**

**All: Generous God, we thank you for all that we have – for all of it comes from you. We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you. May our offerings sustain and support the work of our church, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #274 “I Love Your Church, O God” (with verve!)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Postlude in E-Flat”

Marsh

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. ~ based on Luke 4:18-19*

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

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

**The flowers on the Communion Table** are given in memory of Vera Osborn by her nephew and his wife, Bruce and Linda Downing.

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Ways and Means Committee

**In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .**

Evelyn Ohlendorf, 3 month old granddaughter of Pat Melville, having surgery on October 13; Daniel Burnett-Pollock, son of Halene Fujimoto; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; Tim Madigan; Debbie Barney; Dave Toolan; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Janita Majkowski; Candy, Lynette Melanson’s sister; Dave Boucher; Greg Moffatt; Rachel Meneses; Joyce Smith; Mike Lazeren; Gilmay Markunas and family; Pat Lazeren; David and Elizabeth Hollister; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness; Ed Rockland; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Nancy Bailey; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; Kim Burnham; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

*New additions in bold print*

**TODAY’S ACTIVITIES**

**Board of Finance:** 11:30 a.m., Library

**Blessing of the Animals:** 11:45 a.m. on the green in front of Kellogg Hall

**TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall**

**Name Tags:** If you ordered one you may pick it up at the Scrip-Your-All table. If you need one, you may order one or contact Jim Montlick (jamontlik@aol.com). You have a choice of a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

**THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES**

**Bible Study:** Monday, October 12, 11 a.m., Library

**Mind and Spirit Support Group:** Monday, October 12, 7 p.m., Library

**Ways and Means:** Monday, October 12, 7 p.m., Chapel

**November CARILLON Deadline**

Tuesday, October 13

**Men’s Breakfast Group:** Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 a.m., Vernon Diner

**Prayer Shawl:** Tuesday, October 13, 1 p.m., Library

**Deacons:** Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m., Library

**Theology on Tap:** Thursday, October 15, 6 p.m. at Mitchell’s Restaurant

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, October 15, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, October 16, 10:30 a.m., Library

**Roast Pork Dinner:** Friday, October 16 from 5-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Trustees Work Party:** Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m. We will be cleaning and fixing things around the church, inside and out, depending on the weather, so come and join the fun. Lend a hand in making the church facility look its best. Be sure to bring your tools. Contact Sue Mias if interested.

**Pairs and Spares:** Saturday, October 17, 6-9 p.m. in the yard on the north side of FCCV. Bring-Your-Own Picnic and sit around a Fire Pit.

**Women with a Past:** Sunday, October 18 during Coffee Hour. Experience an interactive display about the women of the church who began the Ladies Aid Society and worked to update the Society to the Women’s Council and then to what is now Women’s Fellowship.

**BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, October 18**

**following the Worship Service**

**Junior Choir (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) Open House:** Sunday, October 18. 11:30 p.m. in the PF Room. Choir Director, Althea Madigan

**Neighbors in Need** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. ***We will receive this special offering on October 25.***

**Major Appliance Boxes Needed** by the J\*Walkrz who are again taking part in the "Cardboard City Sleep-Out" on November 13-14. If you have recently purchased a stove, refrigerator, washer, etc. and still have the box, please drop it off at church (flattened is OK) or contact Debi Hockenberry (860)712-6466 for pick-up. Also, if you'd like to sponsor a teen or tween to support "Journey Home" please let them know.

**Sunday School News:** Our Sunday School children will be Trick or Treating for Unicef this year! If you are setting up a "trunk" for "Trunk or Treat," please bring some change to support this worthy cause and encourage our youth to help others. If you are planning to participate in "Trunk or Treat," please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board near the piano in Fellowship Hall.

**J\*Walkrz News:** Youth planning on going to the Lake Compounce Haunted Graveyard, participating in the Cardboard City Sleep-out or attending the UCC 2016 Youth Event at Disney, need to sign up on the bulletin board, now. Our first "Family Night Out" is scheduled for November 7 from 5-9 p.m. here at the church. Kids hang with kids and are kept safe by the J\*Walkrz and several adults, giving parents a few hours to themselves. Cost? Name your price, but remember this is a fundraiser for the J\*Walkrz!

