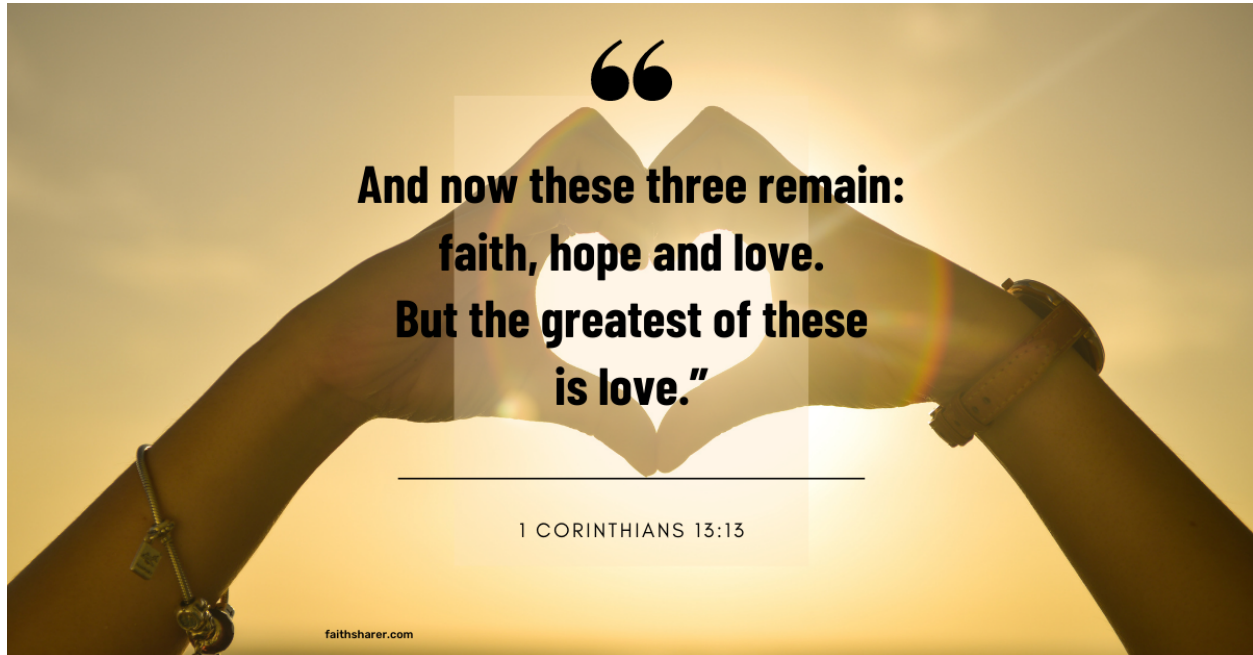


First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, UCC

~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! ~

~SUNDAY, February 2, 2025 ~



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: *“Love is that thing which, if a church has it, it doesn’t really need much else, and if it doesn’t have it, whatever else it has doesn’t really matter very much.” Rev Dr Haddon Robinson*



~ February 2, 2025 ~

PRELUDE *"Restoration"* (Tom Birchwood)

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES AND RINGING OF THE BELL

One: What is our church's mission?

Many: To embody God's powerful love...

- welcoming all people, with a vision and message of hope,
- weaving deep relationships with Jesus and each other,
- working, praising and playing in our towns and world.

OPENING HYMN: God of Love and God of Power

1 God of love and God of power,
grant us in this burning hour
grace to ask these gifts of thee,
daring hearts and spirits free.

God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

2 We are not the first to be
banished by our fears from thee;
give us courage, let us hear
heaven's trumpets ringing clear.

God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

3 All our lives belong to thee,
thou our final loyalty;
slaves are we whene'er we share
that devotion anywhere.

God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

4 God of love and God of power,
make us worthy of this hour;
offering lives if it's thy will,
keeping free our spirits still.

God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

PEOPLE: We gather to hear God's liberating word of love.

Leader: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

PEOPLE: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.

Leader: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

All: And may it be enacted in our lives!

INVOCATION

Steve Fredette

PRAISE AND WORSHIP More Love, More Power

More love, more power
More of You in my life
More love more power
More of You in my life
More love, more power
More of You in my life
More love more power
More of You in my life

And I will worship You
With all of my heart
And I will worship You
With all of my mind
And I will worship You
With all of my strength
For You are my Lord

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

TIME WITH THE YOUNG—A MESSAGE OF GOD’S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

HEBREW READING: JEREMIAH 1:4-10

RESPONSORIAL READING OF Psalm 71:1-6

LEADER: In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

PEOPLE: In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me.

