

From: FCCV (fccv@snet.net)
To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Fri, June 22, 2012 1:40:50 PM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

"Solitude and loneliness are not the same thing. Loneliness is the sign that something is lacking. The purpose of solitude is to bring us home to the center of ourselves with such serenity that we could lose everything and, in the end lose nothing of the fullness of life at all. Make a friend of solitude so that no amount of isolation can break the crystal of the spirit." Sr. Joan Chittister

The editorial cartoon in today's Hartford Courant said it well. "It's 100 degrees with a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. It must be Traveler's Championship Week." That does seem to be the forecast for so many of the weeks when the PGA tour comes through central CT.

A friend of mine and his mother were attending the tournament the other day and he posted a picture of his mother at the tournament. She was seated far away from the action, in the shade of a big tree, reading a magazine and looking very contented. I had recently come across the quote from Sister Joan Chittister and that picture seemed the perfect illustration for it. This woman was clearly enjoying a time of solitude, among a crowd of many thousands; an experience so much different from loneliness.

I believe this quote offers some reassuring words to those of us who are introverts. At times, the values of the world can condemn those who enjoy and value time alone, time apart. Those savoring solitude can be criticized for valuing time alone. And yet, for many, that time is invaluable. This is the time for recharging the spirit, nourishing the soul.

In so many ways, that is often the value of summertime. We welcome vacation time - time away from the routines of work and home, time spent in new locales and with different people, time spent re-connecting with family and friends. Summertime gets us out of the house, relaxing on the front porch or the back deck, catching up with neighbors and friends.

There is no one way to recharge the human spirit. For some, it is time spent alone; for others, it is time spent with as diverse a crowd of humanity as is possible. For some, it's resting under the shade of a broad-leaved tree; for others, it's out on the golf course, ball field, lake, being busy with others.

Whether apart or with others, may the summer days ahead be ones that lead us all to know the blessings of solitude and the wonders that follow.

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Last Sunday, we were blessed to experience worship led by our many choirs and had the chance to thank them for their leadership and encouragement throughout the past year. Now is their time to lay fallow, get renewed, savor some solitude and take their turn worshipping in the pews of First Church rather than the chancel for a few weeks.

Given the blessings of so many good singers and musicians, we will be having special music throughout the summer.

This coming Sunday, June 24, Serena Volovski and Joanne Myer will be singing a duet of "He Touched Me. "

The sermon will be based on Mark 4: 35-41, the story of Jesus calming the seas and stilling the storm.

On July 1, we will be sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion as part of our worship.

**Hope to see you there.
Pastor David**

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During the week of June 25, Nancy Young will be on vacation. Please call ahead if you need access to the building.

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Over the next few weeks, the Christian Education Wing, which houses the Hockanum Valley Day Care during the week, will be shut down at times for extended maintenance and repair. At this time, the Board of Trustees is organizing work parties to assist in preparing the area for this work and later for the re-opening. Work parties are being organized for July 6 and 7 and also for the days following the completion of work on July 21. Please contact Dave Symonds or any member of the Board of Trustees if you are able to help with this.