

First Church of Winsted
Come as you are...
Leave transformed!

BELLRINGER

Come...be uplifted by the
Spirit and strive to follow
God's path for you!

Word from the Pastor

Easter Greetings!

Although Easter Day has passed, the Easter season has just begun. According to the church calendar, Easter is 50 days long, and runs from Easter Day through Pentecost.

Modern day Christians benefit from a historical perspective of Easter. The eleven remaining disciples, along with the other followers of Jesus, needed all 50 days to fully comprehend the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day. During that time, they felt disappointment, confusion, and fear. Nothing made sense at first. Things didn't happen the way they imagined. In their minds, Jesus entered Jerusalem to become a world leader. Instead, he was crucified. On Easter morning, the women went to the tomb to show their love and respect to their fallen leader. Instead, they found an empty tomb. The disciples gathered in a secret location to develop plans on how to survive. Instead, Jesus appeared to them and commanded them to continue the work He started.

Our lives are very similar to lives of the disciples during the first 50 days of Easter. We all go through ups and downs. There are many times when we feel that nothing happens according to our best laid plans. We Christians are not immune from disappointment, confusion and fear. But we do have the benefit of a historical perspective of Easter. We know that because of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, our mistakes are forgiven and we are called to learn from them and move forward. We have learned from personal experience that we are not exempt from trial and tribulations. Instead, we have the assurance that God is always with us, and that there is nothing in all of creation that will ever separate us from the love of God.

We are the Easter people, and I hope you'll celebrate God's love and forgiveness not only during the 50 days of Easter, but throughout the year!

Blessings,
Mike



APRIL 2013

95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098
860-379-1778

Article Submission:
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

To request a copy
sent to your inbox
send an email to:
dstorrs@snet.net

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Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org
Like us on Facebook!



Church News...



CDC News

This Summer ...

CDC will hold some out-of-school activities at the preschool, with some free events, such as "Family Night" which could involve outdoors movies for children.

Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 26th.



Meeting the 4th Saturday each month from 10 AM until Noon. Call Barb Mazzei for info: 860-379-2900

Board of Christian Education

Confirmation Classes

starting soon!

Confirmation Sunday May 12th

See Pastor Wu

Scholarship Applications

available now!

Due Date: May 5th

See Allison Graboski – Forms in Fellowship Hall

CAR WASH SUNDAYS

starting April 21st and following warm weather Sundays!

Weather permitting ~ youth will be available to stay and wash cars after church

Benefit: May Youth Trip to Lancaster, PA

Youth Trip to Lancaster, PA

for grades 7-12+

Dates Currently Pending

(Prior set date of Friday May 3 – Sunday May 5th conflicted with SATs)

Sign-up now! Deadline April 15th
Amish Country, Hershey Park, and beyond!

See Ashley Jones

Ziti Supper and Silent Auction

Saturday May 18th

To benefit Scholarship Fund
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS
AND YOUTH ASKED TO HELP
SERVE, CLEAN UP, ETC.

Details to follow!

We will need helpers and eaters!

Youth/Church Trip to CT Whale vs. Springfield Falcons

Friday April 5th ~ Game time 7pm

Meet at church parking lot 5:15pm

** Sign up ASAP —deadline Friday March 29th **

Cost: \$5 deposit each (youth welcome to bring a guest)

Sign up in Fellowship Room or contact Ashley or Pastor Mike

Property Maintenance Board

Spring Clean-up scheduled for April 27th from 8 am until noon!
Volunteers needed...raking, sweeping, dusting, polishing fun for everyone. There could be donuts!!

Diaconate/Fellowship Committee

Upcoming Events...

