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**Subject:** Pastor's Weekly Email

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**From:** News from FCCV (lists@firstchurchofvernon.org)

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**To:**

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**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2016 11:48 AM

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Hi, Beloved! I sure do hope you kept warm this chilly week! And, hey, I'm sorry you didn't win Powerball's grand prize. : ) (Sorry for a little longer email today, friends.)

This Sunday's message will focus on what we are to do with our gifts and that this is our time to be and do what God wants! We are also blessed to not only have our Church Choir sing a favorite, *As the Deer*, our Junior Choir will sing as well, and their piece is called, *What a Mighty God We Serve*. Indeed!

From what I could tell, folks seemed to groove on the Transition Team's Informational Meeting last Sunday. It was a great turnout! We've been asked about next steps, and a desire to keep the energy flowing! The report went to the Deacons, it will go to

Church Council, and to the Pastoral Search Committee; and an idea or two has cropped up around how we can keep the dialogue going; we'll discuss this at Council. Stay tuned!


*Let's Keep the Sabbath Holy:* This was raised at Sunday's meeting. In an effort to keep the Sabbath holy, we would like to refrain from talking with church leaders about church business before or after worship. If you need to speak with someone, please contact them late in the day or in the coming week. Thank you! (Sabbath: *a day of religious observance & abstinence from work, kept by Jews from Fri. evening to Sat. evening, and by most Christians on Sunday.*)

Since I joined you as your Interim Senior Pastor on October 1, 2015, it was extremely clear to me just how excited you are about your church, and I saw that excitement during the meeting on Sunday! So, here's the thing. The Board of Finance presented a very modest 2016 budget goal of \$250,000 for a church of your size, and we are only \$9,649 from making that modest goal. What a *great* joy to have new pledging units and increased pledges; and thank you to those who continue to give the amount you gave in 2015 (when many of you made a large increase), and thank you to those who contribute to support the church but who found they need to reduce their pledge in 2016. You are all helping to build the City of God! If you have not yet made your pledge for 2016, might you do so on behalf of the great faithfulness of God and FCCV? I know that there are many giving and generous hearts within our community. We are living a hope-filled year for the church! Thanks be to God. And, thanks be to you. (Please contact the church office, or Kate Fowler for a giving card, or Steve Morse, Asst. Treasurer, should you wish to make or increase your pledge.)

We heard on Sunday that our shopping carts have been running low (one is positioned outside of the sanctuary in the narthex, and the other at the entrance to the offices). Each month members from our Board of Missions alternate taking non-perishable food to the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen, and to Hockanum Valley Community Council. Please see a BOM member or Emily Westerberg, Chair, if you can lend a hand. (*Might God be calling you to serve in this way?*). We also need folks who can help prepare meals at the Soup Kitchen. Our Board of Missions has a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Apparently, several churches have recently stopped helping at the soup kitchen and the need is greater than ever! And, let's keep the shopping carts stacked with food. Thank you so much for feeding the hungry! : )

**January 17 Scripture: John 2:1-11**

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+2:1-11>

Keep the Sabbath Holy,   
Rev. Suz, Interim Senior Pastor

**Coming up...**

**Pairs & Spares, Line Dancing,** tonight at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall

**Connecticut Conference UCC Events**

**Sunday, January 17, 1-4 PM - The Church and the End of Racism** at the United Congregational Church UCC, 45 Tolland Green, Tolland (Contact: Rev. Judy Medeiros, 860.875.4160 or [jmedeiros@ucctolland.org](mailto:jmedeiros@ucctolland.org)). Cost: \$10. Please register via phone, email or the website ([ctucc.org/events.php?event=4432](http://ctucc.org/events.php?event=4432)).

**Monday, January 18, 3:30 PM - Sixth Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration** at Faith Congregational Church UCC, 2030 Main St., Hartford. ([ctucc.org/events.php?event=4438](http://ctucc.org/events.php?event=4438))



News from FCCV

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To be sure you receive our regular mailings and emergency announcements please add [lists@firstchurchofvernon.org](mailto:lists@firstchurchofvernon.org) to your Contacts.

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## Attachments

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