

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

Christine Valters Paintner

is an incredible spiritual director and I follow her blog regularly.

She is wise and captures the deeper spiritual truths in such a poetic way.

For this December post I would like to share her blog about this blessed season we are in.

I was very touched by it and I hope it will touch a chord in you as well.

Advent and Christmas Blessings

Pastor Lisa

I had a beloved spiritual director years ago when I lived in the San Francisco Bay area during graduate school who often asked me this question: ***What is it the season for?***

I loved this question because my creative heart was always full of new ideas, but one of my great invitations in life has been to discern the season I am in and what it calls for – to say no or not yet to many of the creative ideas stirring in me, to listen for what is truly ripe, to make space for the task that is calling to me most deeply this moment.

There is a beautiful rhythm of rise and fall found in every breath we take, in the rising and setting of the sun each day, in the balance between work and Sabbath time each week, in the waxing and waning of the moon each month, the flowering and releasing of the earth through her seasons, and of course the seasons of our lifetimes.

Discernment essentially means to distinguish between the life-giving and life-draining voices calling to us and learning that our lives each have their own unique rhythm. I like to think of life as a continual process of discovery, a pilgrimage through time and space.

One of the greatest gifts of the seasons for me has been this profound insight into the nature of the world around me. My mother died in autumn twelve years ago and those weeks following her death, when I ached with grief deeper than I had ever experienced before, I would walk among the trees. And as autumn's journey of letting go moved into winter, the bare winter branches, the pale glow of the sun, the long shadows all spoke to me where I was. When the first signs of new life began to sprout I was still deep in my pilgrimage through the landscape of grief, however the fact of spring did offer me solace. It would take another cycle of the year before I could enter into my own springtime. And in the years since, the seasons have become a source of great wisdom for my own life.

In the monastic tradition, we follow the Hours of the day. Dawn, day, dusk, and dark each become a prayer station inviting us into the gifts of this moment. Over and over I am immersed in this rhythm of rise and fall.

This rhythm of rise and fall calls us to remember that time is not always linear, moving us toward an end goal. Time can also be spiral, moving us in cycles of regeneration, growth, release, and stillness.

With great and growing love,
Pastor Lisa



DECEMBER 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! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-of-Winsted/189629511047827>

Church News...



CDC News

Melissa Lillie, Director

Hard to believe the holiday season is upon us! We had a great time talking about Thanksgiving and enjoyed a wonderful feast together (shown below). We also were able to share what we are all thankful for. It's such a wonderful time of the year...for learning, sharing and celebrating! December will bring us into discussions on family traditions/celebrations!



Check us out on Facebook!

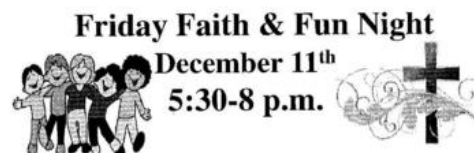
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Childrens-Discovery-Center/112035955474363>

OR on the web:

<http://www.childrensdiscoverywinsted.org>



Steam Vent Coffee House raised \$3,831 towards the mission in 2015 with the help of so many people, I can't begin to name names. \$200 of that was designated to go to aid the International Refugee Relief Fund. So thanks to all of the musicians, cooks, servers, sound engineers, videographers, picture takers, and stair runners for sharing their talents and abilities for the good of others.



Need a night to prepare for Christmas or just need a night to rejuvenate! Drop your child off for games of faith and fun. Sign up in the Gathering Room.

(\$5 drop off fee per child for pizza costs).

Permission slip needs to be completed before/at drop off.

Children will be served pizza, enjoy arts and crafts, play a faith scavenger hunt game along with many others. See Kim Janak or Bonnie Geddes for more information.



Christmas Fair

Dec 5th 8 am until 3 pm

Cookie Walk for Christmas Fair
Need bakers and due to state mandates all food sold at church must be prepared on premises. Lisa and Laura will be at the church on Nov. 30, Dec. 1st

and Dec. 3rd, from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.

Bring your recipes and ingredients and we can bake together and enjoy some coffee and fellowship.

Fill a Jar - Pick a token from a jar. Win that corresponding jar.

Anyone willing to purchase items to fill some jars are welcome to do so (empty jars available at church in gathering room)

Boar's Head Festival Tickets will be available at discounted prices (\$3 off each original priced ticket)

Gramma's Attic - Christmas items for sale

Children's Table with face Painting by Cyndi Whipple

And more...

Rada Knife Sales

Poinsettias

Crafters Tables

Luncheon

AND

Christmas Trees – yes they are supposed to be here!



