

The Carillon

The First Congregational Church
of Vernon, UCC



Vol. 49 No. 9

May 2013
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CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Meg Watson
Interim Associate Pastor	Rev. Joanne Myer
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Sunday Worship 10 AM (Announcements 9:50 AM)

Sunday School 10 AM

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

“Connect Through Christ – Connect With Us”

The *Carillon* is published monthly, except for July/August,
by First Congregational Church of Vernon, U.C.C
695 Hartford Turnpike
Vernon, CT 06066

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Minister of Christian Education

Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com

Sunday School Superintendents

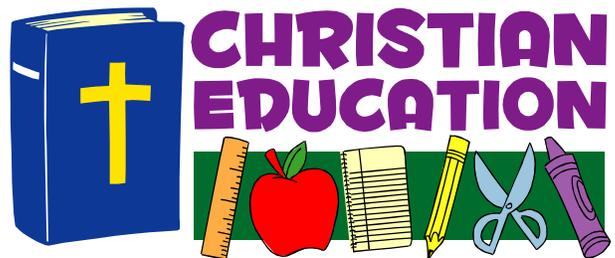
Cherish and Christa Hockenberry

Board of Christian Education Chairperson

Donald Montgomery

Child Care Coordinator

Christa Hockenberry, wildonehock6@att.net



Sunday School News

What a wonderful job everyone did on Earth Day. Sticks were picked up, flowers planted, the Memorial Garden is looking better and we topped it off with some delicious sugar cookies decorated by our 3, 4 and 5 year old class. Thank you to everyone who brought in flowers and helped in beautifying the church grounds.

Sunday School Schedule

May 5 All grades meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall for opening before being dismissed to their classes.

May 12 All grades start upstairs for opening before being dismissed to their classes.

May 19 Confirmation Sunday - All grades will start in their classrooms. No Children's Message.

May 26 No Sunday School. The Toddler Room will be open.

Our **Toddler Room** is open every Sunday from 9:45 AM until after the Worship Service for toddlers ages 12 months to 3 years. It is staffed by two high school students, GloryAnna Hockenberry and Jaclyn Leonard, who have experience working with toddlers and are members of our congregation. Christa Hockenberry is our Toddler Room Coordinator and can answer any questions or concerns you might have. We also offer a **Crib Room** for infants up to 12 months and their parents that is located upstairs near the balcony. This offers you an opportunity to be with your infant if you need to leave the worship service for any reason and still be able to hear the service. An usher will be happy to direct you if you are in need of assistance.

Confirmation Class News

All assignments must be completed and turned in by May 5.

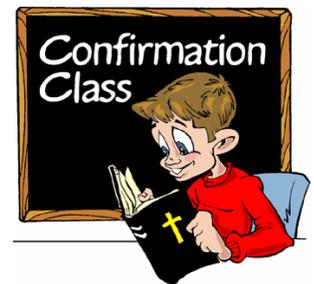
Reminder to Parents: A Baptism certificate is needed for Confirmation Sunday.

Reminder to Sponsors: Your Confirmand's bio, words of faith and wisdom must be turned in by May 12.

Reminder to Confirmands: Your interview with the MCE has to be scheduled between April 28 (after class) and May 11.

May 12 Rehearsal in the Sanctuary at 11:30 AM. At least one parent and your sponsor also need to attend.

May 19 Confirmation Sunday - Sponsors, Parents and Confirmands need to be at church for pictures between 9- 9:10 AM.



Confirmation Youth Serves Project (YSOP) Update

We have completed another successful Youth Services Opportunities Project. This project requires that our youth be "homeless" from the time they leave New Haven until they return there the following day - no money, no cell phones, no shopping and they have to read the directions or ask for help to get us where we have to go. On Friday we cooked, cleaned, served and socialized with a group of men from the Doe Foundation – men learning how to function in society after being homeless. Being homeless is an exhausting way to live. You are constantly trying to find a place to sleep where you won't be beaten or robbed of the very little you have. You also have to plan your day according to what soup kitchen is open on any given day.

For the first time our Confirmation youth were able to work the same work site. We were at Agape Church Center in Queens where our youth were blessed, saved and, if we had stayed one more day, been baptized. At this soup kitchen we served meals to anyone who came in - children through senior citizens. The challenge for us was English was not the main language spoken - it was a Polish, Dominican and Mexican community. But through hand signals, and some spoken words we were able to figure out what our "clients" wanted to eat and drink. We also gave them a pantry bag filled with a few staples - rice, sardines, oatmeal and a few vegetables.

