

**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

**Advent ...A Season of "Waiting" - for the Christ child to be born anew in our hearts...for God to "create a new heaven and a new earth" and for the kingdom of God to come into this world.**

Rhonda Britten describes it in her book ***Fearless Living***, "when we passively wait, we are living in fear." When we wait for circumstances outside of ourselves to change in order to feel hope, peace, joy or love or to live our lives fully, we rob ourselves of the chance to have those things right now. God calls us because we have the power to make a difference—to help shift circumstances—rather than live in fear of them.

So... the "waiting" this Advent is not passive waiting. God needs us to make the world a safer, better place for **ALL** people. This is the message that comes to us this Advent season. It will come as the angels appear to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. The angels will bring us news! Yup... and they will also bring us an invite to participate in the story.

**God is at work in this world  
and you are a part of it.**

**Get over your fear...  
God needs YOU to spread the word.  
more hope, more peace,  
more joy, more love  
more life all around.**

The angels that are coming with a **wake-up call** and **life-altering messages...** both **immanent** ("don't be afraid" right now while you are quaking in your boots because I'm here) and **prophetic** ("don't be afraid" as you set out to fulfill what God is calling you to do and be).

This year the angels bring messages we need to hear—that we need to wake up to. The words will sound familiar: **HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE**. By taking in and taking on the message, we become the "angels among us" getting this message out to multiply it in our spheres of influence.

"Fear is the gatekeeper of your comfort zone." *Rhonda Britten*

How are we called this year to move past our fear...past our comfort zones so we can offer more hope, more peace, more joy, more love and more life? The angels are ready to speak!

*Blessings to you and your family and friends this Advent and Christmas Season!*

*Pastor Lisa*



**DECEMBER 2017**

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

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send an email to:  
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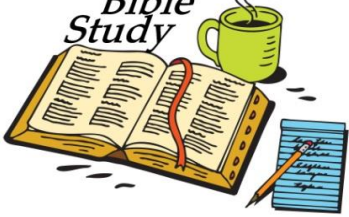


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Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-of-Winsted/189629511047827>

# Church News...

## Sunday Morning Bible Study



### Adult Bible Study Continues Through Advent!

Please join us at 9:00am on Sunday mornings during Advent for a five week small group study. The title is "Do Not Be Afraid: Defeating Fear with Hope, Peace, Love, Joy and a Wholehearted Life". During these sessions we will share videos of Dr. Brene Brown as she speaks about topics such as invulnerability, perfectionism and fear and how these ways of thinking stop us from experiencing connections that give deep meaning to our lives. Each week we will view a video, have time for reflection and share thoughts about how our faith gives us the courage to be more authentic human beings and how we can live a more wholehearted life! Join us in the parlor on Sunday mornings as we move together towards the experience of real joy this Christmas season.

*We meet in the parlor  
at 9:00AM  
Coffee provided!*



## ☆☆ Sunday December 3rd ☆☆



*With light refreshments following worship*



*THEN*

*The congregation is invited to go  
caroling at Valerie Manor*



*Sign-up sheet in the gathering room*

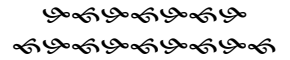


## 🎵 Sunday December 17th 🎵

*All Church outing*

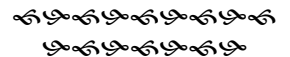


*Matinee time TBD ~ Sign-up sheet in the gathering room*



### Steam Vent Coffee House

Our coffee house raised \$3,669.00 towards the Mexico Mission in 2017! We have been blessed by the generosity and help of so many people! I can't begin to name names. So thanks to all of the musicians, cooks, servers, sound engineers, videographers, picture takers, and stair runners, setter-uppers and taker-downers for sharing their talents and abilities for the good of others. Musicians love to play in our acoustically glorious sacred space. John Eggering makes them all sound amazing! So thankful...! Deb Storrs, Organizer



### Christmas Offering

to be split between:

McCaw Foundation,

Soup Kitchen,

and

Capital Fund.





