

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC**

**December 30, 2012**

**GATHERING MUSIC** “Pastorale Symphony” Handel  
“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” Price  
“Cradle Song” Higgin

**CHIMING of the HOUR**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** The Rev. David Minnick

**PAY IT FORWARD**

**ACOLYTES**

**PRELUDE** “Adore and Be Still” Gounod/Smith

**WORDS of REFLECTION**

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal those broken in spirit,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the oppressed,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
to make a little music with the heart...*

*- Howard Thurman*

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP** Tony Muro

**Leader:** Our God is Alpha and Omega.

**People:** We are a people of many beginnings and many endings.

**Leader:** Sovereign God, who was and is and is to come, bless our worship this day.

**People:** As we worship this day, we are ever mindful of life’s journey, the crossroads which come our way and those we share the journey with.

**Leader:** Fill our minds and hearts with your Spirit of thanksgiving and hope,

**People:** That our lives will always reflect your goodness and grace.

**\*OPENING HYMN #155 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION**

O God of the wilderness, valley and mountaintop, we give you thanks as we praise your name for the wonders and adventures of life’s journey. For the times we travel together and the times you call us apart; for the joys of serving others in your name and the challenge of hearing your voice among the calls of many others; for Christ’s comfort in the past and Christ’s call to the future; for these and so many other blessings, we praise your name. Bless and inspire our worship today. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**RITUAL for the CONCLUSION of a TIME of INTERIM MINISTRY**

**Congregation:** We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness and accept that now you leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.

**LITANY PRAYER of THANKSGIVING for a SHARED INTERIM MINISTRY**

**Leader:** O God, you have bound us together for a time as pastor and people to serve in covenant. Together we have sought to be faithful to your call and the challenge of Christ’s gospel. We give you thanks for this time of shared ministry that now comes to a close.

**Congregation:** We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart at times. We thank you for your grace and mercy in this time together.

**Leader:** Especially we thank you for your never failing presence with us through this time of transition, and for the deeper knowledge of You and of each other that we now know.

**Congregation:** We thank you for those who have become part of the body of Christ through baptism and confirmation. We give thanks and offer to your great mercy those who have preceded us into the communion of saints. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Pastor:** In the days that lay ahead, bless all those who are called to serve here, whether their time be for one day or many years. May they know the joys of being welcomed and the satisfaction of serving you by serving others.

**All:** Now we pray, bless and be with those who leave as well as those who stay. Bless those who are soon to be part of new communities of faith and love. Grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of saints. This we ask in the name of Christ, our Summoner and Savior. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)**

**A TIME with the CHILDREN**

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

*(There is no Sunday School today. The Toddler Room is open and staffed for children 5 years and under.)*

**ANTHEM-SOLO** “Gesu Bambino” P. Yon

Gretchen Fisher Orr, soloist

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS** – Suzanne Maki and family on the loss of her father, Lewis Frost; Herb Slicer in Hartford Hospital for tests (heart)

**\*PRAYER HYMN #161 “I Wonder as I Wander”**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**SCRIPTURE** I Corinthians 3: 4-11

**SERMON**

The Rev. David Minnick

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "We Have Seen His Star" E. Thiman

\***DOXOLOGY** (#46 in hymnal)

\***UNISON PRAYER of DEDICATION**

Blessed Creator, for your presence throughout life's journey, for calling us together and blessing us in our time apart, for the bounty that fills our cupboards, for the beauty of creation and the comfort that fields of crops brings to our hearts, for these and all the blessings of each day, we give you thanks. Receive now these our gifts, that our thankful hearts may find expression and that the good news of your love and grace might be proclaimed. Bless these gifts and our lives to your purpose. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

\***CLOSING HYMN** #7 "When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

\***BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** "Three French Carols" Traditional

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

### WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign our Guest Book (on the table in the Narthex) and help yourself to a Welcome Bag made especially 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.

### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a reception after the worship service to honor and celebrate The Rev. David Minnick's 28 months as our Interim Senior Pastor. During this time David's pastoral leadership has enriched our lives and prepared us for the next chapter in our journey as a congregation. Please join us as we thank David and wish him well.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Church Council:** Wednesday, January 2, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. All agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than today.

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, January 3, 7:30 PM

**Support Group:** Friday, January 4, 10:30 AM, Library

**Pledges Were Due November 11.** If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Your pledge is vital to the planning of our 2013 budget. If you need a pledge packet or have any questions, contact the Church Office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.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** located downstairs in the Kellogg wing is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old.**

**People are needed** to serve on the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee. If interested, contact Tony Muro.

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) or Jon Dunlap (875-7254).

**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](mailto:DelytheK@yahoo.com) or (860) 872-3004.

**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.

**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.

**Reminder:** Our Sunday morning worship services (on a one week delay) are available for viewing on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5 Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Uncut DVD's (DVD's submitted for viewing on Comcast are edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library. Check your local listings or go to CVCCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events.

### **Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please listen to any of the following radio stations: WTIC AM (1080), WTIC FM (96.5), WRCH FM (100.5), watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

**In Our Ongoing Prayers. . . Ruth Woodcock** and her daughter **Sarah** (friends of Becky Burr); **Will Livermore**, Pat Lazeren's brother, who suffered an eye injury and may need surgery; **Shirley Bryant; Dick Saich; Mike Kermode** deployed in Afghanistan; **Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; 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; 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**