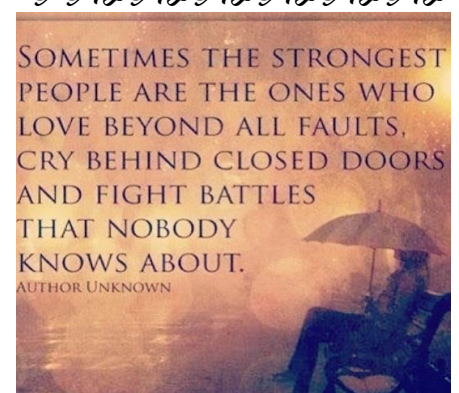
Apr13- Steam Vent Coffee House
May 11-Steam Vent Coffee House
May 13-Mother's Day Brunch
June 16-Father's Day Brunch
June 29-Dessert and Bingo
August 25-Make your own Sundae Sunday-during fellowship hour.

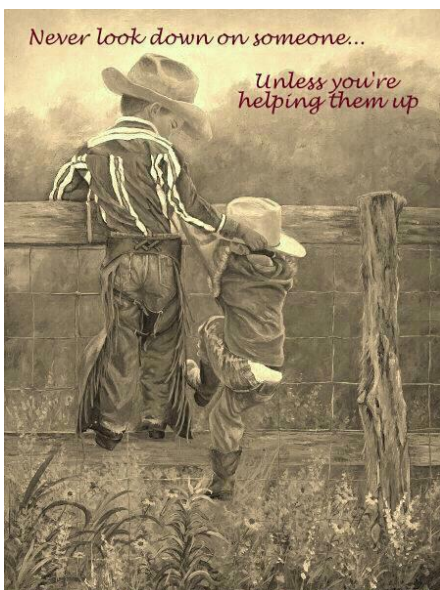
September 28-tentative date for Apple Picking at March Farm
October 19-Progressive Dinner
December 7-Christmas Fair



Cherub Choir Rehearsals Sunday at 9:15 AM, downstairs at the end of the hall.

Worship Choir rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary.





WORKING TOGETHER TO REACH OUT TO CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY

A simple thought of helping others, when acted upon, can provide a ray of sunshine for those who really need it.

In late February I found myself thinking about the children at the homeless shelter in Winsted and was wondering if the three children whose story we learned at Christmas time have since found an apartment to call home. So I picked up the phone and called Bruce, the director of the homeless shelter at the Winsted Y. He shared the news that those children were no longer there and that they had a home now.

Then I asked how many children are at the shelter now. He told me that there were eight children currently living in the shelter. I then asked if would it be helpful if First Church of Winsted put together Easter Baskets for the at the shelter to have on Easter morning. Bruce said "I've never had anyone think of that before, that would be good if you did that, but just one thing can you call me about a week before to confirm the number of children here then, as it's transient and we may have more or less by then?"

A few days later the Church Cabinet agreed it was a wonderful Easter outreach to the children at the Winsted Homeless Shelter. The following Sunday an announcement was made that we would be putting together eight Easter baskets for children and the shelter, and we needed the congregation's help. We

were looking for eight(8) of each of the following items: peeps, chocolate bunnies, pin wheels, toothbrushes, coloring books, crayons, jump ropes, slinky's, small windup toys, jelly beans, side walk chalk, children's book and silly putty or play dough. A display was made and placed on the altar with a tag for each item to take the tag for what you wanted to contribute, totaling one hundred four (104) items. To my total amazement almost by the time I got to the area to select a tag almost all the tags were gone that first Sunday.

The items were brought back in the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday and by Palm Sunday the area between the pulpit and the organ was totally covered with an overflowing amount of Easter basket goodies. When sorting the items into piles so that each basket had one of each item we found that we had fifteen(15) packages of peeps and forty (40) coloring books, fourteen (14) toothbrushes, four(4) packages of play dough and sixteen (16) single play dough, plenty of jelly beans and chocolate eggs. Needless to say, in the end we had enough stuff to make fourteen (14) complete Easter baskets. Now the problem to be solved was what to do with all this extra stuff! When calling Bruce at shelter a few days before Palm Sunday I learned that the number of children was down to four(4), leaving ten(10) baskets too many. This was a fantastic problem to have as we had an over-abundance of Easter items due to the kind, generous and open hearted members and friends of First Church. We could touch the lives of ten (10) more children. We just needed to figure out how to get to those who needed these baskets.

