

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 22, 2013

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Il est né le divin enfant" Dupré
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Johnson
"Three Children's Carols"
Joyful Noise Bell Choir

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Good King Wenceslas"

ACOLYTES

*CALL to WORSHIP (*responsive*) Jim Wilson

Leader: God's love comes alive in the form of a child,

People: **Holy love, warm and tender among us.**

Leader: The light of the world is born into darkness,

People: **In the city of David and in each of us.**

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

People: **Emmanuel, God with us.**

*OPENING HYMN #144 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Love (*from John 8:12*)

Reader 1: "Again Jesus spoke to them saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'"

Reader 2: In lighting this candle, we celebrate the miracle of Love, and we ponder the wonder and mystery of God's great love for us, as revealed in the life of Jesus Christ. Lighting this candle today, we rekindle an ancient flame, and recognize a love that will burn through all eternity.

Lighting the Candle of Love (in silence)

Prayer (*unison*)

Holy God, we stand in awe of your unfailing love for us and we thank you for the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Grant that we might reflect your great love in our words and deeds. Amen.

Hymn #128 "One Candle Is Lit" (*vs. 1-4 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 "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" arr. Huff
Contemporary Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON Rev. Meg Watson

*HYMN #254 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "And Love Was Born" Sewell

*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 #517 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Angels We Have Heard on High" W. Wold

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

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

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

Joyful Noise Bell Choir: David Bower, Michelle Bower, Jane Burr, Margaret Klukas, Kate Fowler, Serena Volovski

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 . . .

Nancy Bailey, Margaret Klukas' sister, diagnosed with lung cancer; **Joyce Smith** in Manchester Hospital; Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson; 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; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Claudette Weingart; Valerie Flitcroft; Jan Peacock; Candy Buswell; Steve Bright; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; 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

Scrip-Your-All Info Meeting: 11:15 AM in the Library. Come and learn more about how to set up a Scrip account, how to use Scrip, PrestoPay, online ordering, and how Scrip-Your-All works to help support FCCV ministries. Bring your questions and your coffee!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, Sanctuary

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Scrip-Your-All is in full swing! If you ordered gift cards on December 16 or earlier you may pick up your cards today at the Scrip-Your-All table.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Men's Club: Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

Please Note: There will be no Bible Study this week or next. We will resume on January 7.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service/Nativity - 5:30 PM

Candlelight Service - 11 PM

Support Group: Friday, December 27, 10:30 AM, Library

Giving Update: Thank you to all who have returned your 2014 Giving Card and made a pledge to support the ministries of FCCV. We are off to a great start towards our \$260,000 goal! To date, 145 Giving Cards have been returned with \$208,800 pledged. If you have not yet returned your Giving Card, we encourage you to do so. The Stewardship Committee will begin making reminder calls this week. If you need a Giving Card or have questions, please contact Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.com or 860-614-9747.

Please Note: The following was received after the Poinsettia insert (included in today's bulletin) had been printed...A Poinsettia was given in loving memory of loved ones by Donna Burgess.

Pictorial Directory Make-Up Date: If you were unable to make the prior Pictorial Directory dates, a make-up date has been scheduled for Friday, December 27 from 2-8 PM. **In order to keep this date, we need to have at least 12 appointments.** To date, only 4 appointments have been scheduled. If you have thought about having your picture taken, but haven't done so yet, we hope that you choose to be part of our directory! Please contact Martha Fowler at martha.fowler@sbcglobal.net or 860-896-0768 to make your appointment. For those who have made an appointment, if we have to cancel we will contact you on Thursday, December 26.

Pictorial Directory Record Information: As we finalize our Pictorial Directory, we are assembling the "Record Information" that will be included in the directory and in our online directory. The "Record Information" consists of name, address, phone and email. For those who did not participate in the Pictorial Directory, the information you have on file with the church office will be included in the printed and online church directory. If you participated in the Directory, you have already provided this information and indicated if you want this information included in the online Directory. You may also choose to opt out of having your information in the online directory (accessible through our own login). If you have any questions or wish to make changes to your information you may do so during Coffee Hour or by contacting Kate Fowler at kfowler64@yahoo.com or 860-614-9747.

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).



The Board of Missions would like to thank the congregation for its generous donations to the Christmas Giving Tree. This season, a total of 143 toys and clothes were donated to Vernon Social Services to help make the season brighter for those in need. We thank you for your acts of kindness. May you and your family enjoy a wonderful Christmas holiday.