

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

September 9, 2012

Rally Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC "Joy" D. Bish
"Marche Religieuse" Jongen

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. David Minnick

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE "March" Purcell

WORDS of REFLECTION

"The goal is not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord, not to amass, but to face sacred moments."
Rabbi Abraham Heschel

*RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP Pat Lazeren

Leader: We will walk this day with you, O God, and you will walk with us,

People: Gathering us into a community to pray for one another in all things.

Leader: We will walk this day with you, O Christ, and you will walk with us,

People: Calling us to follow you, helping us to set aside all which holds us back.

Leader: We will walk this day with you, O Spirit, and you will walk with us,

People: Sending us out, side by side, to serve those cast aside by the world.

*OPENING HYMN #518 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION

Blessed Creator, source of all we know and dream of, we give you thanks this day for one another. Together we gather anew in worship, eager to hear your Word and experience the community we find with one another. May our hearts be eager and ready for your Spirit to reign within and among us. Bless all your children, young and old, who have come here to learn more of your mystery and might, and your call to service. Inspire us all to ask the questions our minds ponder and to share the wisdom we have learned over time with others. May our hearts be open to your presence and will. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 8 p. 728

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

A TIME with the CHILDREN Linda Shivers

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

(Children may leave for Sunday School after the Lord's Prayer.)

ANTHEM "Come Christians Join to Sing" Young

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS Rev. Cynthia Carr

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Mark 8: 27-30

*SERMON HYMN #672 "Where Restless Crowds Are Thronging"

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Seek You First the Kingdom of God" MacDonald

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

*UNISON PRAYER of DEDICATION

Speak to us holy God, in our gathering and in our sharing. Receive these gifts, symbols and tokens of the gratitude we feel for the blessings we glory in. Use them and us to your great glory and in the service of others.

We offer these in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #622 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Grand Chorus" Guilmant

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

The balloon bouquet is given in celebration of Rally Sunday and the start of our Sunday School program year.

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a guest, please take a moment after the worship service to sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table.

There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just 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: Women's Fellowship

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

School Store, Rally Sunday, September 9 during Coffee Hour: The Board of Missions has purchased school supplies that will be available for you to "buy" at our **School Store** by making a donation to cover the cost of the item(s). The supplies will then be taken to the Hockanum Valley Community Council for distribution to local children in need to insure they start the new school year with school supplies. Please consider supporting this worthy cause in making a difference in another child's life.

The Bank Notes that were discussed and pictured in the September issue of the Carillon (our newsletter found on our website, firstchurchofvernon.org) will be on display at Coffee Hour throughout the month of September. A Silent Auction for them begins TODAY and will continue until the winning bid is announced at Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 30. Feel free to tell friends who may be interested collectors. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of these notes will help defray the cost of our 250th Anniversary Dinner in November.

When you entered church this morning did you notice a large chest in the Narthex? This TIME CAPSULE has not seen the light of day in 25 years! It was filled and sealed on the occasion of FCCV's 225th Anniversary, with the intention that it would be OPENED during our 250th Anniversary year, and, subsequently, RE-FILLED, to be opened again 25 years from now. The Time Capsule will be opened during Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 28 and closed again on November 18, filled with items representative of our church's current activities and interests. Please help us think of appropriate items to fill the capsule. A tablet and pen have been placed on the lid of the capsule for your suggestions.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Evening Circle - Potluck Supper: Monday, September 10, 6:30 PM at the home of Doe Simmonds. We will be making crafts for FCCV's Holiday Fair in November. Come and enjoy some good food and fun. Please contact Pat Lazeren, (860) 644-0475, if you plan to attend so we can have the right amount of beverages.
Craft Group - Paper Crafting: Monday, September 10, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
Ways & Means: Monday, September 10, 7 PM, Library

**October CARILLON Deadline
Tuesday, September 11**

Men's Club: Tuesday, September 11, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner
Prayer Shawl Group: Wednesday, September 12, 1 PM, Library

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Women's Fellowship:
Wednesday, September 12, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. In recognition of our 250th Anniversary, Lynn Sweet will tell us about the history of Women's Fellowship at FCCV. Previously known as the Women's Benevolent Society, Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Council, this group's history dates back to the 1830s. Come, learn about the many ways that you can get involved today. Refreshments provided.

BCE: Wednesday, September 12, 7 PM, Library
Missions: Wednesday, September 12, 7 PM, Chapel
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, September 13, 7:30 PM
Support Group: Friday, September 14, 10:30 AM, Library
Shred Event and Mum/Bake/Book Sale: Saturday, September 15, 9 AM-noon
Carillon Singers Organizational Meeting: Sunday, September 16, 11:30 AM.

