

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

September 23, 2012

GATHERING MUSIC

“With Humble Hearts We Come” Moore
“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” Thompson
“Trumpet Processional” Callender

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. David Minnick

PAY IT FORWARD

THREE MINUTES of HISTORY Joan Apel

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

The greatness of a man is not how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively. Bob Marley

PRELUDE “Prelude” Purcell/Smith

*CALL to WORSHIP Barb Melander

Leader: Lord Jesus, here we are to worship and praise you.

People: Lord, you clothe the lilies, you feed the birds of the sky.

Leader: You lead the lambs to pasture.

People: Lord Jesus, here we are to worship and praise you.

Leader: You lead the deer to the waterside.

People: You multiplied loaves and fishes,

Leader: And changed water into wine.

People: Here, now, change and transform our lives.

Leader: Remind us, Lord Jesus, that when we live in you,

People: We are new people – new beings – filled with your love!

*OPENING HYMN #600 “Jesu, Jesu”

PRAYER of INVOCATION (*unison*)

Even in the darkest of places, you have made yourselves known, O God.

Come now to this sacred place, that it might be filled with your light.

Reveal yourself to us once again, that we might proclaim the name of

Jesus the Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Proverbs 31: 10-31 (*insert*)

*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

The LORD’S PRAYER (*unison...“debts”*)

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

ANTHEM “Brother James Air” G. Jacob

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Epistle Reading James 3: 13-4: 3, 7-8a
New Testament Mark 9: 30-37

*SERMON HYMN #339 “Just As I Am”

SERMON

Rev. Cynthia Carr

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Because the Lord Is My Shepherd” R. Carmichael

*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

PRAYER of DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #614 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE #495 “Weave” (*sing twice through*)

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Voluntary” Dinda

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

Three Minutes of History, our monthly snippet of historical information during this Anniversary Year, resumes today. Joan Apel will be speaking about the January 23, 1965 fire and about the enormous rebuilding effort undertaken by the church family. Be sure to visit the display case in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. You will see many relics from the fire...including a large piece of the spire and weathervane that topped the steeple! There will also be slides and a video to view.

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

Here is a chance to purchase a memento of a time in our church history when a huge challenge was successfully surmounted...allowing us to worship in the beautiful building we know today. A limited number of nails (circa 1826) were salvaged from the fire of 1965. These have been mounted and framed and are available for purchase (\$15) today at Coffee Hour. At this time, we are asking that they be purchased "one to a customer." Any that remain after today will be available for multiple purchase. All proceeds will be used to defray anniversary expenses.

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 continues today. The winning bid will be announced at Coffee Hour next Sunday, September 30. All proceeds from the sale of these notes will help defray the cost of our 250th Anniversary Dinner in November.

Have your **blood pressure checked** by one of our Parish Nurses.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Youth Mission Meeting: 11:30 AM, Library

Music at First – Airborne Jazz: 4 PM, Sanctuary

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Men's Club: Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Board of Music: Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 PM, Library

Trustees: Wednesday, September 26, 7 PM, Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, September 27, 7:30 PM

Support Group: Friday, September 28, 10:30 AM, Library

Anniversary Dinner and Concert: Friday, September 28, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall

Community Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, September 29, 10 AM, Sanctuary

Please Note: The Steeple Restoration has begun and we're hopeful the project will be completed in 3-4 weeks. Safety for everyone is our top priority. Access to the Narthex (Route 30 side of the church) will be limited while the workers are onsite (Monday-Saturday). We hope to have access through these doors on Sundays. Please be very careful in this area during the project. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Boutwell at 860-872-6359 (evenings).

A **Sunday School teacher is still needed** for 6th-8th grade. Contact Linda Shivers.

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.

AED/CPR Class, Saturday, November 10 at 9 AM. The class usually lasts from 2-3 hours and will cover the basics of CPR and usage of the AED. Since we have an AED on the church property, we, as a congregation, are required to have members, who in the event of an emergency, would be qualified to perform CPR and use the AED properly. The class will be given by CPROHeart and should be attended by those who were certified two years ago and by anyone interested in learning this life-saving skill. The class is being sponsored by the Parish Nurses who will pay half the cost (the more attending, the less the cost will be). Contact Delythe Kracke (DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004) with questions or to sign up for the class.

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 for your child to be involved in the church service with minimal commitment.

Youth Fellowship is in need of personal items (deodorant, razors, soap, tooth brushes, etc) for our monthly mission service to Peter's Retreat. Please put items in bag in the Breezeway.

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.

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.**

In Our Ongoing Prayers... Alec Montgomery having wrist surgery on September 26; **Mike Kermode** deployed in Afghanistan; **Mike Swan; Allan Chesterton ; Claudette and Art Weingart; Bill Harford, Ann's husband; 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); **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**

PAY IT FORWARD IS BACK!

