

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

Holy Week Greetings!

As you know, there are many people who are eternal optimists. Even during earth shattering events, they manage to see the good in the world. Then, there are the pessimists. They seem to always see the shadows created by the light. No matter how good things can be, the pessimist warns us that the good times will not last. Finally, there are those who fall somewhere in between. My experience has been that people prefer to deal with optimists. I think that we deal with so many tough issues in our lives and in our world that we gravitate toward those who are more upbeat.

Easter Day is just a few days away. It is, along with Christmas, the most joyous day of the year in the Church. But in a strange way, to fully comprehend and embrace the joy and hope of Easter, we also need to know of the events that took place on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. At that time, we witness the darkest side of human nature. It was a day when not only those in power, but every-day, common folk like us, lost their moral compass. Jesus is falsely accused by religious leaders who feared change and who feared a loss of control and who feared a loss of power. The judicial system of that time, while questioning the allegations, gives in to a crowd of people who demanded that a convicted criminal be released and that Jesus be crucified. The disciples, notwithstanding pledges to stand by Jesus no matter what took place, scattered and went into hiding. People who just happened to be walking by and who had no basis to judge Jesus did just that and vented their sense of powerlessness and frustration by taunting Jesus. To comprehend Easter, we need to walk on the dark side and realize how bad things can be.

The Easter message is that no matter how messed up we are, no matter how low we stoop, God still loves us and God still forgives us. People often shun religion because they think it is premised on guilt. Christianity is the opposite. It's about love and forgiveness and acceptance. Nothing complicated. Nothing complex.

May the totality of the Easter message fill your hearts now and throughout the year.

In the Name of our Risen Lord,

Mike



APRIL 2015

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

We are now accepting enrollment applications for the 2015-2016 preschool year! If you are interested in our program, or know of anyone that is, please contact us for more information!! You may call us at (860) 379-4838...help us spread the word!!

Some snow painting...outside! Yay!



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

Board of Christian Education

Swim Party was canceled due to no response. We are not sure if this is due to changing times or off year? The Hockey game was well attended however.

Sunday school and youth events-
What do our children want? Surveys will be drawn up by the youth class and given to parents and younger classes to complete. Surveys will be worked on in youth class March 15 and 22 and handed out March 29. All Sunday school class on March 29. There will be no Sunday school Easter. June 7 is the tentative date for Children's Sunday. Awaiting approval from Diaconate.

May 2 will be the church tag sale. CDC reports that problems with lights have been fixed, and the process of shoveling out has begun.

Easter Sunday there will be Children and Youth activities after worship, including an Easter Egg Hunt.

If people have last minute flower orders we can try to accommodate them. Just have them text, email or call Allison and Scott Graboski at 860-294-6790.

Property Maintenance Board

Spring Clean-up scheduled for April 4th from 8 am until noon! Volunteers needed for raking, sweeping, dusting, polishing fun for everyone. There could be donuts!!

If you can't make it on Saturday, anyone can come clean any time during the week before Easter. The list of duties is in the gathering room, just cross off what you finish. Bring your own cleaning supplies.

Property Maintenance Board will meet on April 4th as well, so as not to interfere with Easter Sunday Celebrations!



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



On Stewardship... **A Letter from the Moderator**

Dear Ones,

I am writing this friendly and heartfelt reminder to the congregation that is not too late to keep your pledge up-to-date if you missed Sundays due to weather this winter. Our budget is hurting and not on track, no thanks to mother nature. This puts many of our important programs and ministries at risk for the rest of the year as our budget depends on your generous support.

Of course, if I am being completely honest, I have my own, probably selfish, reasons for writing this:

I strive to keep up my giving because I want First Church to thrive—because if it didn't there are so many things about it that I would miss terribly. I would miss having that chunk of time on a Sunday that I can spend thinking about Jesus, in a place where I feel accepted and loved. I would miss the community of friends and neighbors that I have developed through this church. I would miss the children gathering for Sunday School, and I would miss the

music- oh most definitely I would miss the music!

I am sure that each of you would have your things, events and people that you would miss if First Church didn't exist (many of which would be less selfish than mine).

Many churches are struggling because they lost giving due to low attendance during the long winter months. In the current uncertainty of our weather and financial times, you may have pause about declaring a pledge, or catching up weeks missed. I would encourage you by writing that now is the perfect time to stand up and claim your priorities. Now is the time to say, this is my church family and it is an ultimate priority. It is where I receive my spiritual nourishment. It is the place that challenges me to live beyond the voice of culture to the freer life of faith.

You are a congregation of generous people. May you give generously to the church's ministry and mission throughout the year. As you give, may you know the joy of giving and the satisfaction of knowing what an important presence this church is in the world.