What I really want to share with you is what Debi Hockenberry and I call "God" moments. While we were at the soup kitchen, a woman came in with winter snow boots on and asked if we had any shoes because her feet were hot. We told her we did not. Two minutes later, a woman walked in off the streets and said "I have a pair of shoes that I can not use. Do you know of someone who can use them?" They were given to the woman in need of shoes. She tried them on and they fit. She left with a hot meal in her stomach and a new pair of shoes. The other "God" moment happened as we were trying to get back to Manhattan to our YSOP program. We had been given passes to take the subway and we needed to get on at a station that had a person to let us in. We walked almost 2 miles from our worksite trying to find a subway booth that had a person (New York subways are all electronic with key cards). At the last station we were told to try, there was no person/booth. I pressed the "help" button and the subway authorities were trying to direct us which was impossible to hear because of the noise. A young man came up to us and said, "Follow me I will show you where to go." That young man was someone we had fed in the soup kitchen not an hour and a half before. We were finally able to make it back to the YSOP site.

Upon leaving, Lisa Gesson, our YSOP staff leader, pulled me aside and said, "Once again, your group was outstanding, and the best behaved." (another group from Boston was also there). I told her I expect nothing less from my youth and she said, "It shows and you should be so proud." I told her that I am every year and so should we all be - our youth are God's hands helping others.



Junior and Senior High Youth Fellowship

Come and check out Youth Fellowship. We are involved in a lot of different activities and mission projects and would love to have more friends join us. If you are a little uncertain or shy, bring a friend (friends do not have to attend our church). We would love to have more youth involved.

Schedule

May 19 Meeting, 5-6:30 PM for conversation, Bible discussion, games, snacks.

June 2 Peter's Retreat, Hartford, 3-7 PM. Meet at church.

June 16 Meeting, 5-6:30 PM for conversation, Bible discussion, games, snacks.

Vacation Bible School, June 24-28

VBS will be held at Rockville United Methodist Church, Grove St., Vernon. Family Night will be held at First Congregational Church of Vernon on Thursday, June 27. This year's theme is **"Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together."** Registration forms are available from Linda Shivers, Debi Hockenberry and the Church Office. Interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School? We would love to have you. Contact Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com. All volunteers will have to fill out a volunteer form. Background checks, paid for by FCCV, will be done on all those 18 years and older.



Summer Youth Mission Opportunities

What is your 10 year old, middle schooler or high schooler doing this summer? This year we have two opportunities for our youth to get out into the community, letting everyone know that they put their faith into action. Consider these Bible verses and how we want our youth to live by them:

- Hebrews 13: 16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
- Philippians 2: 4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- 1 John 3: 17** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
- James 2: 14-17** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- Galatians 6: 2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- John 15: 12** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- Matthew 5: 16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Hands on Hartford (Hartford and surrounding areas), July 15-19 for youth 10 years old-high school

Start and end times will vary, but we'll be home every afternoon/early evening. Cost \$100. We will be fundraising to help defray expenses. Contact Linda Shivers ASAP if you want more information and/or are interested in attending. Space is limited.

Week of Hope, Newark, NY, July 21- 26 for youth 12 years old-high school

6 days, 5 nights. Cost is \$350. A \$50 deposit is due ASAP. We will be fundraising to help defray expenses. Contact Linda Shivers ASAP if you want more information and/or are interested in attending. Space is limited.

Please support our Youth with the fundraisers we will have to help defray expenses.

Youth Mission Corporation

Presidents - Marissa Fujimoto, Ryan Fujimoto, Christa Hockenberry

“God’s Love Incorporated”

Our Motto: “FCCV Youth Spreading ‘Sonshine’”

Our Purpose: To nurture, within ourselves, the kind of faith that shapes one’s being, thinking and acting as Christians.

Our Goal: To build character, foster inner strength, and put our faith into action.

Our Company has 2 divisions: Division A - Week of Hope
Division B - Hands on Hartford

Stockholders Fundraiser

All stock sold will support Divisions A and B of our Youth Company. Come visit our “Corporation Company” table (opening April 28 and running throughout the next 2 months) at Coffee Hour and learn what your stock purchase gets you. Dividends will be high as you learn who was helped, how many and how this affected our youth.

Munson Candy Sale during Coffee Hour

All money earned will go toward our youth mission trips.

