

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

November 30, 2014

Hanging of the Greens

PRELUDE "Meditation on 'Lead, Kindly Light'" Bradshaw
"Pastorale Symphony" Handel
"Aria from Christmas Oratorio" Bach
"Noel" Dubois

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL to WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord;

People: Deck the halls with the symbols of the season.

Leader: Prepare the way of Christ;

People: Make your hearts ready to receive him.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Holy One;

People: Leave room for inconvenient miracles.

Leader: Come, hear the words of the prophet crying out in the wilderness:

People: Prepare the way of the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN #125 "Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open our lives to you. Come and find us ready to receive you. As we decorate our sanctuary with visible signs of Christ's birth, let us also work to make your love more visible in the world. In the name of the Light of the World we pray. 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.

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.

ANTHEM "Masters in This Hall" Marais/Morris

HANGING of the GREENS (*see insert*)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The Holly and the Ivy" Traditional

Trio – Leanne, Erin and Patrick Connolly

*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

*CLOSING HYMN #480 "I Love to Tell the Story"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Puer Nobis Nascitur" Near

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

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

WELCOME to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of VERNON!

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. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Becky Burr; Bess Howe; Lynn Toolan's Aunt Georgia; Paul Westerberg; Michelle Darby; people struggling with mental illness; State Trooper Christopher Melanson; Debbie Chase; Pat Lazeren; Sharon Lacey; Ed Rockland, Bettye Kramer's brother-in-law; Maggie and David Minnick; Joyce Smith; Mike Swan; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Pat Melville; Philip Bogard; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Christa Hockenberry; Cindy Madden; Jan Peacock; Julie Wrona; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Will and Diane Livermore; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Lillian Burnett; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Kim Burnham; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Melissa Morse

New additions in bold print

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Anyone wishing to purchase **lights** for the **Memory Tree** in the Memorial Garden that is lit during the Christmas season may do so during Coffee Hour today or on November 30 and December 7.

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

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

A sandwich/dessert **Potluck Lunch** that will take place in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 AM-1PM. We hope all of you will stay to celebrate Advent, eat, drink and be merry. The potluck will be held at the same time as the **Advent Workshop**, which will take place in Kellogg Hall. If you choose to attend the workshop, you will have the option of eating before, during or after the workshop. In any case, all who attend the potluck are also encouraged to check out the workshop.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Please Note: Tuesday morning **Bible Study** and Thursday evening **Theology on Tap** are taking a break. We will not meet again until the week of January 5.

Men's Group: Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Council: Wednesday, December 3, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, December 4, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Grief Support Group: Friday, December 5, 10:30 AM, Library

Choir Rehearsals: Saturday, December 6, 9:30 AM, Sanctuary

Giving Campaign: We hope that last week's message during "Harvesting of Gifts" Sunday left you inspired to be a "Spark in the Darkness." Stay tuned in the weeks to come for information on how we are doing towards our \$270,000 goal! If you are in need of a Giving Packet, stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour or email Kate Fowler (kfowler64@yahoo.com) to have a packet sent to you electronically.

The **Scrip-Your-All** goal of \$6,000 has been met, thanks to a fabulous Sunday Sale! We also had a great two weeks of online orders and have now earned approximately \$6,175! Although we've met our goal, **let's not stop!** Now is the time to order your gift cards for the holidays or special occasions. A list of all our card offerings is available during Coffee Hour at the Scrip-Your-All table. After today, there are just two Sundays left to order your gift cards to have them in time for Christmas giving! We will be placing orders today and on December 7 and 14. As a reminder, FCCV earns the rebate at the time of your purchase, so any gift cards you purchase now through the end of the year count toward our total end of year amount! **Thanks again for your support!**

Please Note: Anyone wishing to serve on the Planning Committee for the next Women's Fellowship Retreat should contact Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.

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. Anyone with concerns about the Crib Room should contact Sally Sullivan, 871-1473. A staffed **Toddler Room**, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing, is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old.**

Have you walked through FCCV's **Memorial Garden**? No matter the time of year, it makes for a very spiritual walk. The Memorial Garden Committee is always looking for new members to help care for the Garden. We need volunteers to help with planting and weeding; to help families choose a site and then prepare interment sites; to handle the paperwork and finances and manual labor for care of the garden. Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Chairman Jane Morse.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

It's time, once again, for our **Christmas Giving Tree** sponsored by the Board of Missions!

We will be collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services "Toy Workshop" where a family in need can go to choose the toys that best fit their children's wants and needs for Christmas. There is a specific need for games, multicultural dolls, arts and crafts, science kits and other educational toys.

Please choose an ornament tag from the Christmas Giving Tree, set up in the back of the Sanctuary from **November 30 to December 14.** Each ornament tag

bears the age and gender of a child in need. Please place your new and **unwrapped** toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree by Sunday, December 14. Any questions? Contact Kathleen Gallo, 860-930-5958 or Valerie Ellis, 860-205-0108.

Note: If (only if) inclement weather cancels our church service on December 14, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church Breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 15.

Name Tags: If you ordered a name tag it is available for pick-up at the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour. If you need a name tag you can order it any Sunday during Coffee Hour or contact Jim Montlick (jamontlik@aol.com). You can choose a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

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. Check your local listings or go to CVCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV events. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather: Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

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.

