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**Date:** Fri, September 14, 2012 12:02:16 PM  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Pastor's Weekly Email

In recent weeks, so many friends and members of FCCV, as well as complete strangers, have been moved to comment on the Field of Flags. Daily, we get a phone call, email or visit to the church office from persons wanting to know more about this memorable tribute. On Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, a volunteer from Bugles Across America, stopped by the church office, and asked permission to play Taps twice that morning, at the precise moments when each of the Twin Towers fell on 9/11/2001. On Wednesday, a father and his daughter stopped by to ask if there was anything to do to help maintain it. They spent time walking through and straightening any flag which may have tipped in the recent winds.

The Field of Flags has been on display on the lawn along Hartford Turnpike since August 24<sup>th</sup> and this Sunday, at 11:30 am, volunteers are needed to dismantle it and pack it to send to the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Southbury where it will be on display for the next few weeks.

One of the responsibilities of being the host church is to keep the Field of Flags current. On the past two Fridays and today, I've taken some time to check the casualty list and add the appropriate number of flags; four the first week, five last Friday and two today. The names of those fallen have been added to the list on the sign board and we have remembered these persons, their families and communities in worship the following Sunday.

To this church family and the wider community, the Field of Flags has accomplished its mission---to honorably remember those who have fallen in service to our nation and the world and to powerfully remind us all that the efforts to bring peace and justice to foreign lands continues to this day.

May we all learn from this and live into the future in ways that are worthy of this honor and sacrifice.

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Last Sunday, Rally Day, our worship was spirited as the Sanctuary Choir was back to lead our worship and with Sunday school back in session, we were delighted to have our children back with us in worship. I shared some thoughts for Rally Day, using an extended metaphor of life as crossing a river, as we begin to look ahead to this very important year in the life of FCCV.

This coming Sunday, we'll take time in worship to honor and commission our Sunday school teachers for the upcoming year and present Bibles to some of our children. Charlie Markunas will be introducing Pay It Forward for the third year. The sermon will be based on James 3: 1-12.

Hope to see you there.  
Pastor David

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Two quick reminders -- Tomorrow, Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Shred Event/Bake Sale/Book Sale/Mum Sale at the church from 9-12. For a small donation, you can have boxes of personal papers professionally shredded and look over a collection of baked goods, books and mums that will be for sale.

This is being sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee.

Also, the Board of Trustees is sponsoring a Work Day from 9-1 pm. Those who are able to help out for part or all of the time are welcome. Volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves and any equipment they may have that can help in tidying up our church grounds.

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One more thing.....I think often of the proverb (not in the Bible) "If you're going to church to pray for rain, at least remember to take an umbrella." This is a memorable way to drive home the point that we are to live as if what we hope for will indeed happen. In the same way, all of us are hopeful that those new to the Vernon area or those who are looking for a church home, will visit and worship with us. We're hopeful that they will find our church family to be one that they would like to be a part of. Given that, it is all of our respective jobs, to be aware of this when we greet visitors. Please make an effort to wear your name tags; this is the simplest possible way to project a welcoming presence. Greet those who are worshipping near you, and take the time to introduce yourself to anyone you're not familiar with, assuming they are visiting with us. If you meet someone after worship, invite them to coffee hour. If you meet someone at coffee hour, and in the course of your conversation, find they have something in common with another member of the church, take time to introduce them to each other.

Together, each of us taking small steps, will find ourselves on the right path to strengthening our church.