

From: Davemintbg@aol.com
To: fccv@snet.net
Sent: 8/30/2012 9:48:38 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Pastor's weekly email

"A person does not truly learn to live until they have found that which is worth dying for."

Martin Luther King, Jr. *paraphrase*

These sentiments of Dr. King have run through my mind in the weeks since I saw the movie "Of Gods and Men." This film tells the story of a group of Trappist monks who wrestle with the decision of whether to stay in the community they are serving in northern Algeria or leave. Their struggle comes as a civil war is taking place and as Muslim fundamentalists wage a campaign of terror in their efforts to purge the nation.

My thoughts this coming Sunday are inspired by the film and the difficult moral questions it raises. I'm confident that message will have meaning, regardless of whether one has seen the movie or not, but hope that for those who have seen the film, the message will have special impact.

During this Sunday's service, we will also be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I've recently learned that the Library Committee has purchased a copy of "Of Gods and Men" for the church library.

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Much of the church community is still aglow from last Sunday's service. During our worship service, we dedicated the Field of Flags, a living monument on display in front of the church from now until mid-September. We were fortunate to have Luanne Crosby, who wrote a song entitled Field of Flags, sing that special song. Luanne was inspired to write this when her church in central Massachusetts had the Field of Flags on display.

We also welcomed Anne Kirkpatrick and Jo-Ann Hornyak, members of the Somers Congregational Church, who began the Field of Flags back in October 2005. It was a special blessing to have all these women, who have been such important parts of this memorial, with us on our dedication Sunday.

And we welcomed Mayor George Apel, who presented us with a mayoral proclamation for this special day.

Since the Field of Flags was first set up last Friday, we have been blessed to have a steady stream of visitors who have been moved and found inspiration in this.

Many thanks to Linda Shivers and Brad Leonard for all their efforts in bringing this to First Church and working to get it in place.

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Next Sunday, September 9th---Rally Day.

We welcome back our Sanctuary Choir during worship and the beginning of a new year of Sunday School.