

Word from the Pastor

Easter Greetings!

In the same way that the rains and spring-like weather we are enjoying is a sign that there will soon be leaves on the trees and flowers in bloom, Easter is an annual reminder of God's love for each of us. No matter how cold, cloudy or wet the world around us may be, the warmth of God's life will always prevail.

Of the Christian holidays each year, Christmas usually garners the most attention. While we don't want to downplay the birth of our Lord and Savior, Easter is in reality the most important holiday of the year for Christians. It celebrates the essence of our faith. The Easter event is what sets Christianity apart from other religions. It is the defining event.

There are plenty of nice people in the world. And many are not Christians. Striving to do the right things in life, helping those in need, and sharing our love with others is not reserved for Christians alone. What sets us apart is our belief that through Christ's death and resurrection, there is nothing that will ever separate us from the love of God. Most anyone will acknowledge our imperfection as human beings, and will admit that now that no matter how hard we try, we aren't going to be able to do everything the way it should be. But for Christians, we believe in forgiveness. We do not have to constantly look back at the mistakes we have made. Instead, because we are forgiven, we can look forward to making things better. We can live a life that is not burdened by guilt and second thoughts.

Forgiveness is not a license to be reckless or to irresponsible. Forgiveness allows us to learn from our mistakes and realize that change is possible. It is a foundation that allows us to live with faith and hope. Easter is not the day that we are forgiven. Rather it is the day we celebrate that each and every day of our lives God is willing to forgive us.

May you feel God's forgiveness in your heart and in your life, throughout the Easter season and each and every day of your life!

God Bless,

Mike



APRIL 2010

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Coming soon...to a church near you!
Popcorn and Boar's Head, the movie!
Jim Barrett has completed a prototype...viewing date TBA...



Bible Verses for Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Luke 22:14-23, 39-42 (NRSV)

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be

who would do this. ... He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

GOOD FRIDAY

Luke 23:32-43 (NRSV)

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour

wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

EASTER

John 11:25-26 (NRSV)

Jesus said . . . "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Be Thankful...

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy.

That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote: 'Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it.'"

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be

surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story:

- Be thankful for what you have.
- Be creative.
- Be innovative.
- Think differently and positively.

When life gives you 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile.

- Face your past without regret.
- Handle your present with confidence.
- Prepare for the future without fear.
- Keep the faith and drop the fear.

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling... And even more beautiful, is knowing that you are the reason behind it !!!

4 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW YOUR CELL PHONE COULD DO...

FIRST - Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112.

If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile; network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. This number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

SECOND - Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This information may come in handy someday.

If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, just call someone at home and ask them to get your spare key and their mobile phone. Then hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at home press the unlock button on the spare key, holding it near their mobile phone. Your car will unlock and saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away but if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' key for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

THIRD - Hidden Battery Power

Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To reactivate, press the keys *3370# and your mobile will restart with this reserve and will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you next recharge your mobile.

FOURTH - How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 #

A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone gets stolen you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use it or sell it either.

If everybody did this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

ATM - PIN Number Reversal - Good to Know

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your PIN # in reverse. For example, if your pin number is 1234 then you would put in 4321.

The ATM system recognizes that your PIN number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine.

The machine will still give you the money you requested but, unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location.

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE

I LEARNED FROM THE EASTER BUNNY

- ◆ Don't put all of your eggs in one basket
- ◆ Walk softly and carry a big carrot
- ◆ Everyone needs a friend who is all ears
- ◆ There's no such thing as too much candy
- ◆ All work and no play can make you a basket case
- ◆ A cute little tail attracts a lot of attention
- ◆ Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day

- ◆ Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits
- ◆ Some body parts should be floppy
- ◆ Keep your paws off other people's jellybeans
- ◆ Good things come in small sugar-coated packages
- ◆ The grass is always greener in someone else's basket
- ◆ An Easter bonnet can tame even the wildest hare
- ◆ To show your true colors you have to come out of your shell
- ◆ The best things in life are still sweet and gooey !!

HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!



Return of Chocolate!!

Today's Riddles...

1. Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?
2. What is one of the first things that Adam and Eve did after they were kicked out?
3. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?
4. How long did Cain hate his brother?
5. Where is the first mention of insurance in the Bible?
6. Which is the first instance of tennis playing in the Bible?
7. What is the first instance of cannibalism in the Bible?
8. Why didn't anyone play cards on the ark?

Answers on Page 4

THEME TABLE DINNER TO PRECEDE COFFEE HOUSE...