Today, after taking a break during the summer, we will draw another name to begin our next journey with Pay It Forward. Our last gift was given to bless Joe Tobin, our most recent field placement student, on his next journey in ministry.

Want to Participate? Here's how it works. This is strictly voluntary. Write your name on a blank index card or a piece of paper and place it in the offering basket or the Pay It Forward box located on the table in Fellowship Hall. Index cards are located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary or on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Every other week a winner is selected. You must be in attendance during the worship service to receive the Pay It Forward gift. The winner receives a \$50 bill that they may do with as they wish, as long as the money is given to a worthy charity, cause, family or person in need in the community.

The winner returns to share with the congregation what they chose to do with the \$50 gift. The winner selects a person who will then have the opportunity to share a blessing.

If you wish to donate, please make your check payable to FCCV with "PIF Program" in the memo and drop in the Assistant Treasurer's or Treasurer's mailbox.

We are now on the FCCV website...check us out!

MUSIC at FIRST

**Airborne Jazz
TODAY at 4 PM**

A multi-cultural jazz trio from New Haven, Airborne has a beautiful trademark jazz sound of Island Passion and Urban Emotion.

A century of jazz music will be performed.

The music will be fun, motivating and inspirational.

Proceeds from this concert series support the Les Childs Music Scholarship.

Suggested Donation: \$7 adults/\$5 senior or student

Become a Sponsor!

Individual sponsorships are \$40 per person (\$30 for seniors)

Corporate sponsorships start at \$50

Sponsors have admission to all concerts plus your name in our program.

**For more information visit Music at First during Coffee Hour
today or next Sunday, September 23**

FAMILY POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, September 28 at 6 PM

sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee

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. Please sign up on the Women's Fellowship bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. 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! A 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).

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Pulpit side and balcony read plain type; baptismal font and choir read bold type.

A good woman is hard to find and is worth far more than diamonds. Her husband trusts her without reserve and never has reason to regret it. Never spiteful, she treats him generously all her life long.

She shops around for the best yarns and cottons and enjoys knitting and sewing. She's like a trading ship that sails to faraway places and brings back exotic surprises. She's up before dawn, preparing breakfast for her family and organizing her day.

She looks over a field and buys it, then, with money she's put aside, plants a garden. First thing in the morning, she dresses for work, rolls up her sleeves, eager to get started. She senses the worth of her work, is in no hurry to call it quits for the day.

She's skilled in the crafts of home and hearth, diligent in homemaking. She's quick to assist anyone in need, reaches out to help the poor. She doesn't worry about her family when it snows; their winter clothes are all mended and ready to wear.

She makes her own clothing, and dresses in colorful linens and silks. Her husband is greatly respected when he deliberates with the city fathers. She designs gowns and sells them, brings the sweaters she knits to the dress shops.

Her clothes are well-made and elegant, and she always faces tomorrow with a smile. When she speaks she has something worthwhile to say, and she always says it kindly. She keeps an eye on everyone in her household, and keeps them all busy and productive.

Her children respect and bless her; her husband joins in with words of praise: “Many women have done wonderful things, but you’ve outclassed them all!”

Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades. The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the Fear-of-God. Give her everything she deserves! Festoon her life with praises!

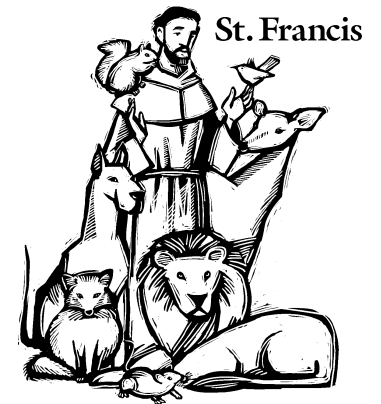
Blessing of the Animals

September 30

12:30 p.m.

In the parking lot on the west side of the church or in Fellowship Hall if it rains.

As autumn progresses, people in various places may notice something a bit unexpected. A procession of beloved pets, dogs, cats, iguanas, birds, and even fish, being led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals.



More and more churches, Protestant and Catholic alike, are welcoming beloved family members to be prayed for and blessed, as a way to acknowledge their importance in our lives, and to celebrate the bond of creation given to us by God.

Our pets keep us company, stand vigil by our bedsides when we are sick, help us teach our children about compassion, responsibility, and yes, sometimes the meaning of loss, they communicate to us in ways that words cannot express and they love us unconditionally. They tirelessly serve those who cannot see, hear or use their whole bodies. They truly are gifts from God.

Following in the tradition of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, birds, peacemaking and the environment, our church will offer a Blessing of the Animals on September 26. If you would like to have your animal receive a blessing, please sign up on the sheet outside the church office. In order to maintain order and safety for all, the signup is a must. If you have a large animal, such as a horse, or an animal that cannot be transported to the church, please contact Rev. Carr.



