

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

November 18, 2012  
250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**GATHERING MUSIC**

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” Kantor  
“Settings of ‘Now Thank We All Our God’” Rembt/Livingston

**CHIMING of the HOUR**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Cynthia Carr

**ACOLYTES**

**PRELUDE** “Simple Gifts” arr. Lachenauer

**WORDS of REFLECTION**

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”  
Mahatma Gandhi

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP** Pat Lazeren

Leader: Blessed be the name of God from this time on and forevermore.

**People:** From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of God is to be praised.

Leader: It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises to your name, O God Most High.

**People:** To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

**\*OPENING HYMN #276 “We Gather Together”**

**UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION**

O God, thou art morning and mercy to all our darkness and to all our sorrow, come to us now and make our hearts ready for this worship. Accept our silences as well as our words, our intentions as well as our actions, our doubts as well as our faith. Mend us where we are broken, enliven us where we are dull, encourage us where we are afraid; and send us out into the world to mend, enliven, and encourage, in the name of Jesus, our guide and Savior. Amen.

**250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LITANY (insert)**

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

**READING of the MAYORAL PROCLAMATION** Mayor George Apel

**A TIME with the CHILDREN**

**The LORD’S PRAYER (unison... “debts”)**

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

**ANTHEM** “Sine Nomine” Williams

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**\*HYMN** “Through the Years, Dear God, With Thee” (insert)  
Bill and Barry Taylor

**SCRIPTURE** Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 23-28

**SERMON** The Rev. David Minnick

**REAFFIRMATION of the CHURCH COVENANT (insert)**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Hear, O Israel” Courtney

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

**\*UNIVERSAL PRAYER of DEDICATION**

On this day of remembrance we come, O God, as generations have before us, to seek your blessing, praise your name, and offer you these gifts. We give thanks for those who built this church by faith, for those who brought it to their hearts’ anguish and their souls’ rejoicing, for those who sang in it to your glory and those who prayed in it for the sake of others, and for all the life within it whereby we have learned and dreamed and hoped together. On this day, as we gather to give thanks and praise, be in us a hope and jubilation for all the days and years that lie ahead. Praise be to your name in this house of prayer forever. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “A New Beginning” (insert) J. Burr

**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** “Triumphal March on ‘Nun danket’” Karg-Elert

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

Today’s Prayers of Invocation and Dedication were adapted from prayers written by Arnold Kenseth.

Today’s second hymn, “Through the Years, Dear God, with Thee” was written by Bill and Barry Taylor in honor of our congregation’s 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Our closing hymn, “A New Beginning,” was written by our organist James Burr in honor of this special day. This is the premiere performance of this hymn.

The Sanctuary Choir is pleased to have with us today a group of “choir alumni.” They will be joining us for the anthem “Sine Nomine,” a choral setting of the familiar hymn tune “For All the Saints.” We are grateful to the following people who represent the many choir members who have shared their time and talents throughout our long history: Laurel Andrews, Marlene Bennett, Whitney Ferguson, Virginia Ferris, Betsy Gerakaris, Donna Lippmann, Jim Montlick, Mary Jean Pelham, Enos Stambo, Jeanine Uthgenannt, Mary Wheeler

The Cornucopia on the Communion Table is provided and arranged by the Flower Committee.

**WELCOME TO FCCV!**

If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign our Guest Book (on the table in the Narthex) and help yourself to a Welcome Bag made especially 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.

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

For those who had not pre-ordered **pies** for Thanksgiving, there will be some available for purchase today – apple, pumpkin, pecan, \$10 per pie.

## **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Deacons:** Monday, November 19, 7 PM, Chapel

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, November 20, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Finance:** Tuesday, November 20, 7 PM, Library

**Furnishings & Memorials:** Tuesday, November 20, 7 PM, Chapel

**Prayer Shawl Group:** Wednesday, November 14, 1 PM, Library

**Library:** Wednesday, November 21, 1 PM, Library

### **THANKSGIVING DAY BREAKFAST/SERVICE**

On **Thanksgiving morning**, join us for a hot buffet breakfast with your family and friends. Breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 AM followed by a brief service in the Sanctuary at 8:20 AM. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall with the number of people attending so we can prepare the right amount of food. If you are interested in helping that morning, please contact Michelle Bower, 872-7274.

**Many thanks** to those who participated in our Gallery of Thanks last Sunday. We celebrated our faith in God and our willingness to serve others in His name by “ingathering” our pledges and sharing in a special Litany of Giving. The commitment that you make to support the worship and work of our church can demonstrate the “can't wait to” level of giving and serving that Pastor David spoke about in his sermon!