LEADER: Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

PEOPLE: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

LEADER: For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth.

ALL: From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother’s womb.

I will ever praise you.

Reading from the Apostol 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SERMON

The Greatest Gift

Pastor John Hill



OFFERING

DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees;
when I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees;
when I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees;
when I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Service of Communion

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: **Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join this unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna In the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Leader will serve the bread

Leader: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Leader will serve the cup

Leader: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen

CLOSING HYMN *THE GIFT OF LOVE*

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The Festive Trumpet (Brian Glyncannon)*

Our thanks to everyone who helped with the worship this morning!

Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship following the service

PRAYER LIST Our prayer list is a network of love and faith in the power of prayer. We receive these names from members and friends of our church who hold these individuals up in their own prayer life for God's healing and strength upon them.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS: Pam Berryhill, Jeff Buxton, Patty Stannard, C.J., Andrea Brown, Natalie, Rev. Melanie Combs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jane will be on vacation until **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**. In case of emergency, please reach out to Debbie Pratt 802-282-1810 or Ron Stack 815-382-3855.

Update from the Trustees Committee:

Our church's mission is to embody God's powerful love. How are we doing this as church Trustees? This is a great question that has been put before our committee recently. We meet monthly to review how the resources we have been gifted with are used to move our community and congregation forward in love. We know our responsibility is to pay the bills and take care of the building so our congregation and the greater community can take advantage of what the church offers. We are doing our best to listen to all feedback and communicate information we believe will move the church forward. This means reaching out to a generation of unchurched people. We are reminded always that the church is the people, and it is our call to reach the unchurched and share the love of our Creator with all people from all walks of life. Please come to an informational meeting on February 16th immediately after church services. It is in conjunction with our Souper Lunch. The trustees will share information concerning removing the pews from the sanctuary before installing the new carpet. Our plan moving forward is to warn a vote in the following three weeks and vote on March 9th on whether to remove the pews in the sanctuary. We pray that everyone joins us with open minds and hearts so we can learn from each other and peacefully move forward in love.

Respectfully submitted,

The Trustees – Celia, Matt, Ann, Lynn, and Dave

INTERESTED IN HAVING A SOUPER LUNCH? Even though Super Bowl Sunday will be over—we think it's time for our congregation to get together for lunch. Let's set the date for **Sunday, February 16th** after worship. Do you have a super soup recipe? Sign up on the clip board in Reed Chapel. Not a cook—sign up to bring a loaf of crusty bread, cheese and crackers, dessert...whatever you would like to share for lunch. A free will offering will be accepted for our Organ Fund.



In the next few weeks, we will have raffle tickets available as a fund raiser for our organ repair. A beautiful quilt made by Clem Levesque, age 91, will be hanging in Reed Chapel soon, so we can see the beautiful queen size quilt. Clem donated this quilt to help with fund raising for the organ. This gift adds to the miracle of raising the funds for renovating our beautiful organ. Thanks also to Jack Helm for all his behind the scene work to get the organ repaired. Keep watch in the bulletin for more news coming up.



QUEEN SIZE QUILT
85" X 89"



If you would like to schedule time with Pastor Jane, please call her directly at 802-430-3636 or email her at janechurchlady@gmail.com

To schedule time with a Deacon either in-person or zoom, please contact Eileen via email to be placed on their calendar. Eileen@fhucc.org

Prayer Circle: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer you may call anyone of the following:

Karen Festa	802-287-2405
Maryann Charron	802-468-3207
Karyn Jockell	802-278-8058
Lana Petty	802-353-0485

WE TRY TO MAKE IT EASIER TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

Trouble with Stairs?

A Handicap RAMP is available on the Caernarvon Street side of Church!
You MAY park on the church side of Caernarvon Street during church events.
A handicapped accessible bathroom is available on the main floor of the church.

Parking. Please save spaces near the front of the church for those who have difficulty walking. One handicapped space is available on Caernarvan St. near the ramp.

Pastor Jane LoBrutto janechurchlady@gmail.com 802-430-3636

Church Administrator: Eileen Hurlburt eileen@fhucc.org

Debbie Pratt - Lead Deacon

Sharon Pinsonnault & Joan Brown Organist/Pianist

Andrew Donahue and Ron Stack – Social Media

Thank you for coming to worship with us!

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