Boar's Head Fest Choir

Rehearsing on Thursday, Dec 3, 10, 17, and Jan 7 at 7:00 PM, Jan 3 (1:30 PM)
The week of Christmas and/or the week of new year's a rehearsal has yet to be scheduled,

If you are interested, please contact Debbie Storrs
860-482-3491

Or email: dstorrs@snet.net

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut
90A North Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107-1924

860 521 5421 860 521 5421

www.abcconn.org

Week of November 30, 2015



With fears of Syrian

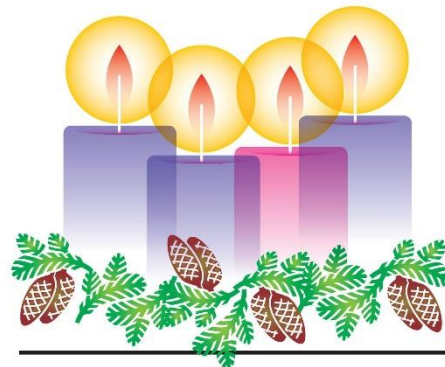
refugees being compared to fears of Japanese Americans during WWII, it is helpful to recall stories of American Baptist ministry among Japanese and Japanese Americans. One such story was highlighted on November 7 in Los Angeles, as American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) Executive Director Deborah Van Broekhoven and President Garth Brokaw presented commendations to Nitto Tire Company, the sponsor of Act of Faith: The Rev. Emery Andrews Story, and to its film director, Janice D. Tanaka. The award commended the filmmakers for their careful research and creative presentation of the story of one pastor, one family, and one congregation during the painful process of Japanese American removal from their west coast home to internment camps during World War II. For full story go to:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2015/11/23/film-documentary-act-of-faith-commended/>

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) urges American Baptist individuals and congregations to take action and speak out on behalf of Syrian refugees, recommending Church World Service's (CWS) online "How Can We Help?" resource as a starting point. For full story go to:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2015/11/24/abhms-urges-support-for-syrian-refugees-recommends-resource/>

The Advent Devotional is on the website and may be downloaded in its entirety or as a daily feed.





Handel's MESSIAH Community Sing-a-Long

December 12th at 2:00 PM

Second Congregational Church

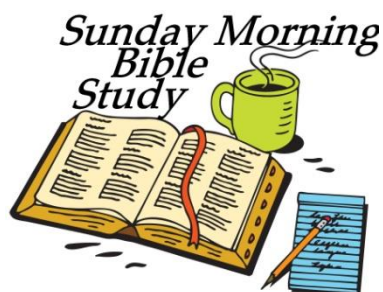
Free Admission!

*Non-perishable food items will be accepted for the local
Salvation Army Food Bank and
Open Door Soup Kitchen*

Presented by the Music Committee of the
Second Congregational Church of Winsted

Call 860-379-4766
for more information

800 Main Street, Winsted



Join us each Sunday Morning as we delve
into Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

We meet in the parlor at 9 a.m.
(Coffee provided!)

Here is what is a bit about Ephesians:

Written in about A.D. 60 from a prison cell in Rome,
Paul is writing to the CHristians in the church in
Ephesus.

He shares with them the big picture of God's plan, the
believer's part in that plan, and the role and mission
of the church. It all leads to the fact that the church
is not just a building but the people who are in
relationship with God and love Jesus.

CONNECTICUT UCC

Celebration for

Tim Hughes

Dec. 6, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Join us for a time of tribute and to bid a fond farewell
to Tim Hughes as he concludes his service as Executive
Director of Silver Lake Conference Center. There will
be music, tributes, and even a "Paper, Shapes, and
Treasures Box!" Free!

Location: Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Rd.,
Sharon

Directions:

<http://silverlake.ctucc.org/slccdirections.html>

Contact: Jenn Kronholm Clark

Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Rd., Sharon,
CT 06069. 860.364.5526. Email: slcc_registrar@ctucc.org



The Music Committee of the

2nd Congregational Church of Winsted

800 Main Street

Presents

THE HARMONIOUS BRASS CHOIR

Sunday, December 6th 3 p.m.

Free Will Offering

**Non-perishable foods will be accepted
and donated to the Open Door Soup Kitchen
& Salvation Army Food Bank**

Reception to follow the concert

BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES:

Boar's Head Costume Fitting:

Sunday 11/15 after worship 11:15am-11:45am

Thursday 12/17 6pm-9:30pm

Sunday 12/20 after worship 11:15-11:45am

*Sunday 1/3 after worship 11:15-3:00pm

** (warning—there are long lines and waiting this day.... Better to come to an earlier fitting!)

Important Cast Dates!

Sunday 1/3/16 --1:30pm Dress Rehearsal

Saturday 1/9—cast in costume ready to go by 12:30pm

Show #1: 1:00 pre-show, 1:30 show
(cast dinner)

Show #2: 4pm pre-show; 4:30 show—done approx. 6pm

Sunday 1/10—cast in costume ready to go by 2:30pm

Show #3: 3pm pre-show, 3:30 show
Costume Questions? Concerns?