**Reminder Pledges Are Due!** If you were unable to get your pledge in during Stewardship Sunday last week, we encourage you to get it to the church as soon as possible. Your pledge is vital to the planning of our 2013 budget. If you need a pledge packet, they will be available during Coffee Hour during the month of November or you can contact the Church Office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.net).

**Please Note:** There will be NO Sunday School next Sunday, November 25. The Toddler Room will be open.

**Family Communion – December 2:** No Sunday School but the Toddler Room will be open for children up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Communion will be open to all ages at the discretion of the parents.

**Coat Drive for Button Up CT:** The 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class is collecting coats for men, women and children today. Please drop them off in the breezeway.

**Advent Workshop:** Sunday, December 9 after the worship service. Open to everyone. Please bring a snack to share and mittens, gloves or hats for our Mitten Tree.

**The Board of Missions would like to thank the Congregation** for their ongoing support with the Thanksgiving Baskets. We would also like to thank you for your donations for those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

**“A Christmas with the Vernon Chorale”** performance will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 PM featuring choral works by Bach, Rutter, Whitacre and Traditional Christmas Carols. Suggested donation - \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/students. Reception in Fellowship Hall following the performance.

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) or Jon Dunlap (875-7254).

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**.

**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.

**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](mailto:DelytheK@yahoo.com) or (860) 872-3004.

**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 . . . Shirley Bryant; Joan McMahon** recovering from hip replacement surgery; **Dick Saich; George and Joan Apel; Mike Kermode** deployed in Afghanistan; **Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; 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; 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**

## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Litany

Leader: *Today is a day both of dreams and of memories.*

**People:** **“For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named,**

Choir: *“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Leader: *That child grew and blossomed. He heard God’s call and answered it, and with the confidence and dread, hope and fear, trust and suspicion, faith and doubt that all of us have known.*

**People:** **He heard God’s call and followed it, through life, through death, to life anew, glorious and triumphant.**

Leader: *And people began to follow. Renewed in faith, sustained by the Spirit.*

**People:** **Through the centuries of persecution and suffering, they trusted in the redeeming power of God.**

Leader: *The Upper Room, the road to Damascus, Patrick-missionary to Ireland, Augustine and the City of God.*

**People:** **Empires rose and fell, the Crusades and the Inquisition; Constantine and Charlemagne, Constantinople and Rome.**

Choir: *And the name of Jesus Christ spread wider and wider throughout the world.*

Leader: *Francis of Assisi taught the world to love all of God’s creation.*

**People:** **While Thomas Aquinas reminded us of the balance of reason and revelation in faith.**

Leader: *And then there was Luther and Calvin, Know and Wycliffe, the Wesleys and the Separatists.*

Choir: *“I cannot, I will not recant,” Luther cried out.*

Leader: *Between the door of Wittenburg Cathedral and the New World, the mission field grew larger. And the good news went further.*

**People:** **The Mayflower set sail and the Massachusetts Bay Colony was formed.**

Leader: *The good news spread and the meeting houses were established.*

Choir: *“It’s time to build a new one, on the highest hill north of Bolton and east of Windsor.”*

Leader: *And so they began to gather on Meeting House Hill. Gathering from near and far, they were known as the Second Church of Bolton.*

**People:** **And they called first Ebenezer Kellogg who was the first to teach and nurture them. And over the centuries, they grew in life and spirit, guided and inspired by Higgins and Brenner and Carr.**

Choir: *And the good news spread, and the people were fed in the ways most important to their hearts and souls.*

Leader: *And for two hundred and fifty years now, generations upon generations have worshipped here. The communion of saints has been enriched by the mission of this congregation.*

**People:** **Till today, when once again we gather, looking for new opportunities and challenges; new voices to preach, inspire and guide; new ways to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, again and again.**

**All:** **Bless us O God, to live our lives in ways that honor our heritage and proclaim the never-ending hope we find in you. Amen.**

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### Church Covenant

We believe in God and hold a deep and abiding love for Our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit as it is revealed to us in Scripture and through prayerful discernment.

We are a faith community. As members of this Body of Christ, we

- proclaim the good news of Christ’s resurrection and the freedom of new life for all who follow in his ways;
- share God’s love with others by reaching out to those in need; and
- continue to deepen our knowledge and understanding of God’s call in our lives.

With the help of God and this Body of Christ, we covenant to do our best to follow Christ’s example and embrace the Great Commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself,” and his new Commandment, “Love one another.” As we journey together, we promise to care and pray for one another, ever mindful that we are to lift up one another with dignity and Christian love.

We will support this Body of Christ to the best of our ability, through participation in worship, sacraments, work, programs and events, financial commitment, mission and fellowship. We promise to work together to strengthen the ministries of First Congregational Church of Vernon, United Church of Christ, and deepen our commitment as a faith community that is welcoming and accessible to all.