The food distribution at the Interfaith Food Bank in Winsted which happens on Tuesday and Friday mornings came to mind. Joannie knows Millie, the director/coordinator at Interfaith Food Bank in the Salvation Army Winsted Office. So Joannie picked up the phone and called Millie at home on Monday evening to ask if we could come earlier before the distribution began at 10:00 as we had nine (9) Easter baskets we'd like to give to families who may need them for their children on Easter morning. Millie

was overwhelmed and thought it a terrific idea and even told Joannie she'd be there early to receive them.

When we made the delivery to the Food Bank early Tuesday morning there was a sparkle in Millie's eye and she was so delighted to be there early to receive these baskets. She also gave Joannie and me a tour of the small distribution area, the shelves and a talk about what they get, how they are doing with food collection and shared with us the items that one doesn't think of to donate to a food bank such as toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and such. Millie said, "Your church always treats us well."

One(1) of the ten baskets was given to a mother who had been living at the FISH shelter in Torrington with her two year old son and was in an apartment now, but currently still doesn't have the resources to buy Easter basket items for her son.

Today when dropping off the four(4) baskets to Bruce at the homeless shelter, again he was overtaken by our generosity as he couldn't believe how full the baskets were and all done up in bags and nicely tied so they can easily store them till Easter morning. He shared with me that three (3) of the children there with their mother have been approved for an apartment effective May 1st.

This simple outreach effort by so many in our congregation had more of an impact than what any one of us could have done individually. And unless we've been with those who are in a shelter or rely on the food bank to get their food and personal items, we'll never really know the impact of buying one coloring book or one chocolate rabbit. Many of those items are things we take for granted. But together, we helped make a difference on Easter Day in the life of a child right here in Winsted. If all it did was bring them a moment of joy, we did what Jesus asks us to do. Hopefully those baskets allowed them to enjoy a piece of chocolate, a peep or two, jelly beans, even get to jump rope or walk a slinky down the stairs. Thanks to you, some children in town will have a bigger smile on Easter Sunday.

Submitted by: Tanva Monaitore

STEAM VENT Coffee House ~ April 13th

First Church of Winsted
95 North Main Street



6:30 Gale Gardiner has performed in CA, CT, MA, ME, NH, PA, RI, VA, WV, Norway, Croatia & Scotland, in merging styles - traditional, roots, contemporary folk, bluegrass, bluesey & jazzy parodies, unique holiday fare & originals (classically eclectic, bluesified-folk. She has also performed at the Annual Women's Composer Festival of Hartford for many years, she has performed at many venues in CT. Her cd's "Welcome Home," "Timeless Love" and "Forever & Always" and "Welcome Home" shares proceeds among 3 music programs =two for orphans (Mostar - Bosnia/Croatia, St. Vincent's Port au Prince, Haiti, & the third for impoverished Lakota Indian children on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation - SD



7:00 Joel Blumert A product of the 60's blues and folk revival, Joel started playing guitar in 1963. Driving, intricate fingerstyle acoustic and electric guitar, accompanied by powerful, rich vocals! Traditional and original blues and folk with striking, original arrangements of contemporary songs, too. Joel also teaches Guitar & Voice. Now lives in NW Connecticut and appears weekly on NWCATV, Canaan, CT on self-produced show, "Guitar and Vocal".



7:30 Jeff Conlon was born "the third son of a doctor," he "got the height," his "brothers got the brains." Or so claims one his original tunes entitled "Up, Up, and Away." Jeff grew up in Queens, New York, listening to his parents 8 track cassette tapes of John Denver, The Wolftones, and The Clancy Brothers. Jeff became a New York City Police Officer, got married, had children, and continued on the music dream. Jeff put out three albums on his own with the help of producer and grammy nominated songwriter Joaquin Lievano. On September 11, 2001 the world changed. Six months later Jeff retired from the Police Department and took on music full time. He moved his family up to Connecticut and joined forces with The Highland Rovers Band, putting out another two albums. Jeff has most recently moved on to a solo career.



