

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

Now, I really believe the oft quoted idiom, "Time flies when you are having fun." My ministry with First Church hasn't all been fun; some of it has been challenging, including the drive from my home in Manchester, and the return to weekly sermon preparation; but, like the Julie Andrews character sang in the movie "The King And I,"

Getting to know you, Getting to know all about you.

Getting to like you, Getting to hope you like me.

The thing that has been most fun has been discovering that my initial anxieties about coming to serve as your interim pastor, ended when I was warmly welcomed; and the fun continues as I repeatedly encounter the flexibility, efficiency, and kindness of your leadership team, and the faithfulness and dedication of the membership.

Here we are already in Advent, swiftly wending our way towards our Christmas Eve service. For me and my family, Christmas is one of the most fun-filled, joyous, and faith-inducing periods of the calendar, and so I look forward to sharing it with you.

On Sunday, December 9th, the children's message was titled, "The Promised Time Is At Hand" based on Luke 3:4b-6: "***Prepare the way of the LORD, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of GOD.***"

In the children's message, I showed them the attached picture of the Sagrada Familia Church in Barcelona, Spain, and pointed out the scaffolding on two sections of the roof. The church has been under construction since 1882; yet today, the church is just a little more than halfway done, they hope to with complete construction by 2026.¹

The prophet, John the Baptist, challenges us to prepare the way of the LORD, to make HIS paths straight,

to fill in all valleys, to level all hills and mountains, and to straighten the crooked roads, and smooth out all rough places.

I suggested to the children that Christians are urged to prepare the way of the LORD; and that no matter how much the Christian Church has accomplished in 2000 years, there is much more work to be done to prepare for the second coming of the LORD.

Church, set your clocks to Advent mode. Keep waiting, keep praying, and keep doing the ministry that draws women, men, girls, and boys to worship and serve the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the LORD OF LORDS and KING OF KINGS.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

Pastor Kap



DECEMBER 2018

**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**

Inside this issue:

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*Season of
Advent*



**Worship Services
Begin at 10:00 AM
Bible Study
at 9:15 AM**

¹ <http://listverse.com/2013/05/14/10-most-famous-unfinished-buildings/>

Church News...



Christmas Trees and Wreaths on Sale NOW!

*But you better hurry...
they are going fast!!*



**Christmas Offering
to be split between:
McCaw Foundation,
and
Capital Fund.**



STEAM VENT Coffee House

**Our coffee house raised
\$4,127.00 towards the Mexico
Mission in 2018, beating last
year's total of \$3,669.00!**

We continue to be blessed by the generosity and help of so many people! I can't begin to name names. My humble thanks to all of the musicians, cooks, meal organizers, 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.

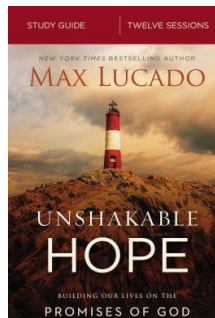
Musicians love to play in our acoustically glorious sacred space.
John Eggering makes them all sound amazing!

So thankful...!
Deb Storrs, Organizer

Bible Study - Sunday 9:15 in the Parlor

A 12-week study on how to restore HOPE in YOUR life and in YOUR church. Be open to share stories and dive into this beautiful series to restore your path. Max Lucado point out heroes in the Bible who put their faith in God's promises. "There are things that seem unsteady in this life. But when we belong to God, it allows us to filter our problems through the promises of God." "When we choose to be people of the Promise, we choose to build our lives on promises of God no the circumstances of life."

Sessions include: You are Stamped with God's Image, God Will Win the Victory, You are an Heir of God, Your Prayers Have Power, God Gives Grace to the Humble, God Gets You, Jesus is Praying for You, There is No Condemnation in Christ, Death has been Deleted, Joy is Coming Soon, You Will Have Power, God Will Right All Wrongs..



ADVENT TRADITIONS



The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, evergreen wreaths replaced the cart wheel symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

The four weeks of Advent are broken down into the themes:

Hope (or promise)
Preparation (waiting or prophecy)
Joy (peace)
Love (adoration)

In our tradition, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is pink and a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve to celebrate Jesus' birth.



Glitter Toes
and Chilly
Willy with
the kids at the
Fair!
(left)

Nature's
Tokens one
of our
vendors
during
set-up!
(right)

Many Thanks
to Gilbert
Basketball
and
Cheerleaders!



More Vendors...



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



SILVER LAKE
Conference Center

Merry Christmas from Silver Lake!

Give the gift of summer camp this Christmas!
Download a printable certificate from www.silverlakeect.org to include with your gift of camp! Find the 2019 summer program brochure online.

*Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**SUMMER 2019
CONFERENCE DATES:**
PreCamp: June 16-22
Week 1: June 23-29
Week 2: June 30-July 6
Week 3: July 7-13
Week 4: July 14-20
Week 5: July 21-27
Week 6: July 28-Aug. 3
Week 7: Aug. 4-10

Registration Opens
January 15th!