Blessings to each and all,

Dan Jones, Moderator
First Church of Winsted



UCC Upcoming Events:

March 27-29: Maple Sugaring at Silver Lake
<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=3847>

April 9: Keeping Our Churches Safe -- Part I
<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=3884>

April 17-18: Stewardship in the Changing Church: Moving from Consumerism to Generosity
<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=3865>

May 1-3: Spring Action Weekend
<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=3848>

May 3: 5th Annual CTUCC Youth Revival
<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=3831>

May 5-7: NEAUCE Annual Conference
<http://www.ctucc.org/events.php?event=4109>

You'll find more details about these and lots of other events at:
<http://www.ctucc.org/events/>



Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday Service

To be held April 2nd at 7:45 PM. Come to remember the events leading up to and following the last supper of our Lord.

EASTER Services

Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 AM at Forest View Cemetery on April 5th

Meet us at the top of the hill to greet the sun and celebrate the renewal of life! Bring some white carnations...as a sign of hope...to put on graves of loved ones...

10:00 AM Worship Service

As is our tradition, the Alleluia Ball will come back into the sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning! All of our choirs will take part in the service, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Come celebrate the good news...Christ is Risen!

Flower Cross

Add your flowers to our Flower Cross...bring your own or use ours. Bud Roberts built this beautiful wooden cross, which we fill with flowers, which has been our tradition for several years. The empty cross

filled with flowers is such a powerful image. Come be part of the resurrection celebration...death has lost its sting!



ABCCONN News...

TREASURES IN CLAY JARS



Register for the annual gathering by go to www.abcconn.org. It will be a wonderful day of dialogue, learning, worship, music and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there.

Saturday April 25
Central Baptist Church in Hartford

Register on line at
www.abcconn.org

MINISTRY STORIES

You are invited to read ministry stories on the ABCUSA website. There are some wonderful written stories as well as videos. One story has been written by our own **New Horizons Baptist Church with the Rev. Withel Simpson**. To read this story and other go to:
<http://www.abc-usa.org/2015/03/13/ministry-story-opportunity-new-horizon-baptist-church-manchester-ct/>



"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

— George Bernard Shaw

STEAM VENT Coffee House

First Church of Winsted

SATURDAY
April 11th
6 – 10 PM

Free Will Offering to support Missions!

SCHEDULED PERFORMERS

6:00 Open Mic
6:30 Dark Horse
7:00 Bill Benson
7:30 Eric Paradine
8:00 Breathless Charm
8:30 Jim Moore
9:00 Con Doty & Patti Wilion
9:30 Open Mic



STEAM VENT CAFÉ Build Your Own Burrito!

Flour Tortilla topped with
your choice of fillings
served with green salad.

Adult portions / Child Portions
Available
Yummy Desserts

Serving 6 - 8 PM
During the Show!



April 25, 2015
7:00 pm

For tickets, call
860-379-4766

HARMONY FOR HUNGER

Second Congregational
Church of Winsted
800 Main St.
Winsted

Featuring a
wide variety
of music
performed
by your
friends &
neighbors

Refreshments
following concert

Sponsored by the Second Congregational Church of Winsted Music Committee



All proceeds to
be donated to
the Open Door
Soup Kitchen &
Salvation Army
Food Bank

Adults: \$10
Children &
Seniors: \$5
Family: \$20

Non-perishable
food items will
also be collected

Always pray to have eyes that
see the best in people,
a heart that
forgives the worst,
a mind that
forgets the bad,
and a soul
that never loses faith in God.

©GodFruits.com



Easter flowers will again be available through the
Board of Christian Education: Please use this
bulletin insert or call Allison Graboski at
860 238-7484 for more information.

All flowers are (6") pots.

Tulips	\$8.50	Lilies	\$9.00
Hyacinths	\$8.50	Daffodils	\$8.50

In Memory or Honor of:

Given by:

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
First Church of Winsted
All requests and payments are due MARCH 22nd

The Leadership Studio



Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ

125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105

Donate to the

Leadership Studio Campaign!

ctucc.org/studio

The Leadership Studio

**A place where leadership is born
and nurtured**

**A place of engagement and
collaboration**

We need your help!



Jelly Bean Prayer

*Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made,
Yellow is for the sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins that were made,
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for the hour of sorrow,
Pink is for the new tomorrow.
A bag full of jelly beans,
Colorful and sweet,
Is a Prayer...is a Promise...
Is an Easter treat!*

Mason Hale Barn in Colebrook, CT



Northern Lights taken by Dennis Cote

"People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing - that's why we recommend it daily."