Chronic
Rhythm

8:00 Chronic Rhythm is a rock band from Northwest Connecticut which features Andrew Farkas (lead guitar/backup vocals), Sam Guglielmino (rhythm guitar/lead vocals), Trent Smith (bass guitar/backup vocals), and Owen Lovejoy (drums). Musical influences include: Weezer, The Beatles, Blink-182, Van Halen, Fish Legs, Rob Desmond, Michael Dermot, Louis Armstrong, B. B. King, and many more. Steam Vent favorite for sure.



9:00 Jeanne McMillan is from Ganby, CT and has been on the folk music scene since the 70's. She signed a recording contract with Motown in the 80's...but at that point, Motown didn't really know what to do with folk singers, because if they did, she may have been very famous today! These days singing, songwriting, arranging and playing continue to dominate her creative life. A Hawaiian flavor and ukulele have been added (influenced by a dozen annual trips to Maui), along with many other instruments, but her '67 Martin D-28 remains the guitar of choice. A profound love and influence is harmony - certainly in music, but also in life. Music has been a mainstay, tremendous joy, and continuing thread throughout the many changes that have come along over the years. **Ken Sills**, is a fine guitarist and singer in his own right. They have been playing together for over a year, perfecting originals and covers of songs they love from the wealth of wonderful music out there, with much attention to Ken's leads and the vocal harmonies

The Stewardship Committee Has the Wrong Name!

During discussions at the Annual Meeting in January, the congregation decided to form a Stewardship Committee. The Committee, consisting of Debby Kane, Tanya Mongitore, Steve Vaill, Dan Jones and Pastor Wu, met for the first time on March 25th. After some good discussion on what "Stewardship" means, we realized that the group might be more appropriately called the "Communication Committee." People often cringe when they hear the word "Stewardship," as in the past it was synonymous to being asked for money! Well, that's not our purpose. Our objective is to make everyone more aware of the many things that WE do as First Church. We know about Sunday worship services. But do we really think about the multitude of ways that our members and friends join together to touch lives in our community and around the world every other day of the week? The Stewardship committee hopes to increase and spread awareness of the church's ministry and mission. We do so many things throughout the year and we often forget that we exist to be God's hands in the world. We will be sharing with you regularly stories about the outreach, ministries and mission work of First Church. and how each of us. with God's

First Church of Winsted financial information for February 2013	
Income	
Contributions	\$6,826
Boar's Head Donation	\$2,265
Super Bowl Grinder Sale	\$526
Misc. Income	\$24
Total Income	\$9,641
Expense	
Worship Ministry	\$263
Tool for God's Ministry	\$98
Children and Youth Ministry	\$1,000
Communicating with Ourselves and Others	\$190
Providing a Place for God's Work	\$2,398
Supporting God's Ministry - Salaries	\$5,905
Supporting God's Work Internationally	\$557
Misc. Expense	\$30
Total Expense	\$10,441
Overage/(shortage)	(\$800)
(Further information can be obtained from the First Church Treasurer, Debby Kane)	

2013 Mexico Mission Trip - July 6-14

Planning meeting Sunday, April 14 following worship service for youth or adults interested in the weeklong mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico this summer. Our mission group will stay at Casa Hogar children's home, working on maintenance projects and interacting with the children there. The group will also be making several day trips to the Simply Smiles base camp to assist with ongoing projects at their facility.

Anyone interested in participating in the trip is asked to attend the meeting on April 14.

Come join us for a

Bible Study

Topic:

The Beatitudes: A discussion & study over the ultimate HOW TO guide, that originated from the source, the Son of God, member of the Trinity.

