

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!

George Frederick Handel's *Messiah* was originally an Easter offering presented on the stage of Dublin's "Musick Hall" in Dublin on April 13, 1742.¹

In 1737, Handel suffered a stroke, leaving many doubting that he was finished. After years of rest and treatment, he released a new work; sadly, it was not well received. Deep in hopelessness, Handel wondered, "*Why did God permit my resurrection, only to allow my fellow-men to bury me again?*"¹ Then, "in April 1741 Handel held



what he assumed would be a farewell concert. His creativity was spent. A biographer wrote of him, "There was nothing to begin or to finish. Handel was faced with emptiness.

Later that year, an associate, Charles Jennens, left Handel a conceptual manuscript with verses of biblical text. The scripture so inspired him that three weeks later he had produced "*The Messiah*." While the composition was written for the concert hall, before unveiling his work, he humbly testified that "*God has visited me*."¹

Who would have thought that music written for the opera and symphony hall, would become one of Christianity's cherished pieces of music to celebrate Christmas and Holy Week? Most fascinating to me, is that the manuscript included a portion of the sixth verse that reads, "...For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given..." from Isaiah 9:6. I interpret this verse as a message that Jesus came into the world gift wrapped in the womb of his mother Mary's womb, and He lived fully until he traded the gift of His life in exchange for your and my salvation.

I don't know how you celebrate Christmas, but I hope you will fill your ears and hearts with Christian music. While Taylor Swift's "*Last Christmas*," and Mariah Carey's "*All I Want For Christmas*" are among this year's chartbusters, there are at least two things wrong with these songs. In "*Last Christmas*," Taylor says she gave somebody her heart, "*but he gave it away*." And when Mariah sings, "*All I Want For Christmas*," the third verse reads in part,

"I won't ask for much this Christmas, I don't even wish for snow,
I'm just gonna keep on waiting, Underneath the mistletoe...
'cause *I just want you here tonight, Holding on to me so tight*."

In other words, Mariah was singing to a lover who may never show up.

Well, I hope you can say as Handel said, "*God has visited me*," as you recognize that Jesus gifted himself 2000 years ago, and because He gave himself, we've all been given an opportunity to know that the Lord will not ever give our hearts and souls away like the object of Taylor Swift's song.

This Christmas, I hope you'll include "*The Messiah*" in your listening repertoire, but don't just listen to the Advent and Christmas portions, listen all the way through the sections where Jesus suffers, bleeds, and dies. Then, listen to the triumphant "*Hallelujah Chorus*" remembering that if Jesus had not come as a gift, and died as a gift, there would be no cause to sing the "*Hallelujah Chorus*."

*May God visit you this Christmas, as he did 2000 years ago;
and I hope that you will testify with Handel that, "God has visited me."*¹

¹ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-glorious-history-of-handels-messiah-148168540/>
¹ <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2010/12/handel-and-the-gift-of-messiah?lang=eng>



DECEMBER 2019

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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**Worship Services
Begin at 10:00 AM**

Church News...



Christmas Trees and Wreaths on Sale at the Christmas Fair!



*But you better hurry...
they sell out quickly!!*



Christmas Offering
will be split between:
McCall Foundation
and
The Capital Fund



A Note of Thanks!



[The Salvation Army - Winsted](#)
[Regional Service Center](#)

• November 20 •

Thank you to everyone at the First Church of Winsted. The donated food is a huge help not only to fill our pantry shelves but to help fill the holiday food baskets.

Thank you all!

But that was only the beginning of our Reverse Giving Calendar! So thankful for all of our generosity...!

Special Thanks to **Cinde Soldan** for taking on this amazing cause!!



Puddle Jumpers enjoyed an afternoon of pizza and bowling at Laurel Lanes thanks to the Fellowship Committee.



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 cartwheel 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.



December 15th at 2 PM

Open Mic Christmas Party!

Play your favorite...

Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza Songs
Winter Songs or
Peace, Good Will to Men Songs!

*Christmas Carol
Sing & Play Along!* **Free Admission** *Hot Chocolate
and Pastries
Provided!*

Decorate your own Christmas Cookie!

Picture with Santa!!

If you are able...

Bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank!



Selection of Christmas and Holiday Favorites!

Sunday

December 8th at 2 PM

Special Guests

Eric Paradine, Nancy Herzig,
Ken Storrs & Andrew Thomson

And The Jolly old Elf himself - Santa!

Reception Immediately Following!

Pictures with Santa!

Church Family Tickets: \$5 Adult, \$4 Senior or \$10 Family

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

95 N. MAIN ST



STEAM VENT Coffee House

Our coffee house raised
\$4,814.50
towards the Mexico
Mission in 2019, beating
last year's total of
\$4,127.00!



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 aided by Riley Storrs helps them all sound amazing!

So thankful...!

Deb Storrs, Organizer

Mitten Tree



Calling all knitters (or buyers)!

We will once again have a Mitten Tree in the sanctuary during December to collect **Mittens, hats and socks** for the local shelters and Salvation Army! Helping our neighbors in need!

