

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 4, 2011

Holy Communion ~ Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace

GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cynthia Carr

(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PAY IT FORWARD

PRELUDE

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

Our whole life is Advent -- that is, a time of waiting for the ultimate, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth . . . Learn to wait, because he has promised to come. . . We call to him: "Yes, come soon, Lord Jesus!"

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, A Testament to Freedom

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE of PEACE

Timothy, Jennifer and Maddy Condry

*CALL to WORSHIP

Joseph Tobin

Leader: It is in the watching, and in the waiting

People: that we hear the promises made long ago.

Leader: It is in the questions, and in the hoping,

People: that we give thanks every time we hear the glad news.

Leader: It is in the coming, and in the going,

People: that we welcome the One who is our Delight, our Joy.

*OPENING HYMN #125 "Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

We give thanks every time we think of your promises, God of Advent blessings; for through you, they are not just empty words, but life which will never end, hope which will endure all things, joy which shines in every shadow.

We give thanks every time we remember your advent, blessed Savior; for in you, we see God's dreams for us; in you, we hear the good news of sins forgiven, of life renewed; in you, we find our heart's true home.

We give thanks every time we experience your presence, Refining Spirit of God; for with you, we walk down the pathways of peace; with you, we can fill in the gaps which separate one from another; with you, we taste God's grace and love.

Bless and guide our worship and the living of our days in this Advent season. We ask this in the name of Jesus, whose coming anew we await with hope. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS – Amy and Molly Shannon on the death of Mary Shannon, mother and grandmother; Alexandra Fisher, granddaughter of Pat Aldrich, who had heart surgery on December 1

MORNING PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER (*unison... "debts"*)

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERTORY "E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come" Manz

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 25: 6-9

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Leader: As we wait to celebrate the holy birth, may God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: As we wait for Christ's return, let us lift our hearts.

People: We lift them to the God who comes to us in every time, and in every place.

Leader: As we trust the One who comes to us, let us give thanks to the God of Advent,

People: Joy is the gift of our hearts, praise is the song on our lips.

*COMMUNION HYMN #124 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PRAYER of CONFESSION and CONSECRATION

BREAKING of the BREAD

(Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon serving communion. Please wait until all are served before eating the bread and drinking the cup.)

SHARING of the CUP

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

All: God of abundance and mercy, we give joyful thanks for your eternal love and healing presence in our celebration of bread and cup. Bless this body of Christ that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your servants, with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #142 "People, Look East"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Flower and Memorial Garden Committees

Pay It Forward: Today we feature Dick Wurst. Last week, Beth Fowler shared with us her gift to support women who suffer from domestic violence and abuse.

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

Transformers: 11:30 AM, Choir Room

The Christmas Giving Tree: We are collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services "Toy Workshop" where a family in need can choose toys that their children need or want for Christmas. There is a specific need for games, multicultural dolls, arts/crafts, science kits and other educational toys. **Choose a tag** from the tree, located in the back of the Sanctuary, **today** and next Sunday, **December 11.** Each tag bears the age and gender of a child in need. Place your new, **unwrapped** toy(s) under the tree by Sunday, December 18. Questions? Contact Lisa Rylant, 860-498-0035. **Note:** If (only if) inclement weather cancels church on December 18, gifts will be collected in the Breezeway from 8-10 AM on Monday, December 19. Questions about the weather? Call Deb Hockenberry, 860-712-6466.

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

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.

Box o' Cookies Sale: This very popular annual event will be held during Coffee Hour next Sunday, December 11. Fill a box with homemade Christmas cookies for only \$5. There is always a huge demand for cookies, so if you could possibly donate a few dozen of your favorite creations, it would be greatly appreciated. **Look for the sign up sheet for baking...it will be on the Coffee Hour table today.**

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

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

Prayer Squares: Tuesday, December 6, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Yoga: Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Please bring a mat. Donation: \$5 per class.

Church Council: Wednesday, December 7, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro today.

Bell Choir: Thursday, December 8, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, December 8, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

Caring and Sharing Support Group: Friday, December 9, 10:30 AM, Library

Contemporary Worship Rehearsal: Saturday, December 10, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Vernon Chorale Christmas Concert, Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Concert theme is "Love Came Down at Christmas" and includes works by Rutter, Tavener, Whitacre, Durufle, McCoy and features choruses from part I of Handel's *Messiah*. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/students, will be available at the door. For more information go to vernonchorale.org.

Confirmation Class: The mini retreat scheduled for December 11 has been postponed. There will be a regular class that day from 11:30 AM-1 PM.

Count Yourself Blessed - 2012 Pledge Drive

\$46,513 To Go!!!!

As of November 27, we have received \$195,187 in pledges. With only 144 pledges in, it is evident that not everyone has turned in their pledge.

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

Please take time this season to enjoy the Christmas items in our 250th Anniversary Display Case in Fellowship Hall. We hope to change the display often during the year, in keeping with the season and/or moments of significance in our history. If you have an artifact or memento you would like to share, please contact Joan Apel, our Historian, through the Church Office: fccv@snet.net or 860-875-7580.

Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grade) Sleepover: Friday, December 16 at 7 PM. Bring a friend, a snack to share and games to play. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board down the hall from 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 for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... Pam Lyons recovering from arm surgery; **Kim and Bill Grimes and family** on the loss of his mother, Catherine Grimes; **Leanne, Erin and Patrick Connolly** on the loss of Joe Connolly; **Robbie Ordway and family; Mike Swan** undergoing chemo for a reoccurrence 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)

