

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

All Saint's Day ~ Holy Communion

November 1, 2015

WELCOME!

If you have thirst our love will quench it.

If you are lonely our hope will be your company.

If you are hungry God's peace and joy will fill and feed you.

~ Peter, 8 years old

As you remember your saints today, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in their honor, before worship, or there will be another opportunity during the service. Come, let us remember.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Bev Duncan

Leader: God, for all the saints we give you thanks – for grandparents and godparents, for doctors and teachers, for coaches and pastors.

People: God, for all the saints we give you thanks – for authors of books that have moved me, for friends whose advice has guided me, for strangers who proved an example, for my children and the children of others who have given me courage.

All: God, for all the saints we give you thanks – for those nearest and farthest away, for those who have died, and those who are living, for those who knew they made a difference and those who never will. God, for all the saints we give you thanks.

***OPENING HYMN #637 "For All the Saints"**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion.

INVITATION

Leader: The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast. Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul. We receive the bread and wine connected to the ages: to the saint of old who felt unworthy, to the seeker eager to know God, to the teenager who wonders what it's all about, to the child who eats with easy faith.

Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations. There is great joy here. God the host welcomes us all.

All: Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table, to taste the feast, the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith. Time and time again you've offered your grace. Even as we have stepped away, you continue to call us to be your people. You have never left us. We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances. You are ever-patient, always faithful. We give thanks for this time of celebration. For the One this meal remembers. For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. With those who have gone before us, whose hands touched the bread, whose lips embraced the cup. We worship you, we glorify you.

PRAYER of BLESSING/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.

WE REMEMBER (*recalling Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper*)

SHARING the BREAD and the CUP (*served in the pew; gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. We will receive the elements when all are served.*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

We thank you, Most Holy God, for refreshment at your table where along with your saints we receive all Christ's gifts. Provide for your church on earth a strong faith and increased love for one another. Give us the grace to praise you with our lives, in the name of Jesus Christ. 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.

(youth may leave for Sunday School)

SCRIPTURE Ruth 1:6-18

SERMON "Remembering Our Saints" Rev. Suzanne Personette

REMEMBERING RITUAL

We remember

Charlotte Driggs
Lois Montlick
Michael Swan
Russell Kunz
Elizabeth Worden
Alma Graziani
Susan Shimer
Elizabeth Burr

~Others may come forward to light a candle for their loved one(s)~

JEWISH PRAYER

After each pause, you are invited to pray, ***we remember them.***

PRAYER RESPONSE

PAUSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Then Sings My Soul" S. Hine/M. McDonald

*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 *(unison)*

We acknowledge our call to be members of Christ's body, O God, to share our faith and to serve you. Accept our gifts and send your spirit of blessing upon them that they may be used to shine light where there is darkness, bring hope where there is despair, and enliven your church here on earth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #715 "Now Thank We All Our God"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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.

On this All Saints Sunday, as we remember our own loved ones and church members recently lost, may we also acknowledge in our prayers the people who with faith, love and hard work raised the sanctuary where we sit today from ashes. Groundbreaking for the new church took place fifty years ago this month.

The flowers in front of the Communion Table are given by the Sanctuary Choir to celebrate and honor our organist, James Burr, on the occasion of his birthday, Friday, October 30.

Greeters: Deacons

Coffee Hour: Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Evelyn Ohlendorf; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; Tim Madigan; Debbie Barney; Dave Toolan; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Candy, Lynette Melanson's sister; Dave Boucher; Greg Moffatt; Joyce Smith; Gilmay Markunas and family; Pat Lazeren; 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; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Michael Turner; 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 Music: 11:30 a.m., Library

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 a.m., PF Room

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving, sponsored by the Board of Missions.

Once again, we are asking people to provide a turkey and other related Thanksgiving dinner items for local families in need. Those who wish to participate may sign-up TODAY and next Sunday, November 8. Donations will be collected on Sunday, November 15 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. and will be delivered to Hockanum Valley Community Council for distribution in time for Thanksgiving. We will also accept gift card donations to any local grocery stores. They will be used by HVCC staff to purchase meals for families. Additional turkeys are also welcome! Hockanum Valley is also looking for volunteers to help through the holiday season. Email Carrie at volunteerhvcc@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, November 2, 11 a.m., Library

Evening Circle: Monday, November 2, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. We will be making a Gratitude/Prayer Board for the congregation. We will also have an opportunity to sign up for a Thanksgiving basket item for the needy and discuss how we can help a local school. Please join us. For more information, call Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, November 3, 6:30 a.m., Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, November 4, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, November 5, 6 p.m. at Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, November 5, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, November 6, 10:30 a.m., Library

Family Night Out: Saturday, 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! Please sign up on the J*Walkrz bulletin board.

Memorial Garden Work Day: Saturday, November 7. Volunteers are needed to help as we do our fall clean-up. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please contact Jane Morse, Chairperson.

The **Memory Tree** will be lit again this Christmas season in the Memorial Garden. The sparkling white lights announce the Christmas season and serve as a beacon for those we honor and remember during the holidays. The lights will shine from November 30 through January 6. If you would like to honor loved ones on the Memory Tree this year, see a member of the Memorial Garden Committee in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour on November 8, 15, 22, 30 or December 5. The Memory Tree Honor Roll will be published in the January 2016 Carillon. The names of your loved ones being remembered will be included in this listing if your donation is received by December 8.

J*Walkrz News: Youth planning on 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.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for parents with infants 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.

Giving Campaign: We are in our third week of the 2016 Giving Campaign and hope that you are thinking of ways you can *"Be God's hands and feet, to do something each day to serve others."* (You should have received your letter with campaign information. If not, please contact Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.com or 860-614-9747 and information will be sent to you). Every day, FCCV shares wonderful gifts with our church family and the greater community, some of which are our Pastors, Sunday School, the Women's Fellowship Retreat, Ways and Means dinners, Bible Study, Theology on Tap, providing meeting space for Boy and Girl Scout troops, the Teaching Parish, Stephen Ministry, Trunk or Treat, Advent Workshop, our Choirs, the Memorial Garden, J*Walkrz special programs and activities throughout the year (like the upcoming Cardboard City Sleep Out)...the list goes on and on. Read about many of these events on our website (firstchurchofvernon.org). **Next Sunday, November 8, is Giving Sunday.** We hope that you will prayerfully consider all that FCCV does, and that you will chose to make a Giving Commitment for 2016.

Pairs and Spares: Our next two events are...

November 13, Game Night at FCCV from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Pizza will be available for a donation (money will go to support our Pay It Forward Program). Bring your favorite games. There will be a selection of board games, as well as some Wii games to choose from.

November 21, Line Dancing at TKB, 6:30 p.m. - ???, admission - \$10
If you have ideas for Pairs and Spares or any questions, contact Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.com or 860-614-9747.

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 or Wednesday afternoons at 3 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.

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 jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

Scrip-Your-All Update: To date, we have earned \$3,600 towards our 2015 goal of \$5,000. It is now that time of year to start thinking of gift cards for the holidays. If you are participating in “Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving,” we have \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards for Big Y (6%), Price Chopper (5%), and Stop & Shop (4%). It will also soon be time to think of gift cards for Christmas presents. We will be ordering gift cards throughout November and December, so please take a look at the 100’s of different cards available. Remember, you get the **full value** for any cards purchased, so it is a win-win all around. For complete information on how to sign up, check out our website (firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all) or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour.

Reminder: FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Please Note: To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580. **Rev. Suzanne Personette’s email is revsuz@hotmail.com.**