**Aid for Syrian Refugees:** We have the opportunity to work with the organization NuDay Syria which funds many programs to aid those still living in war-torn Syria and those who have been displaced to refugee camps in surrounding countries. These people are in desperate need, most having fled with nothing. For the next month, we will be collecting new and gently-used clothing, bedding and other items to be delivered directly to those in need by NuDay Syria. Please see Cathy Foote after church in Fellowship Hall for more information.

**Sunday School Volunteer Still Needed** - one Pre-K Assistant. If you love children and can spare a Sunday or two a month, please talk to Deb Hampton or Debi Hockenberry. Thank you!

**Reading Buddies Volunteers Needed!** Every Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 3-5:15 p.m., volunteers are needed to read to students at Maple Street School. This program is run by the YMCA. If interested, **please sign up** on the sheet posted on the bulletin board opposite the coat room downstairs. For more information call Millie Oliphant at 860-872-7106.

#### **Pairs and Spares Upcoming Events**

October 24, Apple Picking and Bring-Your-Own Picnic. Location TBD. We'll carpool from church, leaving at approximately 10:30 a.m. Cost: Pay for what you buy.

November 13, Game Night at FCCV, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

November 21, Line Dancing at TKB, 6:30-? Admission: \$10

December 14, Festival of Trees at Wadsworth Athenaeum. Cost: \$13, members of the Wadsworth, \$3.

**Please Note:** Anyone interested in seeing the National Champion UConn Huskies vs. the Florida State Seminoles, Friday, December 11, 6 p.m. at the Mohegan Sun Arena (cost \$14), please stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour for more information.

**Scrip-Your-All Update:** We have earned \$3,357 towards our \$5,000 goal for 2015. Thanks to all who are participating! If you buy just one \$100 gift card for groceries a month, FCCV makes \$48 (Stop & Shop), \$60 (Price Chopper) or \$72 (Big Y) a year. If 40 families did this, it would be \$1,920-\$2,880 a year. You get the full value of any cards purchased. Not participating? Check out our FCCV website ([firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all](http://firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all)) for information on how to sign up or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour.

**Please Note:** To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.

#### **Getting in Touch with our Interim Senior Pastor**

Rev. Suzanne Personette, 860/875-7580

Email: [revsuz@hotmail.com](mailto:revsuz@hotmail.com)

#### **Rev. Suzanne's Hours**

Tuesday through Thursday, 9-3 (office and visits)

Friday and Saturday, sermon writing and worship prep.

## **THE BLESSING OF THE INTERIM TIME**

*(Adapted from the Interim Ministry Network Resources - [www.interimministry.org](http://www.interimministry.org))*

### **Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

Composer: Vicar Earle Copes, 1959 Author: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980  
(used by permission, CCLI #CSPL098073)

1. Child of blessing, child of promise,  
Baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
With this water God has sealed you  
Unto love and grace divine.
2. Child of love, our love's expression,  
Love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,  
Into joy and laughter lead.
3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure,  
God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you:  
Live as one who bears Christ's name.
4. Child of God, your loving Parent,  
Learn to listen for God's call.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
Trust and love God more than all.

**TOM SWEET, MODERATOR:** Dear Christian Friends: Baptized in the priesthood of Christ, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today we give thanks to God for the Ministry that God has given to the people of The First Congregational Church of Vernon, and for the faithful service of its members and former pastors, most recently, Rev. Meg Watson. And now we begin a new part of the journey with our interim senior pastor, Rev. Suzanne Personette. We ask God's guidance for our ministry as we join together in prayer.

**ALL: Gracious God, You have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter this in-between time. Comfort us as we grieve the past or look anxiously to the future. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we might be prepared for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**REV. SUZANNE PERSONETTE:** As we begin this interim time together, we begin new relationships. I have been called as your interim senior pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time, until that time when you call a settled pastor. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the gospel among you: I will pray for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this interim period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

**CONGREGATION:** And we, the people of The First Congregational Church of Vernon, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service and stewardship.

**REV. SUZANNE:** May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place. Amen.