

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

November 25, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC “For Thy Blessings, We Give Thanks” Moore
“We Thank Thee Loving Father” Smith

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “Song of Thankfulness” Denton

WORDS of REFLECTION

“The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour, some heavenly blessings.” Henry Ward Beecher

*RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP Tony Muro

Leader: We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

People: God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Leader: Like leaves skipping over the carpet of grass:

People: God moves and guides us through life.

Leader: Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

People: God blesses us with a new day, full of wonder and grace.

Leader: Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night:

People: God blesses us with rest and peace, the wonder of another day complete.

*OPENING HYMN #714 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION

Almighty God: from the beginning of time to the end of eternity, you have chosen to use your power and majesty, to love us, to redeem us, to shape us as your people. King of Kings and Lord of Lords: you became weak so you could confront the strength of sin and death, crushing the illusions of power with your resurrection. Spirit of God, resting upon us: may your power enflame us with your peace; may your peace touch us with your grace; may your grace fill us with your hope; may your hope lead us into your kingdom. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 67 p. 744

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

REAFFIRMATION of the CHURCH COVENANT

A TIME with the CHILDREN

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

(*Children to remain in worship with their families today.*)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

SERMON HYMN #275 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Give Thanks in Everything” R. Schram

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #715 “Now Thank We All Our God”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” Bourgeois/Hughes

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

Welcome to our New Members Valerie Ellis and Gerry Dyar.

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

Please Note: There is NO Sunday School today. The Toddler Room is open and staffed.

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.

Pay It Forward: Recently Julia Assard shared her story of her gift to provide Thanksgiving dinners for families in our community. With additional contributions from her family, Julia was able to provide several dinners for families in need. Today we feature Millie Oliphant. If you wish to donate to the Pay It Forward Ministry, please make your check payable to FCCV, noting “PIF Ministry” in the memo and leave it in the Assistant Treasurer or Treasurer’s mailbox. **Pay It Forward stories are on our website. Check us out.**

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Have your blood pressure checked by one of our Parish Nurses.

Orders for Poinsettias, that are placed in the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season, are being taken today and on Sundays, December 2 and 9.

THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES

Men’s Club: Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Board of Music: Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 PM, Library

Trustees: Wednesday, November 28, 7 PM, Library

Sanctuary Choir rehearsal: Thursday, November 29, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, November 30, 10:30 AM, Library

Reminder Pledges Are Due! If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so 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 today or you can contact the Church Office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.net). **“FCCV’s Gallery of Faith”** is a gallery filled with love...love of God through Christ and love for each other. We exhibit this love through the many opportunities provided at FCCV...opportunities for worship, service and fellowship that are a blessing to each of us.

Gathering of Gratitude for Rev. Cindy Carr
Saturday, December 1
3-6 PM in Fellowship Hall

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

“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.

Youth Fellowship: Sunday, December 2, 3-7 PM. We will be cooking and serving at Peter’s Retreat in Hartford. Permission slip needed. Meet at FCCV.

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.

Christmas Concert, presented by Music at First, Sunday, December 9 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary. Refreshments to follow. Suggested donation: \$7 adults/\$5 seniors and students. Proceeds benefit the Les Childs Music Scholarship.

The Christmas Giving Tree, sponsored by the Board of Missions, is once again making an appearance! We will be collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services “Toy Workshop” where a family in need can go to choose toys that best fit their children’s needs and wants for Christmas. There is a specific need for games, multicultural dolls, arts/crafts, science kits, and other educational toys. You may **choose a tag** from the Christmas Giving Tree, located in the back of the Sanctuary on **December 2 and 9**. Each tag will bear the age and gender of a child in need. Place your new, **unwrapped** toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree by Sunday, December 16. Any questions? Contact Kenneth Morgan, 860-281-3338. Note: If (only if) inclement weather cancels church on December 16, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 17. Questions regarding inclement weather? Call Gilmay Markunas, 860-896-1930.

Sunday School Superintendent Needed Immediately. Contact Linda Shivers or Cindy Madden for a job description or if you have questions.

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 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

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.