### Final Curtain falls on the Boar's Head Festival

It is with a heavy heart that I make this announcement. It has been a very difficult decision! To everything there is a season...and the time has come. As we all get older, it is more and more difficult to pull this off. I want to thank all the folks who have helped make this happen over the 27 years...creating memories for ourselves and for numerous audience members. It was a great run...! I thank each and every one of you. None of it would have been possible without you! We have been like a huge family with a reunion every year at Epiphany!

My mother's voice prodding me onward to continue has faded...and been replaced by the melancholy realization that the time had come to put it to bed! I did retire 7 years ago, after all! I still have the plaque! Ha! Decreased interest was a problem, choir size to balance brass...also a problem. At a meeting of the Laurel City Board, it was decided to cancel. A discussion about perhaps a smaller scale/non-brass production ensued, but the feeling that it would fall squarely upon my shoulders was the deciding factor for not attempting this. And I thank them for that with rehearsals beginning November 30<sup>th</sup>, there was really no time anyway.

I have to thank those that shared the vision: Joan, Butch and John Eggering and my husband Gary (Skipping Monk), Debby Kane (procurer of animals), Mike Wu (donkey boy), Chris King (Chicken man/organist), Adam Atkins (heir director), Will Minton, Joe Butkevicius, Dan Jones (Herald), Steve Roys (Star man), Our three Kings (Dave Pastorello, Dave Lewis and Tim Yeadon), Tom Mazzei (Wenceslas), Kingly dudes and Queenly dudesses, and so many singers in Laurel City Singers, dancers, tooters, jugglers, family gentry, monks, carriers of logs, hogs, flags, axes, gifts and halberds, shepherds and their creatures (Commerford Farms) and all the purveyors of magic, who brought this story to life year after year! So many beautiful babies and families too! Love you all!

So ...Merry Christmas to all! Sprite and Monk skipping into the sunset!  
Glory to God in the Highest....and Peace on Earth!

*Deb Storrs*, Retired

## ***Worship This Advent***



### ***Angels Among Us #Donotbeafraid***

*The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid.*

*As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.*

### ***Make Ready a People: #morehope***

*Advent 1 December 3*

*An angel from the Lord appeared to Zechariah. Luke 1: 5-25, 57-80*

### ***Nothing is Impossible: #morepeace***

*Advent 2 December 10*

*The angel Gabriel comes to Mary Luke 1: 26-56*

### ***Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy***

*Advent 3 December 17*

*An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream Matthew 1: 18-25*

*The Children and Youth will present their gift of the retelling of the story using technology.*

### ***This Will Be a Sign: #morelove***

*Advent 4 December 24*

*The Lord's angel stood before shepherds out in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. Luke 2: 1-20*

### ***Get up and Go: #morelife***

*The Sunday after Christmas December 31*

*An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream Matthew 2: 1-23*

*Dan Jones will be worship leader*



# **TIME TO CHOOSE**

**CLIMATE CHANGE  
FOR GOOD**

**#TIMETOCHOOSE**

## **Earth Film & Soup Supper**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2017**

**Soup at 6:30pm / Film at 7:00pm**

**Church of Christ, 5 Old Middle St., Goshen, CT 06756**

**860-491-2793**

TIME TO CHOOSE also delivers a clear message to audiences: we can take action to stop this global threat. It is the first major film to offer compelling stories of the innovators, leaders and average people fighting on the front lines for a cleaner, more sustainable world.



Its scope is truly global, with footage and interviews from five continents. The film's investigation of the true costs of fossil fuels and industrialized agriculture takes audiences inside the drivers of these global phenomena. Audiences meet Appalachian residents suffering from coal-poisoned waters, descend into the dangerous coal pits of China, see the red night skies of Nigeria's oil and gas lands, and hear from courageous officials fighting corruption and deforestation in Indonesia. Through these portraits and more, Ferguson shows the toll the status quo is taking on human lives and the world around us.

But TIME TO CHOOSE also features world-renowned entrepreneurs, innovators, and thought leaders who point the way to a better world. Lyndon Rive, CEO of SolarCity and Nobel Prize winner Muhammed Yunus show viewers how citizens around the globe are accessing affordable renewable energy, while Dr. Jane Goodall connects climate to the places and animals we love. Governor Jerry Brown urges leaders to join the path to sustainability and Chinese wind and solar manufacturers discuss how they've built some of the largest renewable energy installations in the world. Plus, regular people from around the world talk about winning fights to save their communities from the effects of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture.