Time:

9:00 – 9:30ish on Sunday mornings

Dates:

April 14 through June 16, 2013

Location:



The Church Parlor @ the First Church of Winsted
95 North Main Street

Presented by:

Heather F. Richardson



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	April 6 & 7	Board Retreat
Sunday - 9:15 am	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir RS4J	April 13	Steam Vent Coffee House
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	April 27	Clean-up Day 8-Noon
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	April 27	Prayer Shall Ministry
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	April 27	Benefit Concert 2 nd Church 7PM
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	April 07 April 13 April 20 April 27	PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Cabinet Meeting	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April Birthdays

02 - Andrew Hurlbut
 04 - Robert Adkins
 05 - Robyn NeJaime
 08 - Susan B. McAllister
 10 - Mike Cyr
 11 - Ava Whipple
 14 - Mary McAllister
 14 - Erik Gilbert-Corey
 15 - Ruth Rebillard
 16 - Marion Chapin
 17 - Robert Jones
 17 - Annalee Marvin
 17 - Tony Mongitore
 18 - Carly Roberts
 19 - Nina Tripodina
 21 - Tricia Wu
 27 - Pearl Dondero
 28 - Edward Weaving
 30 - Jack Valickis

April Anniversaries

02 - Lisa & Jeff Whipple

If you would have your birthday or anniversary added to our list, please email Deb Storrs:
dstorrs@yahoo.com

Clean Up Day!!!

Our Home

Saturday April 27th from 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

We are 'our' church family.
 We want you here and need you here.



Its spring cleaning time... a little help inside and a little help outside.

Many hands make light work and what makes it EVEN BETTER is how social the event becomes while we work together..... kind of like that great conversation while cleaning the kitchen after Thanksgiving dinner. So don't you miss out!

We want you here and need you here.



Saturday April 27th
8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon





April 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	April Birthstone: Diamond 	April Flower: Sweet Pea or Daisy 	Astrological Signs Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 19 Taurus: April 20 - May 20			
	1 April Fools Day	2 Worship Choir 5:30 pm <i>Andrew Hurlbut</i> ♥ Lisa & Jeff Whipple	3 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	4 LCS 7:00 PM <i>Robert Adkins</i>	5 <i>Robyn NeJaime</i>	6 Board Retreat
7 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am RS4J 9:15 am Open Mic Board Retreat	8 <i>Susan B. McAllister</i>	9 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Board of Chris Ed 7:00 pm <i>Mike Cyr</i>	10 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	11 LCS 7:00 PM <i>Ava Whipple</i>	12 	13  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 pm
14 Worship Service 10:00 am RS4J 9:15 am Open Mic <i>Mary McAllister</i> <i>Erik Gilbert-Corey</i>	15 <i>Ruth Rebillard</i>	16 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Diaconate Board 7:00 pm <i>Marion Chapin</i>	17 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Robert Jones</i> <i>Annalee Marvin</i> <i>Tony Mongitore</i>	18 LCS 7:00 PM <i>Carly Roberts</i>	19 <i>Nina Tripodina</i>	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am RS4J 9:15 am <i>Tricia Wu</i>	22 	23 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 PM	24 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	25 LCS 7:00 PM	26 	27 Clean-up Day 8 – Noon Prayer Shall Ministry 10 am - noon Benefit Concert 2nd Church 7 pm <i>Pearl Dondero</i>
28 Worship Service 10:00 am RS4J - 9:15 am <i>Edward Weaving</i>	29 	30 <i>Jack Valickis</i>		Poor Robin's Almanac, 1790 The first of April, some do say Is set apart for All Fool's Day; But why the people call it so Nor I, nor they themselves, do know, But on this day are people sent On purpose for pure merriment.		



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu

Moderator - Dan Jones

Vice-Moderator - Richard Mazzei

Clerk/Cherub Choir Director - Debbie Storrs

Treasurer - Debby Kane

Assoc. Treasurer - Joan Eggering

Financial Secretary - Tanya Mongitore

Board of Deacons - Co-chairs Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni

Christian Education Chair - Allison Graboski

Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM

Communion - 1st Sunday of Every Month

Sunday School - Nursery Care - During Worship

Coffee Hour - Following Worship

E-Mail / Office – info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

Telephone (860) 379-1778

Church Web-Site www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

The CT Conference of the UCC

Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free

Still Speaking Site www.stillspeaking.com

UCC Web-Site www.ucc.org or ctuucc.org

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut - ABCCONN

Executive Minister: The Rev. Dr. Judy G. Allbee

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Web-Site www.abcconn.org

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95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098

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