

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

November 13, 2011

Stewardship Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC "Sonatina" Clementi  
"I Will Serve Thee" Gaither/Hughes

CHIMING of the HOUR

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE "Proclamation on 'A Mighty Fortress'" J. Barr

WORDS of REFLECTION

Every person becomes the image of the God they adore. Thomas Merton

\*CALL to WORSHIP Dick Wurst

Leader: We gather for worship in the midst of a broken world.

People: Let us learn of God's way to serve.

Leader: We gather for worship to build the ways of love.

People: For the strengthening presence of God and each other, we lift our voices in joy and praise!

\*OPENING HYMN #65 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison)

Most gracious and loving God, as we come into this worship space, as we lift our hearts to worship you, we ask that you look deep within us and search us. Help us to see the true condition of our hearts. Help us to hear again your words of love and grace and life. We pray that this hour is an hour that will change our lives forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 90: 1-6, 14-17

Leader: O Lord, you have always been our home.

People: Before you created the hills or brought the world into being, you were eternally God, and will be God forever.

Leader: You tell us to return to what we were; you change us back to dust.

People: A thousand years to you are like one day; they are like yesterday, already gone, like a short hour in the night.

Leader: You carry us away like a flood; we last no longer than a dream. We are like weeds that sprout in the morning.

People: That grow and burst into bloom, then dry up and die in the evening.

Leader: Fill us each morning with your constant love, so that we may sing and be glad all our life.

People: Give us now as much happiness as the sadness you gave us during all our years of misery.

Leader: Let us, your servants, see your mighty deeds; let our descendants see your glorious night.

People: Lord our God, may your blessings be with us. Give us success in all we do!

\*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

A TIME to REMEMBER - 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Moment Lynn Sweet

A TIME with the CHILDREN

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

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

ANTHEM "I See, I Hear, I Know" C. Courtney

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS – Robbie Ordway and family

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE II Corinthians 8: 1-9, 15

\*SERMON HYMN #709 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

SERMON The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING and the GATHERING of PLEDGES for 2012

OFFERTORY "But by Love" D. Forrest

\*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

\*LITANY PRAYER of DEDICATION Joseph Tobin

Leader: Bless, O God, all the financial resources that will pass through our hands in the year to come. May our planning be wise, our spending be faithful, our giving be joyful and our saving offer peace of mind. Keep us from waste, worry and regret, remind us always to be sensitive to the needs of those who have less than we do and let justice and compassion guide our earnings and our investing.

People: God, we have received grace upon grace. It is grace to experience the joy of giving, and it is grace to participate in the ministry of this community of faith here and elsewhere. Help us to keep these promises of support, but may grace abound if circumstances should arise that require us to do otherwise.

Leader: We give thanks for the work of those who have prepared our budget and ask your blessing upon its structure and its flexibility. We give thanks for those who accept the responsibility to manage our church's finances in the year to come.

People: We also lift before you this morning the grace we receive and give in time, prayer, skill, energy and participation. Each of us pledges these efforts as part of our living our lives fully as Christ's disciples.

All: Amazing grace, as we give, we are not less, but blessed. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN #459 "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "Toccata on 'Ein Feste Burg'" G. Young

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

Greeters and Coffee Hour: Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

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

**Transformers:** 11:30 AM, Choir Room

**Council:** 11:30 AM, Library

## TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Place your **Thanksgiving Pie orders** with members of Women's Fellowship. See insert for more details.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Deacons:** Monday, November 14, 7 PM, Chapel

**Crafts Group:** Monday, November 14, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**December CARILLON Deadline**  
**Tuesday, November 15**

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Prayer Squares:** Tuesday, November 15, 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Finance:** Tuesday, November 15, 7 PM, Library

**Yoga:** Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Please bring a mat. Donation: \$5 per class.

**Trustees:** Wednesday, November 16, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Stewardship & Evangelism:** Wednesday, November 16, 7 PM, Library

**Missions:** Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Joyful Noise Handbell Choir:** Thursday, November 17, 6:30 PM, PF Room

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, November 17, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

**Caring & Sharing Support Group:** Friday, November 18, 10:30 AM, Library

**Contemporary Worship Rehearsal:** Saturday, November 19, 10 AM, Sanctuary

**Let the Celebration Begin!** Next Sunday, November 20 we begin a year of celebration, culminating in November 2012 when our church completes its 250<sup>th</sup> year. Please join us for a **soup** and **salad lunch** after worship in Fellowship Hall! Thanks to Women's Fellowship, there will be no charge and reservations are not needed. There will be scrapbooks filled with pictures to see, and a walk/ride is planned for those who wish to view the Sunnyview Drive site of our first Meeting House (FYI: At the time, Sunnyview Drive was known as Meeting House Hill).