Bottle/Can Fundraiser, Saturday, June 1, 9:30 AM-12 PM

Save your cans and bottles. Drive into the FCCV parking lot on the Center Road entrance and we will unload your bottles and cans for you. All money earned will support Division A and B of our Youth Company.

**June Carillon
DEADLINE
Tuesday, May 14**





MUISC at FIRST

presents

Sunday Matinee – Classical Goes to the Movies

Sunday, May 19

4 PM

in the Sanctuary

Featuring “The William Tell Overture,” “Scheherazade,” variations of “The Star Spangled Banner” and many more familiar pieces.

James Burr, organist

Refreshments to follow

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

Proceeds benefit the Les Childs Music Scholarship

FCCV Golf Tournament

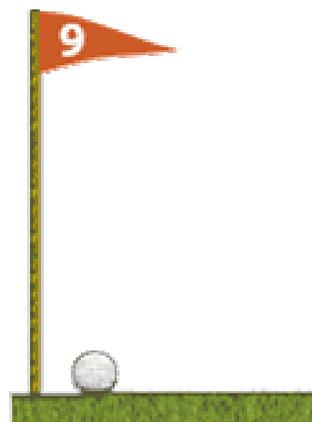
at Willowbrook Golf Course in South Windsor

Saturday, June 1

Be a player: \$85 per person if you register by May 20
\$95 per person after May 21

Be a sponsor:

Hole Sponsors	\$50
Contest Sponsors	\$100
Greens Flags Sponsor	\$150
Lunch Sponsors	\$200 and up
Advertising	\$25



Donate an item for the raffle, silent auction or live auction

Spread the word. Plan to attend. Tell a friend.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, please see Paul Shimer or Harmon Howe.

Raffle Prizes Needed for FCCV Golf Tournament

The success of our church's annual golf tournament is an integral part of our 2013 operating budget, as well as being a fun day for all who participate. We are counting on the support of church members, friends and the community at large to make this event a huge success. One way to assist is to donate a raffle prize. Ideas include: gift cards/certificates to local restaurants or businesses, gift baskets, tickets to athletic events, a weekend get-away, golf-related items, etc. We are also looking for a few "show stopper" items such as a handmade quilt or a week's vacation at a golfing location.

You can help by...

- Donating a prize
- Arranging for your business to donate a prize
- Soliciting a business you frequent to donate a prize

If you have any questions or wish to donate, please contact Holly Boutwell at 872-6359 (evenings) or hollyboutwell@comcast.net.

WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE NEWS

Flower Sale, Saturday, May 11, 9 AM-1 PM

Just in time for Mother's Day. The Ways and Means Committee will be selling flower baskets and plants in the church parking lot. Pick out some flowers for a loved one or add a splash of color to your home. Any questions? Call Michelle Bower @ 872-7274 or ask any member of Ways and Means.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Group

We invite you to join us on the **second Wednesday** of the **month** at **1 PM** in the **Library** or feel free to make one at home. Questions? Contact Joan Apel, 860-875-7239 or Nancy Parker, quiltblockcreations@yahoo.com. or 860-872-9069.

Kitchen Spring Cleaning

Monday, May 6, 1 PM

Anyone interested, please stop by the church kitchen and help us get it spruced up for springtime.

Crafts Group

Tuesdays, May 7 and 21 from 6-8 PM

We are meeting to get a head start on some fun crafts for the Apple Festival. We will meet at the church on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month. Stop in anytime.

Blanket Sunday, Mother's Day, May 12

Purchase a blanket 'in honor' or 'in memory' of a special woman in your life. Just \$5 will purchase a sturdy, wool blanket through Church World Services. These blankets are used in the United States and abroad in times of need and disaster. [Use the order form below or order during Coffee Hour on Sundays, April 28 and May 5.](#)

Deadline for ordering is May 5.



BLANKET ORDER FORM

I wish to donate \$5 for a blanket:

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make your check payable to WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP and mail to:

Daryl Gottier
15 Kenneth Drive
Vernon, CT 06066

Questions? Call Daryl, 860-871-8594.



Women's Fellowship Scholarship

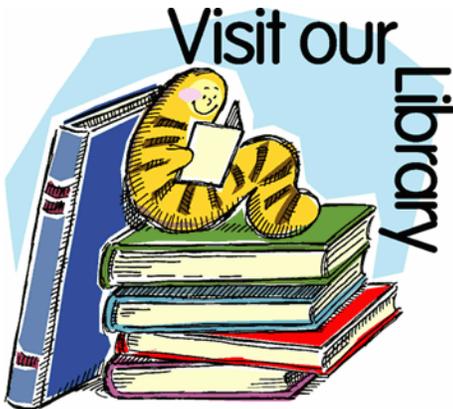
This \$500 scholarship is available to any church member who is continuing their education. Applications may be picked up in the Church Office. Deadline for applying is May 31.