— Zig Ziglar

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	April 2 @ 7:45	Maundy Thursday
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	April 4	Church Clean Up Day
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	April 5	Easter Services 6:30 & 10:00
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	April 11	Steam Vent Coffee House
		April 25	Benefit Concert 2 nd Church 7PM
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	April 4	PM Board	
	April 07 @ 6:45	Board of Christian Ed.	
	April 14	Deacons	
	April 28	Cabinet Meeting	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April Birthdays

02 - Andrew Hurlbut
 03 - Rob Rein
 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
 17 - Robert Jones
 17 - Annalee Marvin
 17 - Tony Mongitore
 18 - Carly Roberts
 19 - Nina Tripodina
 21 - Tricia Wu
 25 - Cinde Soldan
 27 - Pearl Dondero
 28 - Edward Weaving
 30 - Jack Valickis

April Anniversaries

02 - Lisa & Jeff Whipple

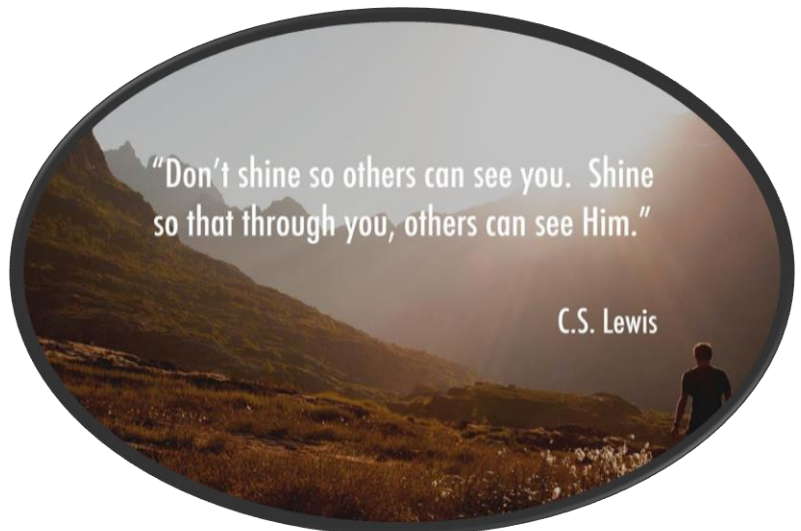
If you would have your birthday or anniversary added to our list, please email Deb Storrs:

Today's To-Do List

- #1 Practice kindness.
- #2 Let go of what I can't control.
- #3 Count my blessings.
- #4 Listen to the Holy Spirit.
- #5 Walk with God.
- #6 Live like Jesus.

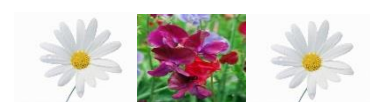
"Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see Him."

C.S. Lewis





April 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April Birthstone: Diamond 	April Flower: Sweet Pea or Daisy 	Astrological Signs Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 19 Taurus: April 20 - May 20	1 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm April Fools Day	2 Maundy Thursday 7:45 PM Andrew Hurlbut ♥Lisa & Jeff Whipple	3 Good Friday Rob Rein	4 Church Clean-UP Day 8-12 PM Board Robert Adkins
5 Worship Service 10:00 am EASTER Sunrise Service 6:30 am Forest View Cemetery Worship Choir 9:20 am Robyn NeJaime	6	7 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Board of Chris Ed 6:45 pm	8 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Susan B. McAllister	9 LCS 7:00 PM Mike Cyr	10	11  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 pm Ava Whipple
12 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots Praise Choir	13	14 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Diaconate Board 7:00 pm Mary McAllister Erik Gilbert-Corey	15 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Ruth Rebillard	16 LCS 7:00 PM	17 Robert Jones Annalee Marvin Tony Mongitore	18 Carly Roberts
19 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Nina Tripodina	20	21 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Tricia Wu	22 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	23 LCS 7:00 PM	24	25 Harmony for Hunger Benefit Concert 2 nd Church 7 pm Cinde Soldan
26 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic	27 Pearl Dondero	28 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 PM Edward Weaving	29	30 LCS 7:00 PM Jack Valickis	 Artist: Karen Delton	



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu

Moderator - Dan Jones ~ Vice-Moderator – Bob Adkins
 Clerk - Allison Graboski
 Treasurer - Debby Kane ~ Associate Treasurer - Joan Eggering
 Financial Secretary - Tanya Mongitore
 Board of Deacons Co-chairs - Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni
 Property Maintenance Chair - Frank Artruc
 Christian Education Chair / Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei
 Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu
 Muddy Boots Praise Choir Director – Dan Jones
 Youth Choir Director - Debbie Storrs
 Webmaster - John Eggering

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

First Church of Winsted
 95 North Main Street
 Winsted, CT 06098

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