TIME TO CHOOSE leaves audiences understanding not only what is wrong, but what needs to be done to fix it. It looks squarely at our unique common moment on earth, with an eye to helping change the course of human history.



## Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9 am	Bible Study in the Parlor	Dec 2 8 am – 3 pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday - 9:30 am	Choir Warmups	Dec 17	Christmas Pageant
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Dec 17	Caroling Valarie Manor
Sunday - 11:15 am Rehearsal	Puddle Jumpers / Muddy Boots	Dec 24 @ 7:00	Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday - 5:30 pm Rehearsal	Worship Choir	Dec 25	Christmas Day
Wednesday – 8:00 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	Jan 21 (Snow Date Jan 28)	Annual Meeting
	PM Board	Dec 3 at 11:15 am	
	Board of Christian Ed	Dec 12 at 6:45 pm	
	Deacons	Dec 17 at 11:15 am	
	Cabinet Meeting	Dec 18 at 7:00 pm	

## ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 – Nathan Blische  
 04 – George Sherman  
 05 – Ryan Geddes  
 09 – Sandy Bengé  
 12 – Duane Blische  
 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](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)



Worship Choir:  
 Rehearsals Tuesdays @5:30 pm, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19

Warm-ups Sundays 12/3, 12/17 and 12/24 @ 9:30 am

## *First Church of Winsted* *97<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Fair*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**(8AM UNTIL 3PM)**

**Please come celebrate the Season with Us!**

**CRAFTERS ~ VENDORS ~ GRAMMA'S ATTIC**  
**BOOK NOOK ~ COOKIE WALK ~ FESTIVAL OF JARS**  
**THEMED BASKETS**

&

**SANTA'S HELPER SHOPPE (Shopping for Kids Only!)**

**Delicious Lunch Available for Purchase**  
**Corn Chowder + Chili + Walking Taco + Hot Dog**  
**Chili Dog w/cheese + Assorted Desserts**

**Soda, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate**



**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**  
**95 NORTH MAIN STREET, WINSTED, CT**



# December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton					1  Nathan Blische	2  Christmas Fair 8 am till 3 pm
3 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 PM Board Meeting 11:15 am ADVENT Begins Caroling at Valarie Manor Sarah Storrs	4  George Sherman	5 Worship Choir 5:30 pm  Ryan Geddes	6 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm	7 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm  Pearl Harbor	8	9  Sandy Benge
10 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots 9:30	11	12 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Christian Ed 6:45 pm  Duane Blische	13 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm WRAP 7:00 pm  ♥ Jamie & Sabrina McAllister	14 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm	15	16
17 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Deacons 11:15 Christmas Pageant During Worship Movie Outing	18  Cabinet 7:00 pm  David Ryu	19 Worship Choir 5:30 pm  Tom Mazzei Becky Smyth Riley Storrs	20 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm	21 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm  First Day of Winter	22  Makayla Dileo	23
24 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Christmas Eve Services 7:00 pm  Rhett Geddes Noreen Marchand Bob Steele	25 Christmas Day  	26 No Worship Choir  Emma Hennig Courtney Toomey	27 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm	28 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm	29	30  ♥ Tino Gaspar & Jessica Wu
31 Worship Service 10:00 am New Year's Eve Sean Storrs						

**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 - Frank Artruc

Clerk - Laura McCaw

Board of Deacons - Kathy Garneau

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 - Dan Jones

Puddle Jumpers - Dan Jones

Webmaster - John Eggering 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](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org)

**Telephone** (860) 379-1778

**Church Web-Site** [www.firstchurchofwinsted.org](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org)

The CT Conference of the UCC

Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free

Still Speaking Site [www.stillspeaking.com](http://www.stillspeaking.com)

UCC Web-Site [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or [ctuucc.org](http://ctuucc.org)

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut - ABCCONN

Executive Minister: The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Williams

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Web-Site [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org)

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