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To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Thu, September 20, 2012 11:46:40 AM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

Your Sabbath, Lord, thus keeps us by
Your will, not ours. And it is fit
Our only choice should be to die
Into that rest, or out of it.

It's worth remembering some days that God never intended us to go 24/7/365 (24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year). The demands of our busy lives, finding ways to honor all our various commitments and find some time for ourselves, can stretch us in ways that are harmful to our mind, soul, body and strength.

Berry's poem is a gentle reminder that taking the time each week to "let God be God" can be a rich blessing.

My first interim position was at the Union Memorial Church in the Glenbrook section of Stamford . One of our faith community neighbors was a large Orthodox Jewish temple several blocks away. On those Saturdays when I was at the church, I found the simple witness of watching families walking together to temple inspiring. Between the gentle pace of a walk and the experience of a family being together, one sensed that there was a certain sacredness of the moment that was rich.

Embracing the Sabbath can be a blessing in ways beyond our knowing or dreaming. Thanks be to God.

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Last Sunday as we gathered for worship, we blessed and commissioned this year's Sunday school teachers and youth group advisors as well as entrusted to our 4th graders their own Bibles to read and learn from. Following worship, we spent time dismantling the Field of Flags, the moving memorial that has so richly inspired both the church family and the wider community we seek to serve. Many thanks to all those who helped to dismantle and pack up the flags, soon to be on their way to Southbury CT for display. Also, thanks to Jim Montlick who played "Taps" at our closing ritual, a sacred piece of music that stirs all our hearts.

This Sunday, we will celebrate the return of Pay It Forward with Charlie Markunas, remember the past with 3 Minutes of History with Joan Apel, and look ahead as the chair of the Search Committee, Sue Mias, gives us an update on where things stand in their important work. Pastor Cindy will be preaching the sermon based on lessons from Proverbs, James and Mark.

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If you've driven past the church in recent days, you've likely noticed the steeplejacks who are working to repair and maintain the steeple. With the exception of Tuesday, they've benefited from the good weather this week. Please take note that while they are working on the steeple, some of the access ways to the church property need to be closed off for safety reasons. All the doors will be open for entry on Sunday morning.

Many thanks to all those who helped with or supported the many activities here last Saturday. The Board of Trustees organized a very productive work day (5 chain saws, no waiting) as improvements were made on our grounds. The Ways and Means Committee organized a series of events to raise funds at the same time. We were blessed with perfect weather and a rich spirit among all those who gathered. Thanks again for your help and support!

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We are glad to "rejoice with those who rejoice" as this coming Sunday, September 23rd, the Somers Congregational Church hosts a Ground Breaking Celebration of their new sanctuary. The FCCV church family has been invited to share in this special moment this Sunday at 4 pm.