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To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Thu, March 1, 2012 2:17:45 PM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

As we gathered for worship last Sunday, many folks could be seen checking their watches, wondering just what time of the day it was. You see, in order to darken the Sanctuary for that evening's Family Life Puppet Show, large black curtains had been installed in all the window wells, making the Sanctuary much darker on a sunny Sunday morning than anyone would have expected. (And to those who inquired, the answer is, "No, we are not giving up sunlight for Lent.")

The curtains certainly created a different mood for the morning service, but they were invaluable in making the evening's puppet show so wonderful.

Diminishing the light in our sacred home, even for one Sunday, has led me to think a lot this past week on the roles of light and windows in our sacred life. The late Forrest Church once wrote about this connection as a metaphor for the spiritual search. Each of us sees the Light (the Capital L light that is) through our respective window. The fundamentalists among us insist their view is the only one that matters while non-believers insist all the views are the same. Between those extremes is most of us, those eager to look out and take in the glory of God's creation and eager to share our view with others. And when we take the time to talk to others and see life through their "window," our lives are more the richer. We do indeed grow in faith when we learn about how others experience the holy, sacred, divine, in their lives. Every window has its own sacred view on the world.

May the Light increasingly shine through your window in these Lenten days of wilderness journey.

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Last week, we learned of Jesus' willingness to leave the comfortable and familiar for the uncertainty and surprises of the wilderness, and of his invitation to us all to come and follow him there. Our Transformer Choir sang God's praises with spirit and enthusiasm. And we commissioned our Search Committee in their important work in seeking out new pastoral leadership.

This coming Sunday, we will come together and hear the call to outreach and mission. This is the Sunday when our Board of Missions kicks off their Annual Project. Being a Family Communion Sunday, we will all gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship, with a special Children's Message focusing on our mission project and goals. We will have a guest, Mr. David Engelson, CEO of the Hockanum Valley Community Council, bringing the message this Sunday. Mr. Engelson is well known at FCCV and throughout the community after his years of service as principal of the Center Road School, prior to moving on to HVCC.

During Coffee Hour this Sunday, the Board of Missions will be hosting a Bake Sale with all proceeds going to the March Out Hunger mission project.

Hope to see you all there.
Pastor David

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Just a reminder---Music @ First will be hosting a concert by Judy Handler and Mark Levesque on Saturday, March 10th at 7 pm. Judy and Mark are a Guitar and Mandolin Duo and their performance that night will cover a wide variety of musical styles.