

NOTE: This is a copy of the letter that introduced “Pay it Forward” to the members of the First Congregational Church of Vernon (CT) on October 10, 2010.

“Let Your Light Shine”

Pay it Forward Introduction:

We introduced our theme last week – “Let Your Light Shine” and gave you a hint on how you will have an opportunity to let your light shine. Each week the church receives gifts from each of you so that the ministry of this church and the community it serves flourishes and benefits. Well, in the next couple of weeks the church is going to give away some money. Some lucky member, family or person will get an opportunity to Let their light shine by being selected to receive a crisp \$50.00 bill. And then they will “Pay it Forward”. An idea that has spread across the country since it was inspired by the movie Pay it Forward. It is our way of asking to think about how the gifts that we give will be used to benefit the community we live in.

Here how it works and it is strictly voluntary.

This morning each of you received a small blank card. Raise your hand if you need one. (Charlie will be on the side with cards)

Write your name on card and then place card in offering container during today’s offering.

Next week the entries will be shuffled and a winner will be selected. Winner must be in attendance during service next week. If name drawn not present. Another selection will take place.

The recipient will receive a \$50.00 bill which they will do with as they wish, as long as they give the money to some worthy charity, cause, family or person in need in the community.

The person, who is selected, is then asked to return next week and tell the congregation who they gave the money to, why and anything else they may want to share with congregation on how the gift they gave impacted.

Then they will select another person to have an opportunity to shine their light next week.

So between now and next week. Think about how if you are selected. What charity, cause, need that you may want to be the recipient of. There will be more than one drawing during the Stewardship Campaign. So celebrate GOD and each other, as you Let Your Light Shine. Thank you.

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