

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 8, 2013

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Pastorale" Gordigiani
"Offertory on Three Noels" Guilmant
"Shepherd's Hymn" Mansfield
"He Shall Feed His Flock" Handel

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

*CALL to WORSHIP *(responsive)* Sue Mias

Leader: Peace comes on the wings of angels.

People: Peace on earth, good will to all.

Leader: Sweet shalom rains down from heaven.

People: Soft as starlight on the ground.

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

People: Emmanuel, God with us!

*OPENING HYMN #119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ADVENT WREATH Steven and Peg Leary

The Candle of Peace *(from Isaiah 9:6)*

Reader 1: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Reader 2: We gather today knowing that the world is not perfect, that none of us are perfect. There is much that seems like chaos going on around us and many fears would trouble our thoughts. Yet, we have been given the promise of peace in Christ, the Prince of Peace. As we light this candle, we proclaim peace here in our midst. Let us work for peace in our homes, in our nation and in our world.

Lighting the Candle of Peace (in silence)

Prayer *(unison)*

Holy God, we thank you for your perfect peace. When life seems hectic and time seems short it is good to rest in the knowledge that you are in control. Teach us the ways of peace and help us always to strive for justice, that all of your people might live together in peace. Amen.

Hymn #128 "One Candle Is Lit" *(first and second verses 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.

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 "Joy to the World"
Little Bells

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3: 1-11

SERMON Rev. Meg Watson

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

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" arr. Schwoebel

*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 #677 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" arr. W. Held

**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 . . .

Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson, having surgery; **Nell Michalik**, Carol Whitney's mother; Ben Savage, Sharon Christman's brother, dealing with cancer; 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; 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

Confirmation Class: 11:30 AM, Library

Transformers Rehearsal: 11:30 AM

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage: Pastor Meg and Dean are hosting Coffee Hour at the parsonage after church today. Nibble on homemade Christmas cookies as you tour the historic home located just to the west of the church on Route 30. Be sure and dress for the three minute walk across the parking lot and don't be surprised if impromptu caroling breaks out around the fire.

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.

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. Payment must be made at the time of purchase. Any questions, contact Kate or Martha Fowler, 860-896-0768 or Holly Boutwell, 860-872-6359.

Name Tags: If you ordered a name tag prior to December 1, it is available for pick up today at the "Scrip Your All" table. 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

Bylaws Committee: Monday, December 9, 7:15 PM, Library

January CARILLON Deadline

Tuesday, December 10

Men's Club: Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

Bible Study: Tuesday, December 10, 11 AM, Library

Deacons: Tuesday, December 10, 7 PM, Library

Prayer Shawl Group: Wednesday, December 11, 1 PM, Library

BCE: Wednesday, December 11, 7 PM, Library

Missions: Wednesday, December 11, 7 PM, Chapel

Bell Choir: Thursday, December 12, 6:30 PM, PF Room

Sanctuary Choir: Thursday, December 12, 7:30 PM

Support Group: Friday, December 13, 10:30 AM, Library

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, December 14, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Youth Fellowship Christmas Party: Sunday, December 15 from 5-6:30 PM at the Parsonage. A Potluck Dinner will be provided. Please bring a \$5 (no more) generic grab bag gift.

Cookies in a Box Sale: Sunday, December 15 during Coffee Hour. 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. If willing to bake, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

The Care Network team would like to thank those who responded to our request for volunteers for the **Card Ministry**. We have recently started our outreach through the sending of greeting cards. To help lower the cost for our volunteers, we are asking for donations of "Thinking of You," "Get Well," "Coping" or blank cards. Cards may be dropped off in the basket in Fellowship Hall. The Care Network team and the Card Ministry thank you in advance for your contribution to this cause.

Giving Campaign: God Loves a Cheerful Giver! Thank you to all who have already returned your Giving Card! For those who could not participate in the Harvesting of Gifts, we hope that you will still return your Giving Card through the mail to FCCV (attention Assistant Treasurer) or by placing it in the offering basket. If you need a pledge card, please contact Kate Fowler at 860-614-9747 or kfwlower64@yahoo.com.



Pictorial Directory: Thank you to all who have participated in the Pictorial Directory! If you ordered pictures, they will be mailed directly to your home prior to Christmas. If you did not order pictures, your free 8"x10" will be delivered to the church. The Pictorial Directory Committee will contact you when it is available. If you were unable to make the Pictorial Directory dates, but are interested in participating, please contact Kate Fowler at 860-614-9747 or kfwlower64@yahoo. We are trying to see if there is interest in having a "make-up" date prior to Christmas. We need 14 participants in order to choose another date. These pictures will be included in the pictorial directory.

To Our FCCV Family and Friends: We wish you a very happy and meaningful Christmas. This year, in lieu of sending cards, we are making a contribution to the Les Childs Scholarship fund. We encourage your contributions to this unique FCCV gift supporting our talented members who seek to enhance their own gifts and benefit all of us through FCCV's music ministry. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year! Paul and Susan Shimer

The **Reading Buddies** need a volunteer for Wednesdays from 4-5 PM at Maple Street School. Contact Millie Oliphant, 872-7106, if interested. They are also in need of **stickers**. Donations may be left in the labeled box located in the Library.

The Board of Christian Education is seeking a new Sunday School Superintendent. This volunteer position in our Sunday School program assists with things such as training, planning and keeping attendance records. Anyone with interest, suggestions or questions regarding this important role, should contact Cheryl Turner, Steve Westerberg, Linda Shivers, either of our Pastors or just drop a note at the BCE table in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. Thank you!

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 until December 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 next Sunday, December 15. Any questions? Contact Gilmay 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 today and next Sunday, December 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



Christmas Dinner