**Pewter
Christmas Tree
Ornament Memorials**

In Memory of:

STARS

In Memory of:

Bella Jones

*Given by: Dee Fox; Lori Jones;
Betsy Carpentier*

Naomi Church

*Given by: Donald & Arlene
Purvis*

Roger Giannattasio

Given by: Carol Ballard

Pernille Michaelsen

Given by: Michaelsen Family

Peter Harrison Grohs

George (Pop Pop) Rigby

*Given by: Michaelsen
Grandchildren*

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Chamberlin

Alice M. Slater

Mary Rategan

Given by: Charles Rategan, Sr.

Edward & Lena Chamberlin

*Given by: Betty & Norman
Chamberlin*

Raymond Bensle

Given by: Bensle Family

Clarence Garman

Randy Joseph Drake

Given by: Neal Overbey Family

Sackett & Betsy (Elizabeth)

Miles

*Given by: Robert S. and Carol H.
Miles*

CANDLES

Advent Participants

Given by: Bette Mecca

Olive R. Sears

Given by: Ralph Sears

Daniel Shoppey

Jon E. Millard

Given by: Kay Millard

Wallace & Lillian Pease

Waldo Schreck Honald

Ellen Mary Grohs

Herbert and Peggy Hamilton

*Given by: Carol Hamilton Miles
& Robert S. Miles*

DOVES

Dr. Beverly Pass

Given by: Charlton Webb Family

Vincent Bagnall

George R. Sweeney

Given by: Lillian Sweeney

Theodora Roberts

Given by: The Roberts Family

Carol Ellis

Eniar Michaelsen

Given by: The Michaelsen Family

Alexander (Pop) Smith

Given by: Great Grandchildren

Charles Gabelmann Sr.

Carol A. Ballard

Given by: Dot Ferrante

Jeannette Giannattasio

Given by: Carol Ballard

Carol A. Ballard

Given by: Charlie & Sis

Isabelle M. Pearson

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rubles

Earl & Gertrude Roraback

Given by: Kay Millard

Eugene Patrick Walsh

Given by: Kathy & Jim Walsh

Roger Giannattasio

Given by: Ernest Giannattasio

Elizabeth Smith

Given by: The Jones Family

Gary Steven Overbey

Steven Mitchell Sr.

Given by: Marian Mitchell

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Woodard

Martha & Henry Rebillard

*Given by: The Robert O'Connor
Family*

HOLLY LEAF

Rika, Nolly & Bill Ambrosius

*Given by: Lynne Chamberlin
Dwyer*

CHRISTMAS TREE

Dennis E. Donahue

Florence Graebe

Luke & Hattie Moore

*Given by: Marion & Roddy
Chapin*

Elaine Kane

*Given by: Grandchildren;
Courtney & Meghan Kane*

THREE WISE MEN

**The Rev & Mrs. Richard T.
Michaelsen**

Given by: Michaelsen Children

Edna Lewis

*Given by: First Church and
Children's Discovery Center*

Georgia & John (Bongo)

Eggering & James Storrs

*Given by: The Eggering & Storrs
Families*

ANGELS

Jeannette Giannattasio

Given by: Ernest Giannattasio

Carol Giannattasio Ballard

*Given by: Tammy & Jeannette
Giannattasio*

Grace Hubbard

*Given by: Beverly, Kaiya &
George Hubbard Jr.*

Annie Robinson

Joan Leslie Chamberlin

*Given by: Lynne Chamberlin
Dwyer*

Edna Smith

*Given by: Sister, Elizabeth Smith
Chamberlin*

Reuben Miller

*Given by: Charles & Gloria
Gabelmann*

Mary Rategan

*Given by: David & Joan
Giannattasio*

Gladys Reynolds,

Given by: Charles R. Rategan

Perinne Sonier

Lillian (Nana) Rigby

Given by: Michaelsen Children

Robert & Mary Beckwith

Kenneth & Lina Storrs

Given by: Debbie & Gary Storrs

Kay Boone

*Given by: Grandchildren;
Courtney & Meghan Kane*

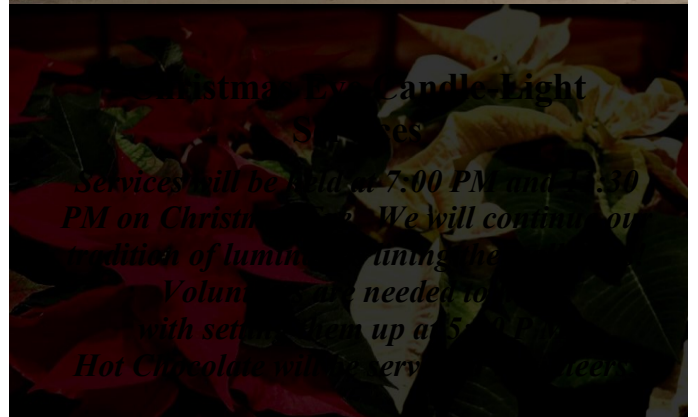
In Honor of:

Richard Michaelsen

*Given by: David & Joan
Giannattasio*

"1984 Advent Wreath"

Given by: Bette Mecca



'Tis the Season for Giving



To help our children and youth remember that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive, we will once again sponsor

The Santa's Helper Gift Shoppe

The gift shop will have small items for \$1 available for children to purchase for mom and dad, grandma and grandpa or even siblings!