STEAM VENT



Coffee House

Musician's Showcase

Every 2nd Saturday

6 - 10 PM

Open Mic/Jam at 9



LIVE MUSIC - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Folk - Country - Bluegrass - Jazz - Light Rock

For more information call 860-482-3491

Steam Vent Café - Open 6-8 pm

First Church of Winsted 95 North Main Street

Steam Vent Coffee Houses will run every 2nd Saturday through November. If you would like a chance to perform, please call Debbie at 860-482-3491.

No Dinner/Coffee House only suggested donation \$10

Benefit: Mission Activities

First Church of Winsted's Steam Vent Coffee House will be showcasing musicians on Saturday, April 10 from 6 – 10 PM, beginning with a Themed Dinner at 6 PM.

Themes will include:

Not Your Everyday Italian

Holy Smokes Barbeque – SOLD OUT!

Disney Characters

Fingers Only-No Utensils – SOLD OUT!

New England Boilers

Russian Roulette

Dinner and the show ticket prices \$15. For more information or to reserve your seat, please call Chris at 860-738-9333.

Scheduled performers:

7:00 Jim Palermo & Tom Hanneford

7:30 Cece & Ruth

8:00 Kristen Graves

8:30 Don Jones (Pastor Mike's kind of music...)

9:00 Tom Sheeley

9:30 pm the open mic/open jam session begins.

Steam Vent Café will serve desserts and beverages for the evening from 7–9 PM.

Show your Dinner Ticket for free desert!!

Suggested Donation Music Only \$10





EASTER EGG HUNT After Church Easter Morning!

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
TEACHERS
NEEDED
See Tanya**

Riddle Answers

1. In the Big Inning, Eve stole first, Adam stole second, Cain struck out Abel, and the Prodigal Son came home. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.
2. They really raised Cain.
3. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
4. As long as he was Abel!
5. When David gave Goliath a piece of the rock.
6. Moses served in the courts of Pharaoh
7. 2 Kings 8:1
8. Because Noah was standing on the deck!!!

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	April 1	Maundy Thursday
Monday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Senior Choir	April 2	Good Friday
Tuesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	April 3	Holy Saturday
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	April 4	Easter
Thursday - 7:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	April 10	Themed Dinner 6:00
		April 10	Steam Vent Coffee House 7:00
		April 17	Church Clean-up Day
		May 1	Tag Sale
		May 8	Steam Vent Coffee House 6:00
		May 15	Pet Parade 2:00/Ziti Supper 4:00
		May 23	Laurel City Singers Concert 2:00
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
		April 06 7:00 pm	PM Board
		April 13 7:00 pm	Deacons
		April 19 6:30 pm	Board of Christian Ed.
		April 27 7:00 pm	Cabinet Meeting
			

Birthdays

APRIL

02 - Andrew Hurlbut
 05 - Robyn NeJaime
 08 - Susan B. McAllister
 14 - Mary McAllister
 14 - Erik Gilbert-Corey
 15 - Ruth Rebillard
 16 - Marion Chapin
 17 - Robert Jones
 18 - Carly Roberts
 19 - Nina Tripodina
 21 - Tricia Wu
 27 - Pearl Dondero
 28 - Edward Weaving

In Memory

✠ 15 - Dot O'Connor



No Charge for Love

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the 4 pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy. "Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer.

"I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly!" he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur.

The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse.

Slowly another little ball appeared this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up...

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt. The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his

trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe.

Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup.

Holding it carefully he handed it to the little boy.





"How much?" asked the little boy... "No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love."

The world is full of people who need someone who understands.



April 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton				1 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
4  EASTER Sunrise Service 6:30 Forest View Cemetery Worship Service 10:00 am Sr. Choir 9:20	5 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	6 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm PM Board 7:00 pm	7 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	8 Laurel City Singers 7:00	9	10 Themed Table Dinner 6:00  STEAM VENT Coffee House 7-10 PM
11 Worship Service 10:00 am Cherub Choir 9:30 Long Range Planning After Service	12 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	13 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm	14 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	15 Laurel City Singers 7:00	16	17 Church Clean-up Day 8 am - Noon
18 Worship Service 10:00 am Senior Choir 9:20 am	19 Senior Choir 6:00 pm Chris Ed 6:30	20 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm	21 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	22 Laurel City Singers 7:00	23	24
25 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Sunday Long Range Planning After Service	26 Senior Choir 6:00 pm	27 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	28 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	29 Laurel City Singers 7:00	30	May 1 TAG SALE