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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Pastor's Weekly Email

Last fall, the Barna Group, a non-profit research organization which focuses on matters related to faith and religion, published an article entitled, " Six Reasons Young Christians Leave Church ." It is an engaging article, focusing on matters which seem to dissuade young people from continuing to be involved in the ongoing faith formation and spiritual development we seek to encourage.

One of the six reasons listed here is that "churches seem antagonistic to science." I believe there is some validity to that concern and that the antagonism between faith and science is too frequently, mutual. However, this need not be. I believe faith and science each seek to explore and discover differing truths about the same world. We need to encourage dialogue and engage in the challenging thinking that follows discussion of such important matters in our life.

To that end, The Clergy Letter Project seeks, on one Sunday each winter, to encourage churches to focus on the importance of this dialogue. As a pastor, and one who struggled with understanding science while in school and engaged in questions of faith my entire life, I have chosen to participate in and support the work of the Clergy Letter Project.

This Sunday, the focus of my message will be on the importance of reconciling these two different understandings of the same world, so that we might grow in both faith and knowledge.

Also this Sunday, we will be blessed to have the Angels Among Us helping to lead worship. Angels Among Us is our program for encouraging young people to grow into worship leaders. This Sunday, members of the 5th and 6th grade class will be our worship leaders. When our young people lead worship, there always seems to be a special joy in our community.

This Sunday, Pastor Cindy and I will be leading our second Prospective Members Class. If you've been curious about church membership and were not able to attend last week's class, please come this week. We have these as a chance to speak together about church membership. By attending, no one is committed to joining.

Finally, many in the family of faith here at FCCV remember very well the fire which destroyed the church building in January 1965. Out of the ashes a new building was created to house a congregation whose faith was hardened and made stronger by this challenge. On January 1 of this year, our friends at the Somers Congregational Church suffered this same hardship. This Sunday, the Board of Mission is sponsoring a Special Offering, which will be donated to the Somers Church to use at their discretion in this challenging time. Ever mindful of our current blessings, may many among us be encouraged to support this special offering.

See you in church.

Pastor David