

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



*God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing
you dismay.
Remember, Christ, our Saviour was born
on Christmas day...*

Those are the opening words of the Christmas carol, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. This carol was written in the 15th century, Old English. It wasn't published until the 19th century. It is reported to be one of the earliest and most popular of the carols. It is no wonder that this carol was chosen by Charles Dickens as the one sung by the carolers in his classic story, A Christmas Carol.

I grew up with this Dickens tale. It captured me first with its ghosts and suspense. I think I have watched just about every movie version made and have my favorite Scrooge portrayals. Now as an adult I read the story and watch the movies with a different eye. This is a story of brokenness and redemption. Could there be a more unrepentant literary figure than Old Scrooge?

This year I have been reading a book by Matt Rawle, The Redemption of Scrooge: Connecting Christ and Culture. The author makes a connection between the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the story that we as Christians tell during Advent and Christmas. Each of the ghosts bring to Scrooge some important truths about his past and present and future realities that parallel the traditional Advent themes of peace and hope and love and joy! Since the connection has been made in Rev. Rawle's book, I decided to use it as a theme for our Advent worship this year.

Christmas has always been my most favorite time of year. I love the traditions and the music and the multitude of activities and events. My own family traditions always centered around 2 things: church and Sweden. Growing up in a Swedish American family we were blessed with wonderful foods and stories, Lucia, tomten and family gathering. Christmas in our house did not begin when the Macy's Santa came into view. Our observances of Christmas began when Santa Lucia came on the morning of December 13th, the date of the Winter Solstice in the old Julian calendar. I learned early that you had to wait for Christmas!

This year, as an adult, I look beyond the magical stories of Christmas miracles and see the birth of Christ in a different light. God sent Jesus into the world as a Savior. It was the beginning of the story of redemption. In their magic and miracles, the stories that we read and tell are stories of redemption and transformation. Something miraculous takes place when animals talk and shepherd boys bring their lambs to the baby in the manger.

We participate every year in the story when we gather gifts and food for those who



DECEMBER 2016

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

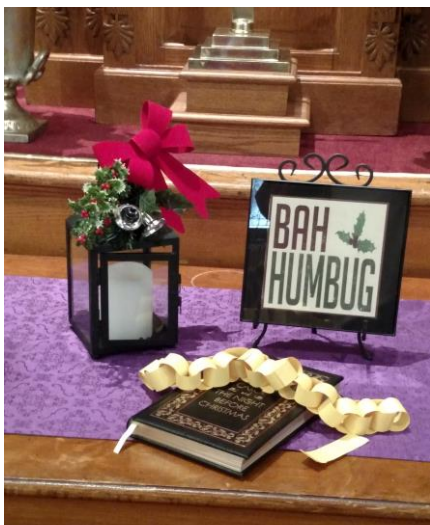
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Church News...

might not have anything, when we go caroling to the homebound, bringing them into our celebrations. Then there is Christmas Eve. The story is told, the carols are sung, and the candles are lit. For a brief time, there is peace in our hearts.

I am looking forward to leading you through this season of redemption and transformation. Ebenezer Scrooge is going to serve as our leader and mentor teacher as we take a good look at the lessons he learned. I invite you each Sunday to worship with us and dear old Uncle Ebenezer. Where will you find transformation in your life this year? To quote the ancient carol, May this season bring you tidings of comfort joy!

*Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and
brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*



Pastor's Winter Office Hours

Due to cold Pastor Lisa will be in her church office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 1. Other days she will work from home. You can always reach her on her cell: 860-908-7913



Steam Vent Coffee House

This year the Steam Vent raised \$3,081.12 towards the Mexico mission, with the help of so many people, we can't begin to name names. 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.



Christmas Fair

**Dec 3rd
8 am until 3 pm**

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

Letters to Santa – to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation

Rada Knife Sales
Poinsettias
Crafters Tables
AND
Christmas Trees
and more...

Don't forget to have lunch while you're there!



Boar's Head Fest Choir
Rehearsing on Thursday, Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Jan 5 at 7:00 PM, Jan 1 at 1:30 PM (Run through).

Brass Choir
Rehearsing Dec 29 and Jan 5 from 6-8

Preshow Choir rehearsing on Sunday's at 1 PM, except Christmas Day!

