
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

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

To:

Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 11:53 AM

Family and friends of FCCV,

Wow! Thursday's snowfall was beautiful ... but Friday's cleanup is not fun! I hope you all got a chance to enjoy the snow day, whether you were outside playing, or inside staying warm.

We are a people of
EXTRAVAGANT
WELCOME

Sunday, I will be preaching from one of my favorite scriptures. (I will admit, I have lots of favorites!) Luke tells the story of Jesus attending a dinner party at the house of Simon, a Pharisee. During this dinner, a woman – who does not have a good reputation – crashes the party. Not only does she crash the party, but she kneels at the feet of Jesus and begins to wash his feet. Simon is beside himself! How dare she come to his house uninvited; and moreover, how dare she demand the guest of honor's attention. Her behavior and presence is totally unacceptable! Jesus' response to Simon, and Jesus' acceptance of this woman's presence is a beautiful model of how we, the church, should act today. Come and hear the message of how hospitality should be manifested in our church!

Immediately after our Sunday morning service, active members will be given an opportunity to vote on whether we, First Congregational Church of Vernon United Church of Christ, will officially become an Open and Affirming church. Basically, we agree with the statement, "Jesus never rejected anyone, and neither do we." We will also vote on our Open and Affirming (ONA) declaration.

The First Congregational Church of Vernon United Church of Christ gathers as the people of God to worship and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that we are all children of God.

As a church, we welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, gender, family structure, physical or mental ability, economic status, faith background, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity into the full life and ministry of this community of faith, including membership and leadership. We welcome and embrace the gifts that each child of God brings to the life of our congregation; and we covenant one with another to worship and work together in a climate of care, joy, and mutual respect.

As an Open and Affirming church, we join with our sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ, and all persons who are committed to the struggle for justice, love, and inclusiveness with the example and teachings of Jesus Christ as our guide.

I am praying that our church will be the kind of church who has an extravagant welcome to anyone who walks through her doors; and to anyone who wishes to become a part of our congregation! I am praying that we offer radical hospitality in Jesus' name!

Grace be to y'all,
Robin



Prelude to the Preludes

It won't be hard to guess the theme of my preludes this week--all the pieces have "love" in their title. I may begin with a couple pop classics on the piano, but I'll end up with some arrangements of hymns such as "O Perfect Love" and "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." See if you can name the others!

I'll single out one in particular since the lyrics have been set to several melodies--two of which I'll play. In 1868 Henry Baker wrote the lyrics entitled "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" based on Psalm 23. One of the melodies it was set to was St.

Columba, a traditional Irish tune. My last prelude is another version written by Harry Rowe Shelley (1858 - 1947) who was born in New Haven and who played the organ for several New York City churches. I hope you can "feel the love."
--James

Please Note...

There is **NO** Line Dancing this evening. We will resume next Friday.



News from FCCV

*First Congregational Church of Vernon - UCC
695 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066*

Office: 860-875-7580

Website: www.firstchurchofvernon.org

To be sure you receive our regular mailings and emergency announcements please add lists@firstchurchofvernon.org to your Contacts.

Attachments

- clip_image002.jpg (13.27KB)
- clip_image004.png (83.24KB)
- sigimg0.sigimg0 (11.14KB)