

The Carillon

The First Congregational Church
of Vernon, UCC



OCTOBER

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CHURCH STAFF

Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. David Minnick
Associate Pastor	Rev. Cynthia J. Carr
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Sunday Worship 10 AM

Sunday School 10 AM

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

“Connect Through Christ – Connect With Us”

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695 Hartford Turnpike
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PASTOR’S PONDERINGS

A Time to Talk Church Money

Back in June, I sent a pastoral letter out addressing the special challenges to our church budget and the impact of that on our planning for the days ahead. This letter was part of my response to concerns brought to my attention by the Board of Finance and the church treasurer regarding the directions we were heading and the opportunities that are in our power to respond faithfully to these challenges.

Several of you expressed an interest in following up on this. On Sunday, October 2, Milt Doremus, chair of the Board of Finance; Bill Boutwell, church treasurer, and I will be available one half hour after the end of the worship service to meet with and discuss the letter and where we currently stand regarding some of the matters raised within it.

All interested are welcome to attend and be part of this important dialogue in our church’s future.



Musical Celebration of Reformation Sunday

On Sunday, October 30, we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday in our morning worship. The last Sunday in October is known as Reformation Sunday as it is the closest day to November 1, All Saints Sunday. We remember today that on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses, his criticisms of the church at that time, on the doors of Wittenberg Cathedral. He posted them that night, knowing that every faithful member would be attending worship on November 1, All Saints Day. He wanted them to see his public confrontation of church leadership on that holy day. That action sparked the spiritual revolution which we remember as the Protestant Reformation.

Since that time, worship in the Protestant tradition has changed in any number of ways. This year, on Reformation Sunday, we are going to focus on the changes in church music as we celebrate this special time in church history.

Please plan to be with us on that day as we honor our heritage and look ahead with hope.

Church Planning Questionnaire during October

As you know, in this time of interim transition ministry, one of the biggest challenges lying before us is discerning our shared vision for our church. To do that, the Executive Committee has organized several venues for hearing from the members of First Church as to their memories, dreams and wishes. In September, two venues were provided through the World Café and the night of Appreciative Inquiry. During the month of October, a Church Planning Questionnaire is being made available for the members of First Church to complete. This Church Planning Questionnaire (CPQ) has been created with the help of the Hartford Institute, an outreach effort of the Hartford Seminary to strengthen local churches.

Members of First Church are encouraged to complete the questionnaire online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/FCC_Vernon.

Paper copies of the CPQ are available at the Church Office for those who would prefer to complete it in this way.

The Executive Committee is seeking to serve First Church and the information which will come to us through these efforts will be invaluable. Thank you for your anticipated help with this.

BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 16
following the Worship Service



Budget Meeting

Christian Education News

Minister of Christian Education

Linda Shivers, necsvga@aol.com

Sunday School Superintendent

Cindy Madden, cindymadden@msn.com

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

Jen Condry, jbcondry@aol.com

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent and Toddler Room Coordinator

Christa Hockenberry, wildonehock6@att.net

Youth Advisors

Dave and Deb Hockenberry, davendebihock@att.net

Helene Fujimoto

Bruce and Kathleen McClure



Sunday School News

Thank you to the following teachers, shepherds, youth advisors, and substitutes for your commitment to help this program year: Kevin Maki, Adam Boucher, Jacquelyn Mead, Jaclyn Leonard, Jennifer Jensen, Cheryl Turner, Aarika Mallory, Jena Maki, Debbie Bartos, Diane Mead, Nick Bartos, Haley Hasty, Jean Philbrick, Annie Longo, Greg Mias, Alexa Philbrick, Erika Sturgis, Suzanne Maki, Debi Hockenberry, Christopher Bartos, Chelsea Clay, Kathleen McClure, Bruce McClure, Dave Hockenberry, Beth Fowler.

Bible Sunday was September 25. Bibles were given to 4th graders, Maddy Condry, Zach Evensen, Jackson Kermode, Jordan Kermode, Matthew Knowing.

Sunday School Schedule for October

Oct. 2 All classes start downstairs

3 year - 4th grades meet in the end room of Kellogg Hall

5th/6th grade meet in classroom (Library)

7th/8th grade, meet in classroom (Chapel)

Our **Toddler Room** is open every Sunday from 9:55 a.m. until after the Worship Service for toddlers ages 12 months to 3 years. It is staffed by two high school students who have experience working with toddlers and are members of our congregation. Christa Hockenberry is our Toddler Room Coordinator and can answer any questions or concerns you might have. You can contact her in the Toddler Room on Sunday mornings. We also offer a **Crib Room** for infants up to 12 months and their parents that is located upstairs near the balcony. This offers you an opportunity to be with your infant if you need to leave the worship service for any reason and still be able to hear the service. An usher will be happy to direct you if you are in need of assistance.

Confirmation Class Schedule

Oct. 9 Tour of the church, 11:30 AM-1 PM, invite your sponsor to attend

Oct. 23 Class, 11:30 AM-1 PM. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12)

Giv2

Our kick off event will be Sunday, October 2 from 1- 5 PM in Fellowship Hall. Leading us will be Rev. DaVita McCallister, Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Come hear what Giv2 is about and what our first mission project (November 6) will be. Parents are also welcome to attend.

FCCV Youth Event:

Check the Sunday bulletins for more info. Plans have not been finalized yet.