Women's Fellowship Retreat

Our Fall Retreat, entitled "Transitions" will be held Friday and Saturday, September 27-28. We will carpool and leave the church on Friday around 4 PM and return home on Saturday by about 4 PM. Once again, we will be returning to the CONNRI Camp in Ashford, CT. Everyone who attended our last retreat enjoyed the accommodations at this center.



The cost is \$113 and includes double occupancy lodging with private bathrooms, dinner Friday night and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Payment will be collected in two installments of \$56.50 on June 1 and September 1. This cost is based on at least 25 attendees. If you would like to be a part of this fun getaway, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.



From the Book Worm

The Library Committee has been busy. A new flat screen TV on a cart is now available for use. A cable on the cart allows laptops to be connected to the flat screen.

Several new books have been purchased. They are all beautiful children's books with a musical tie-in. They include:

- "What a Wonderful World"
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
- "All Things Bright and Beautiful"
- "All God's Critters"

Also available for borrowing is the DVD series of "The Bible" from the History Channel. In addition, several new Veggie Tales DVD's have been purchased.

Reminder! Please check your bookcases and cupboards for any books or movies you may have from the Library. DVD's may be borrowed for one week. Books may be borrowed for longer, but we have several that have been out for over a year.

Look for the **Book Nook** at Coffee Hour once a month. Books and videos will be available for borrowing. Just return them to the box in the Library when you are done. The Library is open whenever the church is open and is self serve.

BOARD of MISSIONS NEWS

Our Hearts Have Built New Hearths

Your outpouring of generosity enabled us to provide 46 Onil cooking stoves for families who will not have to worry about breathing in smoky air. No longer will they worry about their children getting burned in fires.

Thank you for your support and love.



I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, made phone calls and visited during my recovery from surgery. I also want to thank you all for your prayers, which seem to have worked very well in my recovery.

We are all so blessed to be part of our Church Family. We keep all of you in our prayers as well.

Thank you all,
Tony Muro

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Sarah and Jonathan Piela on the birth of their son, Noah Grayson Piela, born January 7, 2013

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. This is a great way to have your child involved in the church service and requires a minimal commitment.

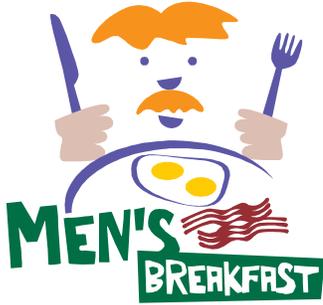


firstchurchofvernon.org

We're on Facebook, too! Check us out!

CARING and SHARING SUPPORT GROUP

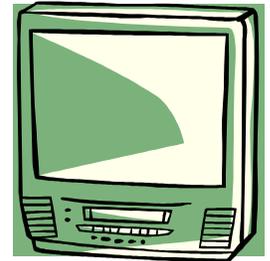
Anyone interested in attending this support group is invited to join us on **Fridays** at **10:30 AM** in the Library. This group is open to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one and is run by members of our congregation. Please feel free to come alone or bring a family member or friend. Any questions? Contact the Church Office, 860-875-7580.



The **Men's Club Breakfast Group** meets every Tuesday at 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner. A brief devotion and excellent conversation is served each week. We invite all men of the church to join us.

FCCV on CABLE TV

FCCV has been video recording its complete Sunday services since 2004. These worship services, edited to 58 minutes, 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 concerts and 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, would like more information or would like to join the Care Network, please contact **Jan Muro** (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com) or **Jon Dunlap** (875-7254).

PRAY for our MILITARY

Following is a list of people in our church family on active duty. We ask that you keep them and their families in your prayers. If you would like to add someone to this list, please contact the Church Office.

Maj. Joel Cummings, son of Hal and Ibby Cummings, at Fort Knox, KY

Michael Wilson, son of Nancy Beimler, U. S. Navy in San Diego

Steven Beimler, son of Nancy Beimler in the National Guard

Lance Corporal Steven A. Carr, Jr., husband of Angel Hockenberry Carr, stationed in the Middle East