Dismantling the Field of Flags, Sunday, September 16 after church, 11:30 AM:
Help is needed to dismantle our Field of Flags display, which has graced our front lawn in recent weeks. Volunteers are needed to remove the flags, wipe the soil from the flag sticks and number them in groups of 25. They will be placed in buckets to dry thoroughly before being wrapped to ship to the next church which is hosting this memorial in a few weeks. Rags are also needed to wipe the flag sticks clean. Please contact the Church Office if you can help.

The Board of Christian Education **invites all families** and **teachers** of **Sunday School** to a **Continental Breakfast** on **Sunday, September 23 at 9 AM** in Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teachers and board members. We will be reviewing our new curriculum, learning about mission projects for the coming year and discussing why Christian education is important to your child and family. You will also be able to ask any questions you have about our Christian Education program. Hope to see you there!

BLOOD DRIVE, Monday, October 1 from 1-6 PM

Volunteers are needed to give blood and help out that day. Sign up on the sheets posted in Fellowship Hall or call Doe Simmonds, 860-872-0841.

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** is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old**.

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).

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.

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... Mike Kermode deployed in Afghanistan; **Mike Swan;** **Allan Chesterton;** **Claudette and Art Weingart;** **Bill Harford,** Ann's husband; **Peggy Ellis** (broken hip); **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); **Judy Quinn,** friend of Tony and Jan Muro, (cancer); **Martha Fowler** (cancer); **Michael Bebrin;** the leaders, members and friends of **Somers Congregational Church;** **FCCV Search Committee;** **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**

The Ways and Means Committee will be hosting its **2nd Annual Shred Event** on **Saturday, September 15** from 9 AM - Noon in the church parking lot. In conjunction with the Shred Event, we will also be having a **Book/Mum/Bake Sale!** Donations of baked goods and books are needed. Baked goods may be dropped off at church on the morning of the event. Books may be dropped off this week at church. For additional information or document pickup, contact Carol Slicer, 860-872-2690.

WORK DAY at FCCV, Saturday, September 15 from 9 am-1 pm
Volunteers are needed. We'll be taking on a variety of jobs around the church grounds. These will include pruning tree branches, cutting down trees, transplanting bushes, etc. A good number of volunteers will make this work go quickly and have our church grounds looking good for our new program year. Holly Boutwell will be available to answer questions and sign up volunteers during Coffee Hour today. Volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves and whatever equipment they may have (wheel barrow, rake, shovel, etc.). Many thanks to Sara Koziol and her crew of wonderful workers doing their magic over the past weeks. They've weeded, planted and mulched almost every garden.

UPCOMING CRAFT OPPORTUNITIES

Paper Crafting Night, Monday, September 10, 7 PM. Learn to make paper ornaments, magnetic bookmarks, rubber stamped gift tags and more.

Garden Crafting Night, Monday, Sept. 17, 7 PM. Join us to make crafts with terracotta pots, pine cones and acorns.

Super Sewing Saturday, September 22, 9 AM-1 PM. Help us make some crafts for the coming fair. Items include hot/cold packs, pincushions, potholders and more. Please bring a sewing machine if you have one. If not, we will need people to cut, pin and assemble. Lunch will be provided.

FAMILY POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, September 28, 6 PM

The 250th Anniversary Committee is presenting an evening of family fun. The main course will be provided with potluck salads and desserts. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a salad. If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring a dessert. Come and enjoy an old-fashioned evening with your church family, followed by....

It HAPPENED in CONNECTICUT

Friday September 28, 7:30 PM

Mike Kachuba and Jeff McQuillan, both former CT State Troubadours and multi-instrumentalists have combined their talents to present a program of original and traditional music to audiences of all ages. In 2003, Mike worked with Northeast Elementary School in Vernon to produce a collection of 12 songs about Vernon's history. As part of our 250th Anniversary celebration, Mike and Jeff will perform songs about Vernon, as well as celebrate the "lesser known" yet interesting people who have contributed to Connecticut's colorful past. Meet Jack Arabas, the slave who was given his freedom in a New Haven court of law; John Hinson, the first man to escape from Granby's Newgate Prison; the "Leatherman," one of the first folk legends in the state and many more! Free will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.



"SEEKING FCCV AMBASSADORS"



The Stewardship and Evangelism Committee is seeking FCCV members, family or friends who love to interact with people...folks who would enjoy putting themselves "out there" to connect with **all** who attend church on Sunday with special emphasis on noticing "guests" or people who seem to be visiting and wondering where something is...etc.

Would **you** like to be an FCCV Ambassador? Do you know of someone who might **really like** to do this? As you sit in church during these coming weeks, look around. Who do you see who might make a great ambassador?

We are hoping for a large group so that ambassador "teams" can rotate weekly or monthly for maximum effectiveness and with no "burnout." This can be a joy-filled opportunity! Remember... growing our church begins with a smile!

To volunteer or to suggest someone, please contact Charles Markunas (oilcancharlie@gmail.com).