Gift wrapping will also be available!

For more information contact Kim Janak
(860) 379-1778



Let There be Light!

*Many thanks to Tom Mazzei and his Fire Department buddies for replacing the bulbs in the sanctuary!
Special thanks to Mike on the ladder!*

Thanksgiving Dinners...

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



150 Meals out the door Thanksgiving Day!



Before and after service on Thanksgiving Sunday, the Sunday School Youth helped prepare and serve the Thanksgiving feast to our church family! Thanks to Dan & Denise Jones for coordinating and all the adult helpers as well!



Caroling December 8th

Valarie Manor at noon!

Fernwood at 2 PM!

Snacks in between



Pastor Kap and Deborah!



OUR COOKS!





Thankful!



Our Church gathering was attended by 65...it was a wonderful feast and a great time of fellowship. Thanks again to the cooks, servers and cleaner uppers! So thankful!

Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9:30 am	Choir Warmups	Dec 7 8 am – 3 pm	Christmas Fair
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Dec 8 2 pm	Caroling at Valarie Manor
Sunday - 11:15 am Rehearsal	Puddle Jumpers	Dec 8 2 pm	Let it Snow Concert - LCS
Tuesday - 5:30 pm Rehearsal	Worship Choir	Dec 15 2 pm	Steam Vent Open Mic Christmas
Wednesday - 8:00 pm	AA / AL anon Meetings	Dec 22	Christmas Pageant
Sunday - 6:00 pm	AA	Dec 24 7:00 pm & 11:30 pm	Christmas Eve Services
		Dec 25	Christmas Day
		Jan 1	Happy New Year
		Jan 19 (Snow Date Jan 26)	Annual Meeting
	PM Board Board of Christian Ed Deacons Cabinet Meeting	Dec 1 at 11:15 am No Meeting Dec 8 at 11:15 am Dec 17 at 7:00 pm	

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 – Nathan Blische
 03 – Sarah Storrs
 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
 28 – Kyla Elliott
 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

CHOIR SCHEDULES:

Worship Choir:

Sundays Dec 8, 15 & 29 - 9:30 am
 Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 12/ 3, 10, 17
 @ 5:30 pm
 NO Rehearsal 12/24 or 12/31

Muddy Boots: Sun, 12/1 - 9:00 am

Puddle Jumpers:

Sunday, 12/22 – 9:30 am
 Christmas Pageant



NOTICE

The election of officers and board/committee members will take place at the annual meeting in January. The following positions are elected annually:

Moderator

Auditing Committee

Vice-moderator

Clerk

1/3 of the following:

Treasurer

Diaconate, Christian

Associate Treasurer

Education, Property

Financial Secretary

& Maintenance

Denominational

Boards and the

Representatives

Nominating Comm.

If interested in serving on a Board or a Committee, please contact Ashley Fontanez or Debby Kane!



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots 9:30 PM Board Meeting 11:15 am ADVENT Begins Nathan Blische	2	3 Worship Choir 5 5:30 pm Sarah Storrs	4 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm George Sherman	5 Ryan Geddes	6	7 Christmas Fair 8 am till 3 pm Pearl Harbor
8 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Deacons 11:15 Let it Snow! CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2:00 pm Caroling at Valarie Manor 12 pm	9	10 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	11 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm	12 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE Duane Blische	13 ♥ Jamie & Sabrina McAllister	14
15 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Steam Vent Open Mic Christmas Party 2:00 pm	16	17 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm	18 AA/Alanon 8:00 pm David Ryu	19 Tom Mazzei Becky Smyth Riley Storrs	20 First Day of Winter	21
22 Worship Service 10:00 am Puddle Jumpers 9:30 Deacons at 11:30 Christmas Pageant During Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 7:00 pm & 11:30 PM Sean Storrs	25 Christmas Day 	26 Emma Hennig Courtney Toomey	27	28 Kayla Elliott
29 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30	30 ♥ Tino Gaspar & Jessica Wu	31 New Year's Eve Rhett Geddes Noreen Marchand Bob Steele	In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light Till from heaven You came running, There was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfill the law and prophets to a virgin came the word from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt. Praise the Father, praise the Son Praise the Spirit, three in one God of glory, Majesty Praise forever to the King of Kings			 Artist: Karen Delton Left: Lyrics to King of Kings – Hillsong Worship

**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

Clerk/Editor - Debbie Storrs

Board of Deacons - Kim Janak & Cheryl Jones

Property Maintenance - Dan Jones

Treasurer - Debby Kane

Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering

Christian Education Chair/Sunday School Director - Ashley Fontanez

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Muddy Boots - Dan Jones

Puddle Jumpers - 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 Website www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

The CT Conference of the UCC

Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free

Still Speaking Site www.stillspeaking.com

UCC Website 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 Website www.abcconn.org

First Church of Winsted
95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098

BELLRINGER