**Pay It Forward:** Recently Joyce Sepulveda shared with us her Pay It Forward gift to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry. She grew her \$50 gift to \$125 to provide food for needy families in the Vernon area. Pay It Forward will resume next Sunday when we feature Mary Wheeler, our most recent winner. The blessings of those who have benefited because of you are on display in Fellowship Hall. Take a moment to reflect during Coffee Hour. A special **THANK YOU** for the continued gifts from our members and friends that have allowed Pay It Forward to continue for another couple of weeks, making it a full year of Pay It Forward blessings.

**Advent Workshop:** Sunday, November 27. All children from 3 years-8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall after the children's bells performance during the worship service.

## WELCOME TO STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!



## Count Yourself Blessed - 2012 Stewardship Drive

Today we receive our 2012 Pledges and gather to demonstrate our commitment to the First Congregational Church of Vernon and the blessings we share here.

If you did not receive a packet and would like one, they are available today in the Narthex or during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall.

Packets are also available in the Church Office.

**All pledges must be in by November 20.**

This is vital to the planning of the 2012 Budget.

If you have questions regarding stewardship, please contact any member of the Stewardship and Evangelism Committee.

**2012 PLEDGE GOAL - \$241,700**

**THANK YOU!**

Our next **Music @ First Concert** brings back the sounds of **The Riverboat Ramblers** on Sunday, November 20 at 4 PM. They present an engaging mix of New Orleans jazz, Cajun, calypso, ragtime, zydeco, swing, gospel and Mardi Gras party music. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, contact Joe Connolly, joseph\_m\_connolly@sbcglobal.net.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service:** Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 PM at St. Bernard's Church, Rockville.

**Thanksgiving Day Breakfast and Service:** On Thanksgiving morning, join us for a hot buffet breakfast with your family and friends. Breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 AM followed by a brief service in the Sanctuary at 8:20 AM. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall with the number of people attending so we can prepare the right

amount of food. If you are interested in helping that morning, please contact Michelle Bower, 872-7274.

**Jane Morse; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs; Aaron Huneger; Stephen Volovski; Donald Chase; Audrey Clay (breast cancer)**

**Looking for an Opportunity to Volunteer?** Hockanum Valley Community Council is looking for people to help with the distribution of food on the following days:  
Saturday, November 19, 10:30 AM-2 PM  
Monday, November 21, 8:45 AM-8 PM  
Tuesday, November 22, 8:45 AM-8 PM

They also need help collecting food for their Food Drives from 9 AM-5 PM on the following days:

Thursday, November 17

Friday, November 18

You will be sorting through donated items, stocking shelves and various other jobs assisting in the distribution of foods to local families. The Food Drive involves standing at Stop & Shop collecting food donations.

Any amount of time that you are willing to donate is appreciated - you do NOT have to work the full shift. In order to make sure we have enough people to help and that all the hours are covered, please let us know when you are able to volunteer. Contact Sandra O'Gara, 872-6649 or sign up during Coffee Hour near the Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving sign-ups.

**Anyone interested in serving on the Search Committee for our settled Senior Pastor** should contact Tony Muro, 860-872-1757 or [tonymuro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tonymuro@sbcglobal.net).

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.

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](mailto:jmoze@hotmail.com)).

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** Jane and Dick Saich; Mike Swan undergoing chemo due to a reoccurrence of cancer; **Kathy Fuller**, Barbara Evensen's sister, in a Florida hospital; **Caleb**, infant son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo), in ICU with a possible genetic digestive disorder; **Richard Waddell**, nephew by marriage of Mary Wheeler, recovering from cancer surgery; **Debbie Morris**, Jan Peacock's niece; **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**;