MUSIC at FIRST 2011

presents

Guitar Duo

Judy Handler and Mark Levesque

Sunday, October 30

4 PM



For more information, contact Joe Connolly, joseph_m_connolly@sbcglobal.net.



STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELISM NEWS

250 Years of Counted Blessings!

In the coming weeks, you will hear about our Stewardship theme for this year...COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED, based on Luke 6:38...*Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.*

Could there be a more appropriate theme for this milestone anniversary year in the life of our church? For 250 years the church family of FCCV...whomever they have been at any given time...have counted their individual blessings, considered carefully their measure, and given of their time, talent and treasure to sustain our church and provide opportunities to collectively "give back" in countless ways. This year, let's allow our Stewardship Campaign to be an expression of our gratefulness to God for the blessings we have been given and an affirmation of our aim to move our church forward into our next century with the strength, purpose and resolve that have sustained us for so long.

APPLE FESTIVAL ~ HARVEST FAIR

Saturday, October 22

11 AM - 7 PM

Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee and Women's Fellowship

Luncheon will be served from 11 AM - 2 PM and will include panini sandwiches, soup and apple pie.

Dinner from 4 - 7 PM will include kielbasa, baked potato, salad, roll, apple crisp or apple pie.

Throughout the day, there will be a **Craft, Book and Bake Sale, Gift Baskets, a Silent Auction** and more.



Book donations can be dropped off in the breezeway during the week before the event, starting October 16.

We will be baking pies at noon on Friday, October 21.

All are welcome to come and help!



Anniversary Committee

The next meeting of the Anniversary Committee will be on Friday, October 7 at 2 PM. All are welcome to attend as we work to organize events to help commemorate FCCV's 250th Anniversary.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Prayer Quilt

A new circle is forming to create lap-sized prayer quilts for those in need. No sewing ability required. If you can cut a straight line or enjoy matching colors and fabrics, please consider joining us. Meetings will be on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 PM starting on October 4 and on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 PM starting October 18. Quilts will be completed by machine and available during Coffee Hour when members of the congregation can tie/quilt them. Each tie will be accompanied by a prayer.

BOARD of MISSIONS NEWS

Neighbors in Need, a special offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, will be collected on Sunday, October 2. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin for those wishing to make a donation.

Thank you to everyone who supported our School Store. Due to your generosity, local children were able to start school with needed supplies. The Board of Missions would also like to thank everyone who supported the Irene disaster relief. It wouldn't have been possible without you.

We are still **collecting toiletries** and **non-perishable food items**. Donations may be left in the Mission Box in the Breezeway.

Parish Nurse News

BLOOD DRIVE *sponsored by the Parish Nurses*

Monday, October 3 from 1-6 PM

Donors, helpers and bakers needed. Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board across from the Church Office, during Coffee Hour or by calling Doe Simmonds, 875-0841 or Joan McMahon, 875-6026.



Yoga...Our Parish Nurses sponsor Yoga classes on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 PM. Classes are based on practical Hatha Yoga stretches and are geared for all levels. Donation is \$5 per class. Please bring a mat.

CPR/AED Class...A CPR/AED class provided by CPROHeart has been planned for the fall. The class is open to the congregation and is sponsored by the Parish Nurses to help defray the cost. Since we have made the commitment to have an AED on church property, it's mandatory that the skill level be maintained and that enough church members are certified or trained. The AED has been upgraded with new software and is in compliance. Please contact Delythe Kracke @delythek@yahoo.com for more information.

Your Parish Nurses take **blood pressures** on the 4th Sunday of every month. We also offer supportive listening and provide information and referral resources.

**November Carillon
DEADLINE
Tuesday, October 11**



FROM the BOOKWORM

We have added the following books by Tomie DePaolo to the children's section of the library:

My First Christmas Carols

The Clown of God- the re-telling of a classic French legend

Joy to the World - a collection of Christmas stories

Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs - dealing with the death of a great-grandmother

In addition, Friendships in Nature by James Gary Hines III has been added to support the Sunday School curriculum. Through wonderful pictures, this book tells of the unlikely friendships that occur in nature that allows animals, plants or insects to help each other in fascinating ways.

Our Library is self-serve and open when the Church is open.

We extend sincere sympathy to the following individuals who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one.

Lois Hasty and family on the loss of her mother

Pay Nye on the loss of her brother

The Boucher family on the loss of Janet Boucher



The **Men's Club Breakfast Group** meets every Tuesday at 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner. A brief devotion and excellent conversation is served each week. We invite all men of the church to join us.

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, would like more information or would like to join the Care Network, please contact **Margaret Klukas** (643-0710) or **Jan Muro** (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).



CARING and SHARING SUPPORT GROUP

Anyone interested in attending this support group is invited to join us on **Fridays** at **10:30 AM** in the Library. This group is open to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one and is run by members of our congregation. Please feel free to come alone or bring a family member or friend. Any questions? Contact the Church Office, 860-875-7580.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Following is a list of people in our church family on active duty. We ask that you keep them and their families in your prayers. If you would like to add someone to this list, please contact the Church Office.

Maj. Joel Cummings, son of Hal and Ibby Cummings, at Fort Bliss, TX

Michael Wilson, son of Nancy Beimler, U. S. Navy in San Diego

Steven Beimler, son of Nancy Beimler in the National Guard

FCCV ON CABLE TV

Our Sunday morning worship services (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 have to be edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services from the chimes to the postlude 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Megan Shoemaker and Marques Munis who were married on August 12 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

