

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 9, 2012

Second Sunday in Advent ~ Peace

GATHERING MUSIC "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Martin
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach
"Good Christians All, Rejoice" Sergisson

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAY IT FORWARD

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ACOLYTES Olivia Toolan, Nick Giordano

PRELUDE "Prelude on 'Morning Star'" Chesterton

WORDS OF REFLECTION

"Advent is a season of waiting and hoping. The farmer knows that what is expected is worth waiting for. The farmer also knows that what is worth waiting for is also worth working for." Peter Gomes

*RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP Maddie Condry

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 good 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 #119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION Justin Doty

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 Jesus: 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, Spirit of God: for with you, we walk down the pathways of peace; with you, we can serve the poor and broken; with you, we can know peace and hope deep in our hearts. We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, whose coming we await with peace. Amen.

*RESPONSIVE READING Mariah Shivers

Psalm 126 (adapted by Leslie Brandt)

Leader: Let us begin this day by rejoicing!

People: Let us acknowledge God's love and concern and allow our bodies to glow with joy from within.

Leader: Let us give our nerve and muscles the blessing of wonder and laughter,

People: For our Creator has blessed us in so many wonderful ways.

Leader: The before us is uncertain. We know not what we will encounter.

People: While we will rejoice with those who rejoice, we will also weep with those who weep.

Leader: While we may be surprised by unexpected joy, we will also be aware of the corridors of sadness and despair.

People: But wherever we go, we will go as the sons and daughters of God.

Leader: And we will enter God's world eager to touch the lives of others with words of hope and acts of love.

People: Let us begin this day with rejoicing, that we might return to our homes later with gladness.

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH Lotsy, Debbie, Chris and Nick Bartos

A TIME with the CHILDREN

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

ANTHEM-TURNFORMERS "Gaudeamus Hodie" Traditional

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS - Ruth Woodcock and her daughter

Sarah (friends of Becky Burr)

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Luke 21: 25-36

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

SERMON The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY-CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

"Mary Sweet Mary" R. Sterling

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*UNISON PRAYER of DEDICATION

God of deep mystery and endless hope, through the ministries empowered by these offerings, may we participate in bringing the light of your love to those who dwell amid pain and sorrow. Use our gifts to brighten persons depressed or grieving, to enlighten persons seeking wisdom and grace, to energize persons building justice and peace. We offer them in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #142 "People, Look East"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come" Denton

*All who are able are invited to stand.

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign our Guest Book (on the table in the Narthex) and help yourself to a Welcome Bag made especially for you.

Guests are encouraged to use the Pew Cards to request information about our church, to provide addresses/emails for communication purposes or to ask for a pastoral visit. The Pew Cards can be placed in the plates with the offering.

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

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Today is the last day you may order Poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

The Christmas Giving Tree, sponsored by the Board of Missions, is 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. **Choose a tag** from the Christmas Giving Tree, located in the back of the Sanctuary **today**. 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 16. Questions? Contact Kenneth Morgan, 860-281-3338. Note: If (only if) inclement weather cancels church on December 16, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 17. Questions regarding inclement weather? Call Gilmay Markunas, 860-896-1930.

Please Note: The Little Bells will be playing at the Christmas Concert this afternoon. Anyone ages 3 years-5th grade is invited to participate.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Today after the worship service

Open to everyone

Please bring a snack to share and mittens, gloves or hats for our Mitten Tree.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

presented by Music at First

Today at 4 PM in the Sanctuary

Featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, Joyful Noise Bell Choir and Transformers

Celebrate the season with traditional and contemporary Christmas music

Refreshments to follow

Suggested donation: \$7 adults/\$5 seniors and students

Proceeds benefit the Les Childs Music Scholarship

Pay It Forward: Recently Millie Oliphant shared her story of her gift to the Caring Bridge in honor of Meredith Ross, a local three year old diagnosed with leukemia. Caring Bridge's mission through their website is to amplify love, hope and compassion in the world, making each health journey easier for those facing medical trials. Today we feature Barb Melander. If you wish to donate to the Pay It Forward Ministry, make your check payable to FCCV, noting "PIF Ministry" in the memo and leave it in the Assistant Treasurer or Treasurer's mailbox. **Pay It Forward stories are on our website. Check us out.**

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Ways & Means: Monday, December 10, 7 PM, Library

JANUARY CARILLON DEADLINE

Tuesday, December 11

Men's Club: Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Finance: Tuesday, December 11, 7 PM, Library

BCE: Tuesday, December 11, 7 PM, Chapel

The **Prayer Shawl Group** will not meet this week.

Missions: Wednesday, December 12, 7 PM, Library

Stewardship & Evangelism: Wednesday, December 12, 7 PM, Chapel

Sanctuary Choir rehearsal: Thursday, December 13, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, December 14, 10:30 AM, Library

Cookie Sale, Sunday, December 16 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 donate a few dozen of your favorite creations, it would be greatly appreciated. If willing to bake, please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.

Mitten Tree: The 1st and 2nd grade is collecting mittens, hats, gloves and scarves for all ages for their mission project. Please place on or under the tree in Fellowship Hall.

Reminder - Pledges Were Due November 11! If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Your pledge is vital to the planning of our 2013 budget. If you need a pledge packet or have any questions, contact the Church Office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.net).

Sunday School Superintendent Needed Immediately. Contact Linda Shivers or Cindy Madden for a job description or if you have questions.

People needed to serve on the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee. If interested, contact Tony Muro.

You are invited to take a few minutes to browse through the beautiful Memory Book located in the glass top cabinet. Jane Burr has been doing a wonderful job documenting acquisitions. Older books are located in the Sanctuary in the stand in back of the church where the large Bible is kept.

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).

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.**

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.

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.

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... Will Livermore, Pat Lazeren's brother, who suffered an eye injury and may need surgery; **Shirley Bryant; Dick Saich; Mike Kermode** deployed in Afghanistan; **Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross**, 3 year old daughter of Megan and Eli (friends of Emily Westerberg), diagnosed with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL); **Deborah Costello**, friend of Angel Hockenberry, (breast cancer); **Richard Brooke**, Betsy Gerakaris' brother; **Stephen Volovski; Ann Garrison; Ray Turner**, father-in-law of Cheryl Turner (stroke); **Martha Fowler** (cancer); **Michael Bebrin**; the leaders, members and friends of **Somers Congregational Church; Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; 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; Donald Chase**