If you are interested, please contact Debbie Storrs
860-482-3491
Or email: dstorrs@snet.net



Christmas Fair
First Church of Winsted
 95 North Main Street
December 3rd, 8am-3pm

Vendors Poinsettias Jars for a \$1 Themed Basket Handmade Queen Size Quilt Raffle	Crafters Cookie Table Rada Cutlery Christmas Trees
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Santa's Helper Gift Shoppe
"For kids only"

Gramma's Attic
Gently Used Books

Boar's Head Festival Tickets

Luncheon

"A Hallelujah Christmas" (originally by Leonard Cohen words by Cloverton)

I've heard about this baby boy
 Who's come to earth to bring us joy
 And I just want to sing this song to you
 Unto us all, the gift is given,
 The grace of God, the Light of Heav'n
 With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem
 Expecting child, they searched the inn
 To find a place for You were coming soon
 There was no room for them to stay
 So in a manger filled with hay
 God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night
 To see this baby wrapped in light
 A host of angels led them all to You
 It was just as the angels said
 You'll find Him in a manger bed
 Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

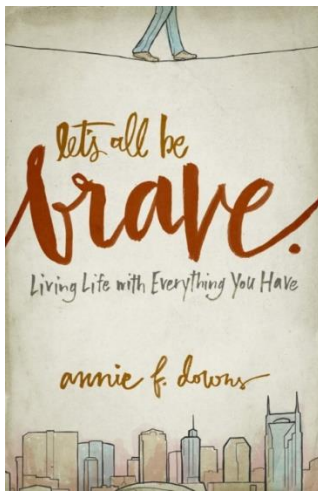
A star shown bright up in the east
 To Bethlehem, the wisemen three
 Came many miles and journeyed long for You
 And to the place at which You were
 Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
 They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me
 This baby boy would grow to be
 A man and one day die for me and you
 My sins would drive the nails in You
 That rugged cross was my cross, too
 Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah



Sunday, December 4th
 Immediately following worship!
 A light lunch will be provided.
 Following lunch, we'll visit Valerie Manor for
 Christmas Caroling!





The Women's Bible Study
Mondays from 5 -6 @ Pastor Lisa's
New Study begins November 14th
Our Study Book:
Let's All Be Brave
by Annie F. Downs
Great discussions, challenging ideas!

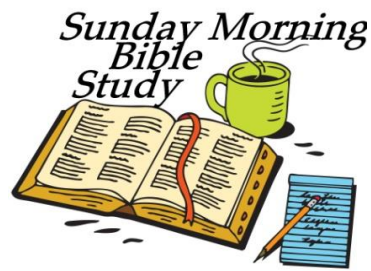


Thank You

The Sunshine Committee would like to recognize and thank the family of Mildred Barshaw for her gift of cards to help in their efforts to bring a little sunshine to those with birthdays, anniversaries and to those who are suffering losses or who just need a little uplifting. Mildred is still finding ways to help out at church!

Kathy Weaving graciously delivered the box of cards that her mom had purchased before she was called home. So when you receive a card from the committee, you may actually be getting a little hug from Mildred along with the kind words.

Thanks again to the Barshaw/Weaving family!



The Adult Bible Study continues to meet at 9am on Sunday mornings in the church parlor. The group will begin its study of the book of Hebrews on December 4th. (The class will not meet on December 25th). Modern biblical scholars consider the authorship of this text to be unknown. It is written not as a letter but as a speech of encouragement. It is believed that it was written for Jewish Christians who lived in Jerusalem and its purpose was to exhort Christians to persevere in the face of persecution. The writer shows how Jesus Christ meets all our needs and reminds us of great biblical heroes like Moses, Noah and Abraham who finished the "race to glory". "As problems and roadblocks mount, as faith seems unproductive, as doors slam we find it easy to think about quitting our personal faith race". How does the book of Hebrews help us today, to keep on the track and run with perseverance on the path God has put before us?

**The
Giving
Tree**

**Helping Those
in Need**



Sponsored by the Youth Class and the BOCE.
 Bring a different item each week to share
 with our community partners.

November 27 - PJ Sunday
 December 4 - Sock Sunday
 December 11 - Mitten/Glove Sunday
 December 18 - Hat/Scarf Sunday

All items should be NEW and UNWRAPPED.
 Items can be for children, youth or adults.

