

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

**December 18, 2011**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love*

**GATHERING MUSIC** “The Lullabies of Christmas” **L. Smith**  
“Angel Carols” **L. Smith**

**CHIMING of the HOUR**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Rev. Cynthia Carr**  
*(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)*

**PAY IT FORWARD**

**ACOLYTES**

**PRELUDE** “Love Came Down at Christmas” and **A. Kousemaker**  
“He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising,  
Come Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

**WORDS of REFLECTION**

*The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting. As the Advent weeks progress, we hear more and more about the beauty and splendor of the One who is to come. Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from the expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realize that he for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.*

*- Henri Nouwen*

**LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH** **Al and Marilyn Newton**  
**INTROIT** “Mary Had a Baby” **Transformers Choir**  
**\*CALL to WORSHIP** **Joshua Tourtellotte**

*Leader: Leave your exile behind; God is calling us home.*

**People: We'll follow the Way through the desert.**

*Leader: Enter the desert without fear; God's water will quench our thirst.*

**People: We'll walk the Highway of God's people.**

*Leader: Travel the Highway with joy; God is leading to life in abundance.*

**People: We'll strengthen weak hands, and support feeble knees;**

*Leader: We'll encourage the fearful and calm the anxious:*

**People: Rejoice! Be strong! God is with us!**

*Leader: Come, let us worship!*

**\*OPENING HYMN #159 “There's a Song in the Air”**

**ADVENT LITANY** **Haley Hasty**

*Leader: Holy God, three weeks ago, when we began our Advent pilgrimage, you blessed us with the courage to hope.*

**People: Hope for your presence, hope for your peace, hope for your promise.**

*Leader: Two weeks ago, as we journeyed together down this Advent road, you blessed us with the courage to make peace.*

**People: Peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities.**

*Leader: Last week, in the height of our Advent walk, you blessed us with the courage to experience joy.*

**People: Joy in the face of apathy, joy in the face of sorrow, joy in the face of uncertainty.**

*Leader: Today blessed God, as our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, bless us with the courage to share your love.*

**People: Love for the unexpected challenge, love for the vulnerable one, love for the presence of God.**

**All: Amen.** *- Katherine Hawker, adapted*

**PROPHECY** **Isaiah 11: 1-10**

**LEGEND of the CHRISTMAS ROSE**

**HYMN #125 “Come, O Long-expected Jesus”**

*(Those with the Jesse Tree Chrismon are invited to come forward and place it on the tree.)*

**STORY – “What Is a Chrismon?”**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Away in the Manger” **J. Murray**  
**Transformers Choir**

*(Upon the conclusion of the Special Music, those with the Manger Chrismon are invited to come forward and place it on the tree.)*

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS** **Joseph Tobin**  
**MORNING PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER** *(unison... “debts”)*

**STORY - “An Angel Comes Down to Earth”**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Angels We Have Heard on High” **Trad. French Carol**  
**Carolers**

*(Upon the conclusion of the Special Music, those with the Angel Chrismon are invited to come forward and place it on the tree.)*

**LEGEND of the THREE KINGS**

**HYMN #162 “What Child Is This”**

*(Those with the Crown Chrismon are invited to come forward and place it on the tree.)*

**CALL to OFFERING** **The Rev. David Minnick**  
**ANTHEM** “Breath of Heaven” **A. Grant**  
**Contemporary Choir**

**\*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)**

**\*PRAYER of DEDICATION**

**LEGEND of the CANDY CANE**

**HYMN #167 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

*(Those with the Shepherd's Crook Chrismon are invited to come forward and place it on the tree.)*

**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** “Adeste Fideles” **Carolers**

**POSTLUDE** “In Dulci Jubilo” **J. S. Bach**

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

**The poinsettias** are given by the church family and arranged by the Flower Committee.

**Transformers Choir:** Taylor Boucher, Nicholas Giordano, Jack Longo, Heather Morgan Russell, Arielle Shivers, Mariah Shivers, Sarah Turner, Lily Westerberg

**Carolers:** Patrick Connolly, Marissa Fujimoto, Ryan Fujimoto, Christa Hockenberry

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Flower and Memorial Garden Committees

**Pay It Forward:** Today we feature Millie Oliphant. Last week, Dee Kidd shared with us her gift to Peace on Earth, an organization run by volunteers that fosters hope to those in need with food, clothing, basic amenities, etc.

### 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

**The Christmas Giving Tree:** Place your new, **unwrapped** toy(s) under the tree by **today**.

**Please Note:** There will be a short **rehearsal today** after the worship service for all children participating in the Christmas Eve Family Service.

**Confirmation Class:** 11:30 AM, Library

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Today  
4 PM

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Deacons:** Monday, December 19, 7 PM, Chapel

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Prayer Squares:** Tuesday, December 20, 1 PM, Quilters' Corner

**Furnishings & Memorials:** Tuesday, December 20, 7 PM, Chapel

**Yoga:** Wednesday, December 21, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Please bring a mat. Donation: \$5 per class.

**Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness:** Wednesday, December 21, 7 PM

**HR:** Wednesday, December 21, 7 PM, Library

**Bell Choir:** Thursday, December 22, 6:30 PM, PF Room

**Sanctuary Choir:** Thursday, December 22, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

**Caring and Sharing Support Group:** Friday, December 23, 10:30 AM, Library

**Christmas Eve Family Service:** Saturday, December 24, 5:30 PM

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Saturday, December 24, 9 PM

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness*  
**Wednesday, December 21**  
**7 PM**

*Christmas Eve Family Service*  
a celebration of the birth of Jesus  
**5:30 PM**

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
Lessons and Carols, concluding with candle lighting and Silent Night.  
The Rev. David Minnick will preach and the Sanctuary Choir will be singing.  
**9 PM**

*Christmas Day Worship Service*  
a festive service to which all are invited  
Children are welcome to come in their PJs.  
**10 AM**

The Board of Christian Education will be **collecting new socks** (men's, women's and children's) at the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service.

**Please take time** this season to enjoy the Christmas items in our 250<sup>th</sup> 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.

**There will be no Sunday School** on December 25 and January 1. The Toddler Room will be open and staffed.

**Giv2:** Sunday, January 8, 1-5 PM. More info to follow

Non-competitive **basketball** for youth in 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade has been scheduled for January 7, 21, February 11, 25 and March 3, 17 at Wapping Congregational Church in South Windsor from 6:30-8:30 PM.

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.

### **Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please listen to any of the following radio stations: WTIC AM (1080), WTIC FM (96.5), WRCH FM (100.5), watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

**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.

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, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).

**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.

**Reminder:** Our Sunday morning worship services (on a one week delay) are available for viewing on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5 Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Uncut DVD's (DVD's submitted for viewing on Comcast are edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library. Check your local listings or go to CVCCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events.

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** Marion Ordway Turro and family on the loss of her son, Robert Ordway; **Search Committee;** Amy and Molly Shannon on the death of Mary Shannon, mother and grandmother; **Alexandra Fisher**, granddaughter of Pat Aldrich; **Pam Lyons** recovering from arm surgery; **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)

**In Our Global Prayers...** First UCC in Marion, OH, is involved in many missions helping people in its community at different times of the year but wanted to start a food pantry to help people all the time. The church talked with other food pantries, churches and agencies to gather information and figure out what it could afford. First UCC started serving breakfast on the fourth Saturday of the month, handing out clothing and serving dinner on the fourth and fifth Wednesdays of the month. Then when the local school needed a place to host their summer lunch program, First UCC opened its doors. In talking with families during lunch, the church heard that a mentoring program was needed so they started an after church program to help kids with schoolwork.