

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

November 20, 2011

Thanksgiving Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC "Pastoral Dance on 'Simple Gifts'" A. Clarke  
"Fantasia on 'Nun Danket'" H. Livingston

JOYFUL NOISE BELL CHOIR  
"Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. E. Lorenz  
"Open My Eyes That I May See"  
"Kum Ba Yah"

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

PAY IT FORWARD

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CHIMING of the HOUR

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

Thanksgiving is a time to look beneath our external lives for the unwavering love, the ceaseless peace, and the enduring strength that lie in the deep waters of our soul. The more we trust the "unknowable depths" of our existence, the more the power of gratitude becomes a song we daily sing. With what do you struggle today? What might lie beneath that struggle for which you can give thanks?

Joyce Rupp, The Circle of Life

PRELUDE "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. D. Miller  
\*CALL to WORSHIP Pat Lazaren

Leader: All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,  
People: All the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,  
Leader: All that springs from bounteous hand, scatters o'er the smiling land,  
People: All that liberal autumn pours, from her rich o'er flowing stores.  
Leader: These to thee, O God, we owe, source when all our blessings flow,  
People: And for these our souls shall raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.

\*OPENING HYMN #276 "We Gather Together"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison)

As fields lay resting all around us, after another season of bringing forth the harvest, we gather anew with thankful hearts. What a joy it is to come together to praise your name and glory in the presence of one another, O God. Nurture our hearts to grow in gratitude so that we may live with an increased awareness of your goodness in our midst. As our hearts grow in gratitude, may we look ahead in hope and a new sense of shared commitment. Bless this sacred time in our lives, that in coming together in your name, we may know the wonder of life renewed and filled by grace. We ask all this, with hearts overflowing with thanks, in Jesus' name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 95: 1-7 p. 747

\*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

HISTORICAL MOMENT of REFLECTION

A TIME with the CHILDREN

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

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

ANTHEM "Give Thanks" H. Smith

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER Joseph Tobin

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 5: 12-20

\*HYMN #718 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

SERMON The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Bless This House"

\*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Thank you Creator of the universe, for the people gathered around us today, and for the gifts of the earth that give us the means of life.

People: Thank you for the plants, animals, and birds that we use as food and medicine.

Leader: Thank you for the natural world in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

People: Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world.

Leader: Help us to see our place among these gifts, not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.

People: May we respect the life of all you have made. May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need, and may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.

(Sue Ellen Herne, Mohawk, 20<sup>th</sup> century, alt.)

\*CLOSING HYMN #714 "For the Fruits of All Creation"

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the blessings of the Lord of all creation be upon you.

People: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with divine presence and fill your loved ones with peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of eternal life.

People: Amen.

Leader: And may almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" arr. R. Hughes

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

The Cornucopia on the Communion Table is provided and arranged by the Flower Committee.

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

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Stewardship and Evangelism Committee

**Pay It Forward:** Today 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.

### 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

**Let the Celebration Begin!** Today we begin a year of celebration of FCCV's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please join us for a **soup** and **salad lunch** after worship in Fellowship Hall! There is no charge. Scrapbooks filled with pictures will be on display and we will walk/ride to view the Sunnyview Drive site of our first Meeting House (FYI: At the time, Sunnyview Drive was known as Meeting House Hill).

**Music @ First Concert - The Riverboat Ramblers** today at 4 PM. Their aggressive rhythmic style and outrageous humor attracts young audiences wherever they perform. They have been performing New Orleans Jazz, Big Band Swing, Gospel and Mardi Gras party music throughout the United States since 1980. Please come and join us for an afternoon of music, fun and fellowship.

### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

If you ordered **pies** from Women's Fellowship, please **pick them up today.**

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**PLEASE NOTE:** Information for the November 27<sup>th</sup> bulletin needs to be in the Church Office no later than 9 AM tomorrow morning. Also, the **deadline** for the **December Carillon** has been extended to **Wednesday, November 23.**

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Board of Music:** Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 PM, Library

**Yoga:** Wednesday, November 23, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Please bring a mat. Donation: \$5 per class.

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.

### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

***Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 PM***

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 can help that morning, please contact Michelle Bower, 872-7274.

**November 24 and 25:** The Church Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**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 handbell performance during the worship service.

## Count Yourself Blessed - 2012 Pledge Drive

Have you turned in your 2012 Pledge?

All pledges must be in by TODAY.

This is vital to the planning of our 2012 Budget.

If you did not receive a pledge card, they are available in the Church Office.

2012 PLEDGE GOAL - \$241,700

Thank You!

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** Leanne, Erin and Patrick Connolly on the loss of Joe Connolly; **Robbie Ordway and family;** Jane and Dick Saich; **Mike Swan** undergoing chemo for a recurrence of cancer; **Kathy Fuller,** Barbara Evensen's sister; **Caleb,** infant son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Richard Waddell,** nephew by marriage of Mary Wheeler, recovering from cancer surgery; **Debbie Morris,** Jan Peacock's niece; **Donna Peacock;** **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;** **Jane Morse;** **Melissa Morse;** **Charlotte Driggs;** **Aaron Huneger;** **Stephen Volovski;** **Donald Chase;** **Audrey Clay** (breast cancer)