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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Pastor's Weekly Email

*"Money is the root of all evil."  
"Let my people go"*

Maybe it's the result of seeing too many political ads on the television and hearing them on the radio, but I am increasingly mindful of the importance of getting the facts and learning the whole story these days. Here are two phrases, frequently quoted with special authority since they are "in the Bible." In fact, they are partial quotes and when in their complete context, often are understood as communicating something else.

I Timothy 6:10 reads "For the love of money is the root of all evil, and in their eagerness to be rich, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."

Exodus 9:1 reads "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews; Let my people go so that they may worship/serve me.'"

In their fuller context, we can understand these familiar Biblical quotes in "brighter light."

The quote from Exodus has special meaning for us this coming Sunday as this is Youth Mission Sunday. Linda Shivers, our Minister of Christian Education, believes strongly in the spiritual value of hands-on mission for our young people. Virtually every aspect of our Christian education has a mission outreach component. This Sunday, we'll focus our worship on honoring our young people and all the ways they have served as missionaries of First Church in a wide number of outreach and service efforts. The congregation will likely be a bit more colorful this Sunday as the young people will be wearing their various colored T-shirts from each of their differing missions. The youth and leaders who took part in this past summer's mission outreach in Hartford will be sharing their thoughts and impressions during the service.

Let us be together to learn from, be inspired by, and honor these various mission efforts.

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Last Sunday, we celebrated being back in the busy routine of the program year as we heard 3+ minutes of history from Joan Apel about the great church fire of 1965 and the efforts to rebuild, rejoiced as Charlie Markunas led us back into our Pay It Forward ministry, and got an update from Sue Mias on the work of the Search Committee.

Sue indicated that the Search Committee was busy completing a second round of interviews with their best candidates and that they hope to settle on a candidate to be recommended to the Church Council and the congregation in the next few weeks. Our Search Committee has worked faithfully and with great diligence to complete this task in such an efficient way and time.

Indeed, it was less than a year ago, that we commissioned the Search Committee to do this vital work for the future of First Church . At this time, let us keep them in our daily thoughts and prayers as they work together to find the best possible candidate to come here as senior pastor. And let us be mindful, that in

the commissioning liturgy, the congregation charged them with this important responsibility and pledged support for their recommendations. Let us keep them and one another in our prayers as we move ahead, living into and living up to our covenant commitments. Welcoming a new senior pastor to First Church will be the first step into a new chapter that so many of our church members long to begin.

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After church on Sunday, at 12:30 pm, we will be having our Annual Blessing of the Animals service in the parking lot on the west side of the church. This service allows us the chance to thank God for the blessings that animals bring to our lives and daily order. Please be sure your pet is on a leash or in a carrier for everyone's benefit.