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**Subject:** Pastor's Weekly Email

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

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**To:**

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**Date:** Friday, December 30, 2016 1:35 PM

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Family and Friends of FCCV,



If you are like me, and the handful of people I have talked to this past week, we all are asking the same question: "Where did this past year go?" It seems like time has flown from month to month and here we are about to begin a brand-new year! For some, it will be a relief to start fresh; to leave the disappointments and heartaches of the past year behind. And for others, it will be an exciting time for new adventures and new discoveries on life's journey. For all of us, I hope that we are encouraged about what God is doing in our church – the "holy buzz" we feel – and that we are anticipating wonderful and mighty things from God to be the light that we have just experienced this Christmas Season!

This Sunday, at the end of my sermon, you will receive a "star gift".  A star gift is simply a piece of brightly colored paper in the shape of a star with a word printed on it. Every person who comes to church that day will receive a star gift and will be asked to reflect on that word for the coming year. You will be invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your lives and how it is that God might be speaking to you through that simple message. You will be encouraged to take it home and hang it up where you are sure to see it every day. Star gifts are like any other gift in that you can either receive them with joy or relegate them to the land of forgotten, discarded presents. Let's be intentional about our response! Will you consider this an opportunity, a chance to reflect on how it is that God speaks to God's people? What will you learn from your word? What new ideas might evolve, what treasured wisdom might resurface? Epiphany is the celebration of God's presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness. Let's be reminded of our generous, giving God – one star gift at a time!

Come let us adore Him! Come worship with us this Sunday!

Happy New Year, Y'all!  
Robin

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## Prelude to the Preludes

This coming Sunday I'm playing carols from several other countries. There are two arrangements by Guilmant - one of a Scottish carol, the other a carol from southern France (Provence). The postlude, Marcho di Rei, is also from that region and was made famous when Georges Bizet used it in his musical drama "L'Arlesienne." "A la ru" is a Spanish lullaby, "We Greet Thee, Heavenly Dove" is from Austria and "Morning Star, O Cheering Sight" is a Moravian tune.

During Communion, I'll play the chant "Creator of the Stars of Night" that's even older than the one I played two weeks ago. It can, apparently, be traced back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Similar to the other chant, it was often sung in a triple meter so I'll play it both ways. Then, in keeping with the "star" theme, you'll hear the tune "Morning Star" or "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" and whose final line is: "Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid!"

--James



### News from FCCV

*First Congregational Church of Vernon - UCC*  
*695 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066*

Office: 860-875-7580

**Website:** [www.firstchurchofvernon.org](http://www.firstchurchofvernon.org)

To be sure you receive our regular mailings and emergency announcements please add [lists@firstchurchofvernon.org](mailto:lists@firstchurchofvernon.org) to your Contacts.

## Attachments

- clip\_image002.png (68.42KB)
- clip\_image004.png (821B)
- clip\_image006.png (50.62KB)
- sigimg0.sigimg0 (11.14KB)