Allison Graboski—

Phone: 860-237-7484

Cell: 850-294-6790 call or text

Email: athall37@vahoo.com or Facebook

Christmas Fair

December 5th 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Vendors
Luncheon
Poinsettias
Rada Knives
Christmas Trees
Themed Basket Raffle
Christmas Arts & Crafts
Boar's Head Festival Tickets
First Church

Worship Choir Schedule



DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Rehearsals:

Tuesday's, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22 and 12/29. Worship Choir Rehearsal @ 5:30 pm

Worship Services:

Sunday's, 12/6 and 12/20
Worship Choir @ 9:30 am

**The
Boar's Head
Festival**



January 9th ~ 1:30 & 4:30 PM

January 10th ~ 3:30 PM



FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 NORTH MAIN STREET, WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06095

Tickets: 860-379-8966

\$15 Adult / \$12 Senior

\$9 Child 12 and under

\$3 Ticket Discount on each ticket purchased

Day of Christmas Fair!

Only Day Tickets will be discounted!



***Tis the Season
for Giving!***

To help our children and youth to remember it is better to give than receive the BOCE and Sunday School will sponsor a "Santa's Helper Gift Shoppe" at the Christmas Fair on December 5th. The shoppe will have small items for sale for \$1.00 for children to purchase for their families or others; (mother, father, sister, brother, or grandparent.)



For more information

Contact

Barbara Mazzei

860-379-2900

Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9 am	Bible Study in the Parlor	Dec 5 8 am – 3 pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Dec 11	Faith & Fun Night
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	Dec 13	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal-SS
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	Dec 20	Christmas Pageant
Thursday - 6:00 – 9:00 pm	Rehearsal-Laurel City Singers	Dec 24 7:30 & 11:30	Christmas Eve Service
		Dec 25	Christmas Day
		Jan 3 at 1:30	Boar's Head Run Through
		Jan 10 & 11	Boar's Head Festival
		Jan 17	Annual Meeting
	PM Board Board of Christian Ed Deacons Cabinet Meeting	Dec 6 at 11:15 am Dec 8 at 6:45 pm Dec 20 at 11:15 am Dec 22 at 7:00 pm	

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 – Nathan Blische
 04 – George Sherman
 05 – Ryan Geddes
 09 – Sandy Bengé
 09 – Leeane Marvin
 12 – Duane Blische
 16 – Natalie Majewski
 18 – David Ryu
 19 – Thomas Mazzei
 19 – Becky Smyth
 19 – Riley Storrs
 22 – Makayla Dileo
 24 – Sean Storrs
 26 – Emma Hennig
 26 – Courtney Toomey
 31 – Rhett Geddes
 31 – Noreen Marchand
 31 – Bob Steele

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 13 - Jamie & Sabrina McAllister
 ♥ 30 - Tino Gaspar & Jessica Wu

To add your birthdate or anniversary to the list, please email Deb Storrs at dstorrs@snet.net



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

Please help share the light on Christmas Eve...



Luminaries will once again line the sidewalks of the church. Clean 1 gallon milk jugs are needed. Meet at the church on Christmas Eve at 5:30 to help create this annual tradition.





December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton		1 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Nathan Blische	2 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	3 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	4 George Sherman	5 Christmas Fair 8 am till 3 pm Ryan Geddes
6 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am PM Board Meeting 11:15 am	7	8 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:45 pm	9 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Sandy Beng Leeane Marvin	10 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	11 Faith & Fun Night 5:30 - 8:00 pm Pizza \$5 per person!	12 Duane Blische
13 Worship Service 10:00 am Praise Choir 9:30 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal during Sunday School ♥ Jamie & Sabrina McAllister	14	15 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	16 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Natalie Majewski	17 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	18 David Ryu	19 Tom Mazzei Becky Smyth Riley Storrs
20 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Deacons 11:00 am Christmas Pageant During Worship	21	22 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm Makayla Dileo	23 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	24 Christmas Eve Services at: 7:30 & 11:30 Sean Storrs	25 Christmas Day	26 Emma Hennig Courtney Toomey
27 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Sunday	28	29	30 ♥ Tino Gaspar & Jessica Wu	31 New Year's Eve Rhett Geddes Noreen Marchand Bob Steele	Jan 1 New Year's Day	

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



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson

Moderator - Dan Jones

Vice-Moderator - Robert Adkins

Clerk - Allison Graboski

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

Property Maintenance - Frank Artruc

Treasurer - Debby Kane / Associate Treasurer - Joan Eggering

Financial Secretary - Tanya Mongitore

Christian Education Chair/Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

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

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95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098

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