HAPPY SHOPPING!



On Thanksgiving Sunday, we had a tree. Each leaf carried a message of thanks...family, friends, teachers, music and love! It is good to give thanks!



Living Christmas Ornaments



December 18th
During Worship

Christmas Pageant

Worship Choir Schedule



DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Rehearsals:

Tuesday's, 12/6, 12/13 and 12.20
Rehearsal @ 5:30 pm

Worship Services:

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

The Boar's Head Festival



January 7th & 8th at 4 PM
Doors open 3:15 PM

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED
95 NORTH MAIN STREET, WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06098

Tickets: 860-921-8350

Website: www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

\$15 Adult / \$12 Senior / \$9 Child 12 and under

BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES:

Boar's Head Costume Fitting:

ONE DAY ONLY

*Sunday 1/1/17 after worship 11:15am.
Costuming will continue up until 1:00. Dress Rehearsal begins at 1:30. Costuming will resume after Dress Rehearsal.

NO COSTUMING DURING REHEARSAL!

Sunday 1/1/17 --1:30pm Dress Rehearsal

Both Shows

Saturday and Sunday Jan 7 and 8



Preshow performers in costume before 3:15pm

Cast in costume ready to go by 3:30pm

Shows begin at 4:00 PM

ONLY 2 PERFORMANCES!

Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9 am	Bible Study in the Parlor	Dec 3 8 am – 3 pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Dec 4	Birthday Party for Jesus-Caroling
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	Dec 11	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal-SS
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	Dec 18	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 1	New Year's Day
		Jan 1 1:30	Boar's Head Dress Rehearsal
		Jan 7 & 8 4:00	Boar's Head Performances
	PM Board	Dec 4 at 11:15 am	
	Board of Christian Ed	No meeting scheduled	
	Deacons	Dec 18 at 11:15 am	
	Cabinet Meeting	Dec 20 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



Above: Cindi Whipple lighting of the candle of peace beginning the celebration of Advent!

Today we light the candle of peace.

Peace for those terrorized by inner turmoil or outer strife, violence at home, acts of hatred, a ravaged earth or a scarred psyche.

We light this candle because we believe that peace is possible through God's redeeming presence among us!



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



Remember our home bound members during the holidays!

Pauline Fancher
Barbara Woodard



December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	December Birthstone: Turquoise 	December Flower: Narcissus 	Astrological Signs Sagittarius: Nov 22 – Dec 21 Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20	1 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm <i>Nathan Blische</i>	2	3 Christmas Fair 8 am till 3 pm
4 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am PM Board Meeting 11:15 am LCS Small Choir 1:00 pm <i>George Sherman</i>	5 <i>Ryan Geddes</i>	6 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	7 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Pearl Harbor	8 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	9 <i>Sandy Bengel Leeane Marvin</i>	10
11 Worship Service 10:00 am Praise Choir 9:30 am LCS Small Choir 1:00 pm	12 <i>Duane Blische</i>	13 Worship Choir 5:30 pm ♥ Jamie & Sabrina McAllister	14 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Mid-Week WRAP 7:00 PM	15 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	16 <i>Natalie Majewski</i>	17
18 Worship Service 10:00 am Deacons 11:00 am Christmas Pageant During Worship LCS Small Choir 1:00 pm <i>David Ryu</i>	19 <i>Tom Mazzei Becky Smyth Riley Storrs</i>	20 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm	21 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm First Day of Winter	22 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm <i>Makayla Dileo</i>	23	24 Christmas Eve Services at: 7:30 & 11:30 <i>Sean Storrs</i>
25 Worship Service 10:00 am Christmas Day	26 <i>Emma Hennig Courtney Toomey</i>	27	28	29 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	30 ♥ Tino Gaspar & Jessica Wu	31 New Year's Eve <i>Rhett Geddes Noreen Marchand Bob Steele</i>

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



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor – The Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson

Moderator - Dan Jones Vice-Moderator - Tom Mazzei
Clerk - Allison Graboski Secretary - Sandra Thibault
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
Muddy Boots Praise Choir - Dan Jones Puddle Jumpers - Kat Timmeney
Webmaster - John Eggering
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Storrs

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. W. Kenneth Williams
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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