

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 1, 2013

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE “Meditation on ‘Lead, Kindly Light’” Bradshaw
“Noel” Dubois
“Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!” Pethel

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

Leader: Love comes wrapped in swaddling clothes,

People: God’s love, lying in a manger.

Leader: Hope is born on a silent night,

People: The hope of the world, alive in the hay.

Leader: It’s coming soon. It’s almost here.

People: Immanuel, God with us!

***OPENING HYMN** #133 “like a child”

ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Hope (*from Isaiah 60:2*)

Reader 1: “For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you.”

Reader 2: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. Let us not grow weary in doing good in the world.

Lighting the Candle of Hope (in silence)

Prayer (*unison*)

O God, we thank you for the hope that you have given us in Jesus Christ. Help us to be ready to welcome Christ into our lives, to think good thoughts and do good deeds, so that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

Hymn #128 “One Candle Is Lit” (*First verse only*)

***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.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14

SERMON

Rev. Meg Watson

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Living Light” Lantz

***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**

***COMMUNION HYMN** #420 “I Come with Joy”

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

CALL to PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

BREAKING the BREAD and SHARING the CUP

(Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. Please hold the elements until all are served.)

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #431 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “In dulci jubilo” J. G. Walther

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

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

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Furnishings and Memorials, Library and Memorial Garden Committees

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 worshiping 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!

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Ben Savage, Sharon Christman's brother, dealing with cancer; Phyllis Chase and family on the loss of her husband Donald Chase; Monica and Brad Becker and family on the death of her mother Irene Wasco; Lillian Burnett, Halene Fujimoto's mother; Dick Myer, Andy Myer's brother; Debbie Chase; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Sharon Dombek; Rev. Charlie Nichol's granddaughter Devon; Gail Occhialini; Kim Burnham; Cheryl Adams; Alan and Jayne Chesterton; Joyce Smith; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Claudette Weingart; Valerie Flitcroft; Jan Peacock; Candy Buswell; Steve Bright; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; Janet Boucher; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Will Livermore; Mike Swan; Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Paul and Susan Shimer; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs.

New additions in bold print

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Advent Workshop: Today during the worship service. All children will gather in Kellogg Hall for the Children's Message then go to Fellowship Hall to make some crafts. Parents can pick their children up there.

Board of Music: 11:30 AM, Library

Youth Fellowship: Today from 5-6:30 PM. We will be doing some holiday baking for the Cornerstone soup Kitchen.

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Orders for **Poinsettias** that are displayed in the Sanctuary during Christmas will be taken **today** during Coffee Hour. You may also purchase **lights** for the **Memory Tree** that is lit in the Memorial Garden during the Christmas season.

Scrip-Your-All orders can be placed any Sunday during Coffee Hour. Remember, these are real gift cards from responsible merchants. They have no expiration date and payment is to be made at the time of card purchase. Any questions, contact Kate or Martha Fowler, 860-896-0768 or Holly Boutwell, 860-872-6359.

Name Tags: If you have not yet ordered a new name tag but would like to, you can do so any Sunday during Coffee Hour or you can contact Jim Montlick at jamontlik@aol.com. You may choose a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Men's Club: Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, December 3, 11 AM, Library

Council: Wednesday, December 4, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tom Sweet today, December 1.

Bell Choir: Thursday, December 5, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, December 5, 7:30 PM

Support Group: Friday, December 6, 10:30 AM, Library

The **Reading Buddies** are in need of **stickers**. Donations may be left in the labeled box located in the Library.

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**.

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 www.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.

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).

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.

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.



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 December 1 - 15. 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 15. Any questions? Contact Gilmary Markunas, (860) 896-1930. **Note:** If (only if) inclement weather cancels our church service on December 15, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church Breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 16.

Christmas Dinners

This year Hockanum Valley is in greater need of food donations for Christmas dinners in our community. In the past, Reins Deli has offered a hot dinner to those in need on Christmas day. This year, due to family illness, they will not be opening. Therefore, HVCC is looking for additional donations. Those who wish to participate may sign up during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, December 8 and 15. Christmas baskets will be collected on Monday, December 16 between 6:30 and 8:30 AM in the FCCV parking lot. We will also be collecting all types of non-perishable items food to drop off at Hockanum Valley on December 16. These can be left in the Missions Box in the Breezeway. If you would like to help on Monday, December 16 or have questions, please contact Sandra O'Gara at 860-872-6649 or Deb Cutting or 860-875-2291.

Suggested donations

Ham, whole turkey, turkey breast, chicken
Instant potatoes or fresh potatoes
Stuffing
Gravy
Yams or sweet potatoes
Cranberry sauce
Fruit, canned
Vegetables, canned
Brownie or cookie mix or cake mix and frosting
Dinner rolls
Breakfast bread or muffin mix
Apple or cranberry juice
Disposable roasting pan