
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

From: News from FCCV (lists@firstchurchofvernon.org)

To:

Date: Friday, November 6, 2015 11:12 AM



November 7, 2015

Good day to you, Beloved! I hope you've had a week of knowing *God with you* - that presence and peace is so life-giving. 😊 While this is a lengthy email, I hope you'll consider taking time to read the abbreviated statement below from my Interim Minister's Profile, which was shared with your Deacons as part of the *call* process. It will give you some insights as to what I feel my time here with you is all about.

On Sunday we'll honor and thank our Veterans! This is always a meaningful time for all. We will also *Harvest our Gifts* of time, talent, and treasure. Tomorrow/Saturday is the 50th anniversary of when ground was broken for the new sanctuary building (after the building had been razed in a fire on January 23, 1965). We remember the saints who sat in those pews who wanted to bless you with everything they had. We need to do likewise for the people who follow - to ensure that the church is supported and built up for another age. What an honor and a blessing to give to God, to contribute to God's mission on earth to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim that 2016 is the year of the Lord's favor! What is God encouraging you to pledge this coming year?

Sunday's scripture: Mark 12:41-44 <http://bible.oremus.org/?q=106730846>

A reminder that the Cottage Meeting dates and times are **Nov. 15, 2:00pm-4:00pm; Nov. 18, 6:30pm-8:30pm; Nov. 22, 2:00pm-4:00pm; Nov. 29, 2:00pm-4:00pm; Dec. 1, 6:30pm-8:30pm**. It's exciting to be doing these cottage meetings! They give members (and friends - anyone who is interested is invited!) an opportunity to talk about what the church will be. We'll discuss FCCV's vision and purpose, and perhaps this information will be included in the church profile so that the church can call a pastor whose gifts will be able to support and help you bring your/God's vision to reality. We'll first look a little at the past, perhaps make some connections, then move ahead, informed by our past, and into a new future filled with hope and promise!

Blessings today and tomorrow, and

See you in church 🏡❤️
 Rev. Suz (revsuz@hotmail.com)
 Interim Senior Pastor

Your understanding of interim ministry within the context of ministry in the UCC

- To prepare for the coming of a newly-installed pastor, this in-between time is necessary for a congregation to come to terms with the loss of the prior pastor(s). Sometimes there is great sadness, great anger, and every emotion in between!; and parishioners need the time and care to feel what has been left behind, and to acknowledge how the prior pastor's ministry influenced the way things were done at church - in worship, meetings, administration, and pastoral care. My hope is that this period brings clarity, direction, calm, growth, and healing. Church is so much - success and failure, hits and misses, approval and anger, love and hate, betrayal and forgiveness, hope and despair, anger and acceptance. Church is filled with the faithful who keep coming back even when they don't want to! Church is filled with people who keep giving it another chance. Amen.
- During the interim, there's a *coming to terms with history* - developing a family history - remembering the joys, the concerns, the conflicts, the hurts, so we aim to be compassionate, and to allow members to make connections on their own.
- I've found that newer friends and members can appreciate this in-between time. It gives them some understanding of church dynamics, and can help them experience a greater sense of belonging.
- Gradually, the topic of history, of what happened begins to move to a new question - what now, which becomes a fertile time for growth and transformation. Here we talk about a new identity of who the church yearns to be. In this exciting time, the church begins to discern new goals and directions for ministry and claims a new sense of self, and new occasions to rejoice!
- It is out of this terrain that they call and celebrate a new leader. I've long identified with John the Baptist. I believe my role is to prepare the way for this new thing God is doing. *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*" (Isaiah 43:19)
- Finally, my mantra in church, *and life*, is: ***The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.*** (John 1:5) I look forward to our paths intersecting for a time. God bless.

Coming Up this Weekend...

Family Night Out: Tomorrow, November 7 from 5-9 p.m. here at the church. Kids hang with kids and are kept safe by the J*Walkrz and several adults, giving parents a few hours to themselves. Cost? Name your price, but remember this is a fundraiser for the J*Walkrz!

Memorial Garden Work Day: Tomorrow, November 7. Volunteers are needed to help as we do our fall clean-up. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please contact Jane Morse, Chairperson.

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving, sponsored by the Board of Missions. Turkeys and other related Thanksgiving dinner items are needed for local families. **Sunday is the last day to sign-up.**



News from FCCV

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Office: 860-875-7580

Website: www.firstchurchofvernon.org

To be sure you receive our regular mailings and emergency announcements please add lists@firstchurchofvernon.org to your Contacts.

Attachments

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- OutlookEmoji-?.png (488B)
- OutlookEmoji-?.png (3.02KB)
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