

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

~Harvesting our Gifts Sunday~

November 8, 2015

(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.)

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

~ 1 Peter 4:10

PRELUDE "I Will Serve Thee" Gaither/Hughes
"Master, No Offering Costly and Sweet" arr. Scott
"Battle Hymn of the Republic" arr. Hughes

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring and Thanking our Veterans

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Lynn Sweet

Leader: Come one, come all – step right up

People: to God's amazing and spectacular church!

Leader: Come one, come all – there are seats for everyone -

Men: young and old, wise and foolish,

Women: all the colors of human skin,

Youth: all the languages of human prayer,

Leader: the musical and the artistic,

Men: dream-makers and detail-chasers,

Women: brisk walkers and wheelchair rollers,

Youth: signers, speakers, and readers of Braille,

Women: the daring and the caring,

Men: the joyful, the doubting, and the sad.

Leader: Come one, come all – there are seats for everyone –

Youth: in the shelter of God's wide tent...

ALL: within the circle of the people of God.

***OPENING HYMN #284 "Gather Us In"**

***PRAYER of INVOCATION**

All: Dear God, we thank you for all that you have done for us, and that you will do for us. Once again, we find ourselves here asking for your

help and guidance. God, please help us to help others, no matter who they are or who their friends are. God, help us to comfort them when they need it, even if it may be just a hug. Please also help us to do things we have feared but know we must do. Help us to jump that extra height, having no fear, for we know you are there with us. Thank you, dear God, for everything. Thank you for everything. Amen.

(~Kathleen, teenager)

***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.

TIME with the YOUTH

The LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

LITTLE BELLS "How Great Thou Art"

SCRIPTURE The Gospel of Mark 12:38-44 (p. 50)

SERMON "The Rabbit Jacket" Rev. Suzanne Personette

***HYMN #382 "We Give Thee but Thine Own" (vs. 1-2)**

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

Veterans Day Prayer (~Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips)

All: God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country: For those who have fought for freedom; For those who have laid down their lives for others; For those who have borne suffering of mind or of body; For those who have brought their best gifts to times of need. God, in your mercy and love, we thank you for their lives. On our behalf, oh God, many have entered into danger, endured separation from those they love, labored long hours and born hardship in war and in peacetime. God, in your mercy and love, we thank you for their lives.

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "First Fruits" E. Schram

***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: God, whose giving knows no ending, thank you for the many gifts with which you have entrusted us; gifts of health, safety, friendship, beauty, family, community, possessions, money, and the gift of life itself. Help us find ways of using all our gifts for your glory, so that our lives reflect your intentions for our world. In the power of Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 26:1-4

"When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. The basket will be set down before the altar of the Lord your God.

HARVESTING our GIFTS of TIME, TALENTS, TREASURE

Leader: People of the light – richness and blessings are ours. Now, the time is ours – isn't it exciting? Met by God in the holiness of this space, encouraged by the presence and commitment of everyone else around us, let's give something new. Maybe it means that we increase our usual pledge. Maybe it means that we add a pledge of time that we haven't included before. Maybe it means that we make a commitment of giving for the first time ever! Now is the time to do something new about God's abundant promises to us. Let us give joyfully our first fruits to the Lord.

As we dedicate our gifts, all who are able are asked to come forward as we sing "*Standing on the Promises*" (insert). Come and form a circle around the perimeter of the Sanctuary for the concluding prayer and Benediction. Come and gather, whether or not you have a pledge card today. (Offer your love!)

PRAYER

Leader: O God, your congregation has come, and what a delight it has been! They have come before you with gifts – gifts of themselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of trust. We thank you for the chance to give, and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same. Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "God of Our Fathers" arr. Martin

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.

Today Is Giving Sunday, the day that we make our financial giving intention for the 2016. If you forgot your Giving Card and need one, there are extras in the Narthex. You may also bring your Card next week or mail it to the church c/o the Assistant Treasurer. We hope that you are thinking of ways you can "*Be God's hands and feet, to do something each day to serve others.*" Every day FCCV shares wonderful gifts with our FCCV family and the greater community.

Standing on the Promises

(Chalice Hymn #552)

- 1) Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:
Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.
- 2) Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.
- 3) Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

(Repeat verse 1 and 2 if necessary)

(frozen) will be available for pick-up during Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 22.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Irene Pinkham; David Hollister, Candace Buswell's father; 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

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Please stop by our **Congregational Prayer and Gratitude Board**. Take a star and marker from the basket and write your prayer on it. Then remove the clear tab on the back of the star and place it on the board. Everyone is welcome to participate.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking service that began the construction of the sanctuary in which we worship today, there is a small collection of newspaper clippings, photos etc. in the Historical Display Case located in Fellowship Hall. Be sure to check it out!

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving, sponsored by the Board of Missions. Turkeys and other related Thanksgiving dinner items are needed for local families. **Today is the last day to sign-up.** Donations will be collected next Sunday, November 15 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. and will be delivered to Hockanum Valley Community Council. Gift cards to local grocery stores are also needed. They will be used by HVCC to purchase meals for families. Additional turkeys are also welcome! HVCC also needs volunteers to help through the holiday season. For more information or to volunteer, contact Carrie at volunteerhvcc@gmail.com.

Orders for homemade **Thanksgiving Pies**, baked by Women's Fellowship, will be taken today and next Sunday, November 15. Cost is \$10. Pies

The **Memory Tree** will be lit again this Christmas season in the Memorial Garden. The sparkling white lights serve as a beacon for those we honor and remember during the holidays and will shine from November 30 through January 6. If you would like to honor loved ones this year, see a member of the Memorial Garden Committee during Coffee Hour today or on **November 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.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

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

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, November 9, 11 a.m., Library

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, November 9, 7 p.m., Library

Ways and Means: Monday, November 9, 7 p.m., Chapel

December CARILLON Deadline

Tuesday, November 10

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 a.m., Vernon Diner

Prayer Shawl: Tuesday, November 10, 1 p.m., Library

Deacons: Tuesday, November 10, 7 p.m., Library

Theology on Tap: Thursday, November 12, 6 p.m. at Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, November 12, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, November 13, 10:30 a.m., Library

Pairs and Spares: Friday, November 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at FCCV for Game Night. Pizza will be available for a donation to our Pay It Forward Program. Bring your favorite games. Some board games, as well as some Wii games will be available.

Board of Missions: Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m., Library

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.

Reminder: Donations made in memory of a loved one can be mailed to the church or left in the Furnishings and Memorials mailbox across from the

office. Please include on the check the name of the person being remembered. If donations are to go to a particular committee, please indicate that on the front of the envelope. Thank you!

Request: If you are working on a project and need a place to store items, please do not use the Coat Room off the Narthex or the Brides Room. If you need a place for storage, please contact a Trustee or Furnishings and Memorials Committee member. Our church is a beautiful building and we want to keep our public areas looking their best. Many thanks!

Scrip-Your-All Update: To date, we have earned \$3,700 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 situation. 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.

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!

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.

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.**