

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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.

(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.)

PRELUDE	"Blessed Assurance"	Hughes
	"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"	Sewell
	"The Trumpet of Faith"	Anderson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP** Cathy Foote

Leader: Faithful God, Give to us ...

People: a faith like the grain of a mustard seed.

Leader: Give to us ...

People: the faith to move the mountains of difficulty.

Leader: Give to us ...

People: the faith that sees beyond the present.

Leader: Give to us ...

People: a faith which has a vision of a new world where there is peace and love.

***OPENING HYMN** #25 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

***PRAYER of INVOCATION** (*unison*)

Holy God, we ask that you guide us and teach us. Be near us so that nothing can shake us. Make us always aware of your presence. Show us the path that leads to life. Let your Spirit fill us with joy, and let your provision be our contentment forever. 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.

ANTHEM	"Come One, Come All, Come Follow"	P. R. Dietterich
	<i>Junior Choir</i>	

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.

SCRIPTURE I Samuel 1:4-17

SERMON

Rev. Robin Bird

***HYMN** #533 "We've Come This Far by Faith" (*sing twice*)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Give Thanks in Everything" D. Nolan

***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*)

Precious Creator and Benevolent Sustainer, everything we have comes from you and through you. Bless this offering and bless those who have given with loving and generous hearts. Let us remember that the money that remains in our wallets is yours as well. As we go through the coming week, may we use that money in ways that will further your work and help those who are less fortunate. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #550 "There's Within My Heart a Melody"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Firm in the Faith I Stand" Paxton

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.

In Our Ongoing Prayers...

Ann Harford; Dave LaPlante; Jake and Deb Garrow; Irene Pinkham; David Hollister, Candace Buswell's father; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; 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
Orders for Poinsettias which are displayed in the Sanctuary during Christmas will be taken **today** during Coffee Hour.

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving: Members of the Board of Missions will be in the parking lot **today** from 11:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. to collect your donations for delivery to the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Donations of turkeys, gift cards to local grocery stores or other food items will be gratefully accepted.

Today is the last day to place an order for homemade **Thanksgiving Pies**, baked by Women's Fellowship. Cost is \$10. Pies (frozen) will be available for pick-up during Coffee Hour next Sunday, November 22.

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 22, 30** or **December 6**. 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 7.

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.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

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

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, November 16, 11 a.m., Library

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 a.m., Vernon Diner

BCE: Tuesday, November 17, 7 p.m., Library

Furnishings & Memorials: Tuesday, November 17, 7 p.m., Chapel

Library Committee: Wednesday, November 18, 1 p.m., Library

Finance: Wednesday, November 18, 7:15 p.m., Library

Basket Group: Thursday, November 19, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Theology on Tap: Thursday, November 19, 6 p.m. at Mitchell's Restaurant

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Support Group: Friday, November 20, 10:30 a.m., Library

Pairs and Spares: Saturday, November 21, 6:30 p.m., Line Dancing at TKB. If you have any questions or suggestion, contact Kate Fowler, 860-614-9747 or kfowler64@yahoo.com.

Ladies Luncheon: Tuesday, November 24, noon at Mitchell's. Anyone needing a ride should call Jan Muro at 860-872-1757. Although you do not have to sign up to attend, we ask that you do, so we can have a head count. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. downstairs next Sunday for an Advent Workshop. Ask your children what they made and why (every day take a link off their Advent chain and follow the directions.).

Potluck Lunch: Next Sunday, November 29 following the Worship Service. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Junior Choir for children in grades K-5, rehearses each Sunday after the worship service and a quick snack at 11:30 a.m. for 20 -30 minutes in the PF Room (Kellogg Hall). New members are welcome. Junior Choir provides children with a way to give of their time and talents to Christ's family, the church. Questions or suggestions? Contact Althea Madigan at 860-870-5185 (leave a message) or child sings@gmail.com.

Giving Campaign: Last week was Giving Sunday when many in the FCCV family made their giving commitments for 2016. Stay tuned for updates on where we are in terms of meeting our \$250,000 goal. If you have not yet made a giving commitment, we hope that you will prayerfully consider doing so. Giving Cards and packets are available in the Narthex.

Scrip-Your-All Update: Last week was our second highest earnings week, earning just over \$124! Let's top that this week! Food is being collected today for Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving. Consider purchasing a gift card to Big Y (6%), Price Chopper (5%) or Stop & Shop (4%) and donating it to this program. A complete list of gift cards is available. Cards will be ordered throughout November and December. For information check out firstchurchofvernon.org/scrip-your-all or stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour.

Next Sunday is Pay It Forward. Last month, Nicholas Giordano Paid it Forward to the "Discovery Center" of Connecticut - "a classroom without walls...for a future without prejudice." Visit discoveringdiversity.com for more information. If you are interested in donating to PIF, there is a box near the stairway to Fellowship Hall. You may also place a check in any amount in the offering basket, noting "PIF" on the memo line.

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!

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.

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.**