

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

November 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent ~ Hope

GATHERING MUSIC "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Handel  
"Recitative and Chorale from 'Christmas Oratorio'" J. S. Bach  
"Noel with Variations" Guilmant

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. David Minnick  
(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."  
Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

PRELUDE "O Wondrous Star" Rinck/Troutman  
LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE of HOPE Nicholas Bartos  
Aarika Mallory

\*OPENING HYMN #136 "Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison) Rev. Cynthia Carr  
Creating and sustaining God, in your presence there is life.

Living water springs up, and deserts blossom where you pass.

Seeking the life that comes from you, we have gathered before you.

Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready.

Delight us with your presence, and prepare us for your service in the world; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion:

People: Your God reigns!

Leader: God comes in the power of love and justice; therefore let us wait with eagerness and worship with joy.

People: God comes to judge the world with righteousness, the people with truth.

All: Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fill it. Shout for joy, all the earth.

\*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

CHILDREN'S BELLS

A TIME with the CHILDREN

The LORD'S PRAYER (unison... "debts")

(Children may leave for the Advent Workshop after the Lord's Prayer. Parents may pick up their children in Fellowship Hall after the worship service.)

ANTHEM

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13: 24-37

\*HYMN #135 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

SERMON "Wait and Watch" Joseph Tobin

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Creator of the Stars of Night" Plainsong

arr. C. W. Douglas

\*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN #119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come" J. Denton

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

**Pay It Forward:** Today we feature Beth Fowler last week's winner. Last week, Mary Wheeler told us about her gift to the Petit Family Foundation and shared with us the words of Dr. William Petit, "Go forward with the inclination to live with a faith that embodies action. Help a neighbor, fight for a cause, love your family. I'm really expecting all of you to go out and do some of these things with your family, in your own little way, to spread the work of these wonderful women."

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a first time visitor, please take a moment after the worship service and sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table.

There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**Search Committee:** 11:30 AM, Library

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

**Orders** for **Poinsettias** to be displayed in the Sanctuary during Christmas will be taken **today** during Coffee Hour.

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

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, November 29, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Yoga:** Wednesday, November 30, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Please bring a mat. Donation: \$5 per class.

**Capitol Improvement Committee:** Wednesday, November 30, 7 PM, Library

**Caring and Sharing Support Group:** Friday, December 2, 10:30 AM, Library

**Reminder:** Agenda items for the Council meeting on December 7 should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than Sunday, December 4.

**The Christmas Giving Tree** 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 4 and 11**. 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 18. Any questions? Contact Lisa Rylant, 860-498-0035. **Note:** If (only if) inclement weather cancels church on December 18, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 19. Questions regarding inclement weather? Call Deb Hockenberry, 860-712-6466.

Sunday School children ages 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be **collecting mittens and gloves** (sizes to fit ages 4- 5<sup>th</sup> grade) for a local school on December 4 and 11.

**Basketball** for youth in 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school will be held on Saturday evenings twice a month at the Wapping Church in South Windsor. These are non-competitive, fun games. If interested, contact Randy Ramsdell or Linda Shivers.

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## Count Yourself Blessed - 2012 Pledge Drive

**\$58,900 To Go!!!!!!**

As of November 20, we have received \$182,822 in pledges.

Let's get those pledges in, as this is vital to the planning of our 2012 Budget. Together we can demonstrate our commitment to the First Congregational Church of Vernon and the blessings we share here.

If you did not receive a pledge card, they are available in the Church Office.

**2012 PLEDGE GOAL - \$241,700**

**Thank You!**

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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 for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

### **Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please listen to any of the following radio stations: WTIC AM (1080), WTIC FM (96.5), WRCH FM (100.5), watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

**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.

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, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).

**Reminder:** Our Sunday morning worship services (on a one week delay) are available for viewing on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5 Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Uncut DVD's (DVD's submitted for viewing on Comcast are edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library. Check your local listings or go to CVCCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events.

**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...** Leanne, Erin and Patrick Connolly on the loss of Joe Connolly; **Robbie Ordway and family; Jane and Dick Saich; Mike Swan** undergoing chemo for a recurrence of cancer; **Kathy Fuller**, Barbara Evensen's sister; **Caleb**, infant son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Richard Waddell**, nephew by marriage of Mary Wheeler, recovering from cancer surgery; **Debbie Morris**, Jan Peacock's niece; **Donna Peacock; Carol Whitney; Kyle**, son of Rob Czaplicki (friend of Rob Horton); **Joyce Smith; Dolores Tomolonis**, friend of Mary and Jim White, (cancer); baby **Ava; Thelma Gifford; Kaylin Gifford; Rick Gagnon**, brother-in-law of Michelle Bower (cancer); **Warren Clay; Gary Edwards**, friend of Serena Volovski; **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; Stephen Volovski; Donald Chase; Audrey Clay** (breast cancer)

**In Our Global Prayers...** Imagine Facebook, face-to-face. That's what Coral Gables Congregational UCC of Coral Gables, FL does every Wednesday night with Church Night In (CNI). People of all generations and backgrounds gather for a community meal and fellowship with activities afterwards. CNI, in the words of the pastor, "brings people together to an inter-generational family atmosphere, allowing them to attend a program of the church after experiencing the nurturing bonds of community."