
Subject: Pastor's Weekly email

From: FCCV (fccv@snet.net)

To: fccv@snet.net;

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2013 3:19 PM

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace." Isaiah 55:12

Friends in Christ,

This Sunday is the second Sunday in Advent, the Sunday of peace. I hope you will pause for a moment this week to gaze upward at the stars, sit by a crackling fire, or enjoy a good book curled up in your favorite chair. Breathe deeply of the peace that fills this holy season and allow yourselves to become instruments of God's peace in your homes and workplaces, in overcrowded stores and in chance encounters with strangers on the street.

Our scripture this week rings with the prophet's voice proclaiming, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Our worship time will also ring with the sweet sound of our Little Bells and the heavenly harmonies of our Sanctuary Choir.

Dean and I are excited to welcome all of you into our home for Coffee Hour after church on Sunday! The Parsonage is a beautiful, historic home with lots of character and our hardworking Trustees take good care of the property. Come on in and let me give you the ten cent tour. I am even baking cookies (I know! it is SO not like me!). Like I said, I am feeling excited and blessed.

You will notice a couple of other exciting things when you arrive this Sunday. The new sanctuary windows are being installed and they are BEAUTIFUL!!! The workers should be almost halfway done, with new windows along one whole side of the building, by the time we gather for worship this week. You may also notice the shiny new coat of wax on the floors in the hallway and Chapel. If you like what you see, thank a Trustee!

Last, but not least, we have received more than 130 pledges to date (thank you!!!). If you have not yet had a chance to turn in a pledge card you can still do so! Thank you again, and God bless you for the good seed you are sowing!

In this season of hope and cheer - let there be peace on earth! And let it begin with you and me.

With you on the journey,

Meg

REMINDERS....

This Sunday is the last day to order a Poinsettia for display in the Sanctuary during Christmas.

Christmas Giving Tree

It's time, once again, for our **Christmas Giving Tree** sponsored by the Board of Missions. We will be collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services "Toy Workshop" where a family in need can go to choose the toys that best fit their children's wants and needs for Christmas. There is a specific need for games, multicultural dolls, arts and crafts, science kits, and other educational toys. Please choose an ornament tag from the Christmas Giving Tree, set up in the back of the Sanctuary until December 15. Each ornament tag bears the age and gender of a child in need. Please place your new and **unwrapped** toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree by next Sunday, December 15. Any questions? Contact Gilmay Markunas, (860) 896-1930. **Note:** If (only if) inclement weather cancels our church service on December 15, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church Breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 16.

Christmas Dinners

This year Hockanum Valley is in greater need of food donations for Christmas dinners in our community. In the past, Reins Deli has offered a hot dinner to those in need on Christmas day. This year, due to family illness, they will not be opening. Therefore, HVCC is looking for additional donations. Those who wish to participate may sign up during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall today and next Sunday, December 15. ***Christmas baskets will be collected on Monday, December 16 between 6:30 and 8:30 AM in the FCCV parking lot.***