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Date: Fri, November 9, 2012 11:34:58 AM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

Now that Election Day 2012 is over, it is time for us to come together as one nation, one community, and one congregation and use our gifts and talents in wonderful ways to do God's work.

Walter Brueggemann is a professor at the Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis and author of many books. I received the following prayer in an email on Wednesday morning and thought it spoke, in far more eloquent ways than I am capable of, the hopes of many in our world.

Post-Election Day

You creator God
who has ordered us
in families and communities,
in clans and tribes,
in states and nations.

You creator God
who enacts your governance
in ways overt and
in ways hidden.

You exercise your will for
peace and for justice and for freedom.

We give you thanks for the peaceable order of
our nation and for the chance of choosing—
all the manipulative money notwithstanding.

We pray now for new governance
that your will and purpose may prevail,
that our leaders may have a sense
of justice and goodness,
that we as citizens may care about the
public face of your purpose.

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This coming Sunday, November 11th, is a special Sunday for us both as Christians and Americans. As Christians, this Sunday is our Stewardship Sunday, the day set apart in our church year to allow us the chance to look ahead with hope as we make commitments and offer support for our church family in 2013. During this Sunday's service, there will be a time of Ingathering of Pledges as we prepare for next year's ministries and missions.

As Americans, we are also mindful of November 11th being Veteran's Day. As if sitting in a warm comfortable sanctuary on a November morning is not enough to keep us mindful of the blessings we know, sitting there knowing we live in a nation of unprecedented freedoms should also give us pause to remember and nurture a thankful heart. When we gather, fears of political pressure or persecution or challenges to our freedom are not threats we ever endure. Because of the efforts of so many throughout the years to protect our freedom and guarantee our liberty, we worship with a certainty and peace of mind that is

foreign to many others throughout the world.

We will spend time on Sunday both remembering our nation's veterans and also rejoicing in the abundance of blessings we know.

Please note that this year, as part of our Ingathering of Pledges ritual, worshippers will be invited to come forward with their pledges.

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THREE MORE REALLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

#1 Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving

The Board of Mission and Outreach is again sponsoring our annual Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving outreach in cooperation with the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Over the years, this has been a very widely supported effort to guarantee that families in special need can enjoy the blessing of a Thanksgiving dinner together. Last year, our congregation provided over 100 dinners for families in need, because of the support and participation of so many. As of last week, we had commitments for approximately 60 dinners. There is still time to be involved in this important outreach effort.

Sign up with the Board of Missions this Sunday! Thanksgiving baskets will be collected on Monday, November 12th, from 6:30-9:00 am in the FCCV parking lot.

Thanksgiving falls quite early this year (Thursday, November 22nd, so the deadlines to gather materials come quite early also. Please note that if you are unable to provide all the materials for a Thanksgiving dinner, cash donations and gift cards are welcome so that the staff of HVCC can supply any necessary items.

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#2--Sign up for the Anniversary Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 17th

Our year-long celebration of our 250th anniversary as a congregation will conclude in worship on Sunday, November 18th. Fortunately, we have time for one more celebration, one more feast, one more chance to gather as a church family and share a joyful meal together.

On Saturday, November 17th, the 250th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring our Anniversary Dinner. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm that night and will include a wonderful meal of Beef Burgundy and Mrs. Risley's scalloped corn. In addition to a wonderful meal together, there will be a program during which we will welcome back and recognize former pastors, former TPC students and others who have been such important parts of our shared history. Our own Holly Boutwell will serve as Master of Ceremonies for what will surely be a festive time together.

Knowing how many to prepare for is especially important for this special night, so please be sure to sign up at the Registration Table in Fellowship Hall this coming Sunday. It will be a special night and a special time to celebrate our history.

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#3--CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS THIS SUNDAY, November 11, 2012! We will be celebrating a Gallery of Thanks and will be receiving your pledges during a special collection. You will all receive a special gift from FCCV featuring our Gallery of Thanks for your Time, Talent and Treasure.

NEED A PLEDGE PACKET?

They will be available during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall during November or contact the Church Office where you can pick one up or have it mailed to you. We encourage everyone to get your pledges in as this will allow FCCV to plan the 2013 Budget. If you have questions regarding Stewardship, please do not hesitate to contact the church office.

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