

From: FCCV (fccv@snet.net)
To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Fri, February 24, 2012 2:28:34 PM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

This past Wednesday, as some of us gathered in the Sanctuary, to begin the season of Lent together on Ash Wednesday, I commented that Lent can be a confusing season. I had two Christian friends wish me a "happy Lent" on Ash Wednesday, a blessing that left me wondering. (Not nearly as much as a neighbor of mine who once, after we had crossed paths and talked a bit on our morning walk on Good Friday, wished me a "Happy Good Friday." We've got some work to do.)

I think many good and faithful people are just not certain what to make of this season and how to make it special. Regarding this, I recently found a quote that has stayed with me for several days now. *"The challenge of the saints of the 21st century is to begin to comprehend the sacred in the ten thousand things of our world; to reverence what we have come to view as ordinary and devoid of spirit."* Edward Hayes

The lessons for the first Sunday in Lent are always of Jesus' time in the wilderness and the temptations he endured in that time apart. As we each walk our walk in this wilderness time of the year, let me suggest one way to seek to make Lent special is to commit yourself to recognizing three things in your everyday routine that are sacred. For me today, among those every day things that have pulled me out of my routine to value the goodness in this day are: the difference a dash of salt and some fresh ground pepper make on scrambled eggs; a video a friend sent of his puppy playing with another dog, a reminder of how naturally the "lower animals" find ways to play in their everyday life; a video on a website showing a soldier coming home from Afghanistan and surprising her son at his school during recess, a reminder of the emotions of reunion and reconciliation.

Look for those moments in your day that get your attention and make you feel "more" and you will be well on your way to finding ways to make this season rich in your life.

Here's to a meaningful Lent for us all.

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Last Sunday, we were blessed to have so many of our young people, active in the Scout troops that we host, lead us in worship. Thanks to their faithful adult leadership, these young people are learning solid values and deepening their sense of community among themselves.

This Sunday, we follow Jesus into the wilderness and find blessings galore in our midst. Pastor Cindy will be baptizing Oliver Beermann; our Transformers Choir will sing the morning Anthem; we will learn more of our history and heritage with an Historical Moment with Joan Apel; and we will commission our Search Committee, as they take on the special challenge of seeking future pastoral leadership for First Church. The sermon is inspired by Mark 1: 9-15 and will look at the lessons we learn from Jesus' time in the wilderness.

I hope we can all be together for this special service.
Pastor David

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There are two very special events coming up this week which I want to bring to your attention.

On Sunday, the Family Life Ministry and the Ways and Means Committee will be sponsoring Judy Buch and The Hands of Peace Puppet Ministry. A Ziti Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall at 5 PM followed by the Easter Story Puppet Show at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary. All ages are welcome. Advance tickets are \$5 per person (max. \$25 per family) and will be on sale during Coffee Hour this Sunday. Tickets at the door will be \$7 (max. \$30 per family).

On Tuesday, our TPC student, Joseph Tobin, will host the first of three Lenten programs in the Soup and Scripture series. This program will last from 6-7 PM and will provide a light supper along with a time to study the Scriptures of the season. They will be held on alternating Tuesday nights, beginning with this coming Tuesday. Those interested in attending are asked to contact the Church Office. Child care will be provided, if needed.