

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE “Antioch” Ferguson
“Joyful Tidings” Moffatt
“Settings of ‘In dulci jubilo’” Dupré/Walter/Schroeder/
Dello Joio

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Steve Leary

Leader: Joy comes singing down from heaven,

People: Good news of great joy!

Leader: Joy rises up in a young mother’s heart,

People: And nestles in her arms.

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

People: Emmanuel, God with us.

***OPENING HYMN** #2 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Joy (*from Luke 2:10*)

Reader 1: “But the angel said to them ‘do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.’”

Reader 2: As Christmas draws near there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel the stir of joy in our hearts, and see it in the faces of others. We light this candle today, reminded of the words of the angel so long ago, “I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people.”

Lighting the Candle of Joy (in silence)

Prayer (*unison*)

O God, in happy anticipation we await the coming of Christ. Where once there was darkness, you have given us your great light. Fill our hearts with the joy of knowing your presence in our lives, and work through us to make your presence known in the whole world. Amen.

Hymn #128 “One Candle Is Lit” (*vs. 3 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 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
Little Bells

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-2
John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON

***HYMN** #170 “How Great Our Joy!”

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” arr. R. DeCormier

***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** #143 “Joy to the World”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Joyous Christmas Bells” Broughton

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

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

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

David and Elizabeth Hollister, Candace Buswell’s parents; **Joel Covington**; Nancy Hilton and family on the death of her mother, Alice Allen; Jack Allen, dealing with health issues and the loss of his wife of 62 years; Pat Lazeren and family on the death of her brother, Will Livermore; Bobby Dwire; Bruce and Sandy Blair; Warren Little; Frederick Burgess; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Joyce Smith; 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; 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; 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

New additions in bold print

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: Sally and Dennis Sullivan

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

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Stewardship: 11:15 AM, Library

Christmas Caroling

We will leave the church parking lot at noon and return at 3 PM for hot chocolate and fellowship. Anyone interested is invited to join us.
Contact Steve Westerberg if you have questions.

J*WALKRZ: Christmas Party Pa-loo-za, after Christmas Caroling from 3:30-5PM. Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift (generic, suitable for either a boy or girl).

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Today is the last day to order Poinsettias that are displayed in the Sanctuary during Christmas.

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 16, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Deacons: Tuesday, December 16, 6 PM at Greg Mias' home

BCE: Tuesday, December 16, 7 PM, Library

Library: Wednesday, December 17, 1 PM, Library

Finance: Wednesday, December 17, 7:15 PM, Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, December 18, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Grief Support Group: Friday, December 19, 10:30 AM, Library

Choir Rehearsals: Saturday, December 20, 9:30 AM

Giving Campaign Update: As of December 7, we are at \$223,500 towards our \$270,000 giving goal! Is there a hair color change for FCCV in the future (bright pink, blue, green)? We hope so, but we must meet our goal first! Check out the Sparky thermometer to see the most up-to-date giving totals each week! 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.

Needed! Two people to serve on the Auditing Committee beginning in January. Anyone interested should contact Tony Muro, 872-1757.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

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

Today is the last day to place your new and **unwrapped** toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree in the back of the Sanctuary. Any questions? See Kathleen Gallo or Valerie Ellis.

Our **Christmas Pageant** will be held at 5:30 PM on Christmas Eve and every child who attends can take part. Please arrive by 5:15 PM so we can help your child get dressed as a shepherd or angel. The Confirmands will also be participating in this service.

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**.

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. **Please Note:** FCCV's November 30 worship service normally scheduled for December 8 at 6 PM will be shown that day at 4:30 PM due to special programming. **FCCV events airing this week...** Rev. Robin Bird's Installation - December 18 at 1:30 PM; Les Childs Scholarship Variety Show - December 16, 3:30 PM and December 19, 7:30 PM. 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 at jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

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.

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.

SCRIP-YOUR-ALL

This is the last week to place a gift card order and receive it in time for Christmas. Cards ordered today will be available next Sunday. Our standard cards (with some vendors added for the holidays) will be available this week and next with gift card holders too! A list of all our card offerings is available during Coffee Hour at the Scrip-Your-All table.

Thanks again for your support!

Available during Coffee Hour...

Amazon (\$25)	3%	Ninety Nine (\$25)	13%
Barnes & Noble (\$5/\$10/\$25)	9%	Outback (\$25/\$50)	8%
Bed Bath (\$25)	7%	Panera (\$10/\$25)	9%
Bertucci's (\$25)	10%	Papa Gino's (\$10)	10%
Big Y (\$50/\$100)	0%	Price Chopper (\$50/\$100)	5%
CVS (\$25)	6%	Rave Theater (\$25)	4%
Dairy Queen (\$10)	3%	Shell (\$25/\$50)	3%
Dunkin (\$10/\$25)	3%	Starbucks (\$5/\$10)	7%
Fridays (\$25)	9%	Stop & Shop (\$50/\$100)	4%
Home Depot (\$25)	4%	Subway (\$10)	3%
iTunes (\$15/\$25)	5%	Target (\$10/\$25)	3%
Long Horn (\$25)	9%	Walgreens (\$25)	6%
Lowes (\$25)	4%	Walmart (\$10/\$25)	3%