Save \$50! Register by
Jan. 31 and use the code
EARLY19 at checkout.

 facebook.com/SilverLakeCT
 [@silverlakeconfcenter](https://www.instagram.com/silverlakeconfcenter)

Summer Camp for grades 4 through 12; register online at
silverlakeect.org

Friendship Leadership Community Deepening of Faith



New Choir Chairs – Donated by *Laurel City Singers!*

YES, WE NEED A LITTLE
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**
RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE!

December 8th at 2 PM
First Church of Winsted
Tickets for Church Family
\$6 Adult / \$4 Senior
\$10 Family



Pastor Kap with the Search Committee:

Front Row: Frank Artruc. Back Row: Pastor Kap, Kim Janak, Jay Nanni, Ashley Jones and Dan Jones.

Medieval Caroling at Whiting Mills... with Laurel City Singers



Photo: Shaw Israel Izikson



Christmas Eve Candle Light Services

Services will be held at 7:00 PM and 11:30 PM on
Christmas Eve. We will continue our tradition of
luminaries lining the walkways!

Volunteers are needed to help
with setting them up at 5:00 P M.

Hot Chocolate will be served to volunteers!

Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9 am	Bible Study in the Parlor	Dec 1 8 am – 3 pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday - 9:30 am	Choir Warmups	Dec 4	Prayer Service
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Dec 9	In-Reach Meeting
Sunday - 11:15 am Rehearsal	Puddle Jumpers / Muddy Boots	Dec 23	Christmas Pageant
Tuesday - 5:30 pm Rehearsal	Worship Choir	Dec 23	Caroling Valerie Manor
Wednesday – 8:00 pm	AA / AL anon Meetings	Dec 24 @ 7:00 & 11:30	Christmas Eve Services
		Dec 25	Christmas Day
		Jan 1	Happy New Year
		Jan 20 (Snow Date Jan 27)	Annual Meeting
	PM Board	Dec 2 at 11:15 am	
	Board of Christian Ed	No Meeting	
	Deacons	No Meeting	
	Cabinet Meeting	Dec 27 at 7:00 pm	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 – Nathan Blische
 04 – George Sherman
 05 – Ryan Geddes
 12 – Duane Blische
 18 – David Ryu
 19 – Thomas Mazzei
 19 – Becky Smyth
 19 – Riley Storrs
 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 info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

CHOIR SCHEDULES:

Worship Choir:

Sundays 12/2 and 12/16 - 9:30 am
 Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 12/ 4, 11, 18 @ 5:30 pm

NO Rehearsal 12/25 or 1/1

Muddy Boots: Sun, 12/9 - 9:00 am

Puddle Jumpers:

Sunday, 12/23 – 9:30 am
 Christmas Pageant

Thanksgiving Dinners...

120 Meals were delivered to Shut-ins and those in need! Many Thanks to Denise Jones for heading this well needed ministry...and to the rest of her staff (family) and other volunteers, donors of food and delivery drivers!



Our Church gathering was attended by 70...it was a wonderful feast and a great time of fellowship. Thanks again to the cooks, servers and cleaner uppers! So thankful!



Our Carolers at Valerie Manor





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Artist: Karen DeltoPn</p>	CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER MEETING - On Tuesday, December 4th, a call to prayer has been made by Pastor Kap. The prayer meeting is to prepare us for an In-Reach effort by Pastor and the Cabinet as they reach our absentee members, to check on their well-being and seek to understand the reasons for their estrangement. James 5:16b assures us that "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." Please Join us as we cry out to the Lord in prayer for an effective In-Reach.					1 Christmas Fair 8 am till 3 pm Nathan Blische
2 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 PM Board Meeting 11:15 am ADVENT Begins Caroling at Valarie Manor 2 pm	3 Sarah Storrs	4 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm George Sherman	5 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Ryan Geddes	6 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm	7 Pearl Harbor	8 Need a little CHRISTMAS CONCERT Right this very minute! 2:00 pm
9 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots 9:30 IN-Reach Meeting 11:30 am	10	11 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	12 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Duane Blische	13 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm ANNUAL REPORTS DUE ♥ Jamie & Sabrina McAllister	14	15
16 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Deacons 11:15	17 Cabinet 7:00 pm	18 Worship Choir 5:30 pm David Ryu	19 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Tom Mazzei Becky Smyth Riley Storrs	20 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm First Day of Winter	21	22
23 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Christmas Pageant During Worship	24 Christmas Eve Services 7:00 pm & 11:30 PM Sean Storrs	25 Christmas Day 	26 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Emma Hennig Courtney Toomey	27 Girl Scouts 5-6 pm	28	29
30 Worship Service 10:00 am New Year's Eve ♥ Tino Gaspar & Jessica Wu	31 Rhett Geddes Noreen Marchand Bob Steele					

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



Artist: Karen Delton

Interim Pastor - Elder Kenric Austin Prescott, M.S.W., M.Div.

Moderator - Frank Artruc Vice-Moderator - Dan Jones

Clerk - Lisa Nanni

Board of Deacons - Kathy Garneau

Property Maintenance - Frank Artruc

Treasurer - Debby Kane

Associate Treasurer - Debbie Storrs

Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering

Christian Education Chair/Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Muddy Boots/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

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. Harry L. Riggs, II

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Web-Site www.abcconn.org

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Winsted, CT 06098

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