

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

Winter Greetings!

A few weeks ago, we had the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We reflected on the past year and thought about our focuses for the future. There are plenty of the Annual Meeting booklets available which contain the written reports from our various Boards and Committees in the Gathering Room. If you were not able to attend the meeting, I encourage you to pick up a booklet when you have a chance.

During the winter months, I notice that we often complain about the short hours of daylight. As a child, I marveled at the summer days when the sun was up when we woke, and was still up when it was time to go in and go to bed. Most of us don't like the darkness. The medical profession has tied the lesser hours of sunlight to increased cases of depression. Who wants to start the day in the dark?

Well, did you know that the Chinese calendar is based on the cycles of the moon? And the first day of every month is always the day when there is no moon....the darkest night of the month. Why would you want to start every new month on the darkest night? Because it means that each night of the month will have more light than on the first day of the month. Maybe not as much as the night when there is the full moon, but every single night of the month will always be brighter than the first.

As we journey through this new year, we need to keep in mind that Christ is the light of our world. And although the amount of light we enjoy will vary from day to day and from season to season, there will always be more light in our lives than before Christ came into our lives. Not every day will be perfect, but we can have the confidence that we are better off because we have Christ in our lives!

Blessings,

Mike



FEBRUARY 2012

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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*Celebrate President's Day...
Give thanks for those who have served...
Pray for those now serving...*

CHERUB CHOIR...is open to children ages 3-10. We are rehearsing Sunday after worship 20 minutes, and/or Wednesday Evenings from 6-6:30. We hope this opens up this opportunity to more children! Let them sing while you chat during coffee hour

*Cherubs Sing
the 2nd
Sunday!*

Happily Singing God's Praises!



Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

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

Church News...



Bible Study

Topic:
Living Closer to God's Heart

Time:
9:00 – 9:30 on Sunday mornings

Dates:
January 15 through March 25,
2012

Location:
Church Parlor
First Church of Winsted
(The church next to the town
green)
95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT

Presented by:
Robert L Adkins and Heather F.
Richardson



SWIM / PIZZA PARTY

The annual Sunday School Swim / Pizza Party is being planned **tentatively for Saturday, February 18th** at the YMCA. Plan ahead for this annual event! We all look forward to swimming at the YMCA followed by a pizza party in the room above the pool. For more information, see Barbara Mazzei.



Super Bowl Grinders...

Pick up on Super Bowl Sunday after worship service February 5th.



Say your prayers with a friend...



**Scholarship Raffle
Winner Announced!
Congratulations
Diane Vickers!**



Men's fellowship

Meeting every 1st Tuesday of each month from 7:00-?? in the Dining Room.

It's a group of men, not limited to First Church members. You can bring your son(s) if you choose, but we are not baby sitters.

There will be something to eat & drink at each meeting.

No alcohol unless we are at another venue where it is legal to consume it (hockey/ball game/golf course etc.)

It will be an open forum. Everyone has an opinion and everyone has a right to be heard.

If you have something on your mind, let's talk about it.

Let's have some fun!



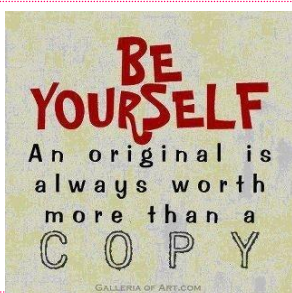
The Worship Choir is moving to a new night and time.

We will begin rehearsing on Tuesdays, beginning January 3rd, 2012. Rehearsals begin at 5:30 pm and generally end by 7:00 pm, if not earlier.

If your New Year's Resolutions include exercising more, come join us as we exercise lungs, voices, and a sense of humor. The desire to sing and have fun with other members of our church family is all that is required of choir members. The ability to read music is not necessary.



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



FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED
Proposed Budget for 2012

	Proposed Budget 2,012	% of Total Budget	Net Increase/ (Decrease)	Approved Budget 2,011
DIACONATE:				
101 Diaconate Board Account	900	0.72%	0	900
102 Music	9,448	7.51%	0	9,448
Organist/Senior Choir Director	1,687	1.34%	0	1,687
Youth Choir Director	1,687	1.34%	0	1,687
103 Music Supplies	350	0.28%	0	350
Senior Choir	75	0.06%	0	75
Youth/Cherub Choir		0.00%	0	
Choir Robes	500	0.40%	0	500
104 Substitute Organist	1,800	1.43%	0	1,800
105 Organ & Piano Tuning	1,200	0.95%	0	1,200
106 Pastoral Visits		0.00%	0	
107 Advertising Discontinued				
TOTAL	17,647	14.04%	0	17,647
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD:				
201 Christian Education Board Account	200	0.16%	0	200
202 Director of Sunday School	595	0.47%	0	595
203 Curriculum & Supplies	800	0.64%	(300)	1,100
204 Sunday School Activities	1,500	1.19%	(500)	2,000
205 Youth Activities	1,000	0.80%	0	1,000
206 Youth Advisor	1,500	1.19%	(900)	2,400
TOTAL	5,595	4.45%	(1,700)	7,295
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:				
301 Grounds Account	5,000	3.98%	1,500	3,500
302 Custodial Salary	5,450	4.33%	0	5,450
303 Trash Collection	1,200	0.95%	0	1,200
304 Gas	7,500	5.96%	(2,000)	9,500
305 Electrical Utilities	3,000	2.39%	(600)	3,600
306 Water & Sewer	800	0.64%	(200)	1,000
307 Building	3,000	2.39%	0	3,000
TOTAL	25,950	20.64%	(1,300)	27,250
BOARD OF FINANCE: <i>Note: Board of Finance is now part of Cabinet, budget included in Cabinet.</i>				
* 401 Finance Board Account Now 501	-	0.00%	0	-
* 402 FICA - All Employees Now 506	-	0.00%	0	-
TOTAL	-	0.00%	0	-
CHURCH CABINET:				
* 501 Church Office Account	3,400	2.70%	0	3,400
502 ABC & UCC State & County Support	1,800	1.43%	348	1,452
503 World Mission Support				
American Baptist	2,427	1.93%	101	2,327
United Church of Christ	2,427	1.93%	101	2,327
504 Telephone	1,200	0.95%	0	1,200
505 Insurance	11,000	8.75%	0	11,000
* 506 FICA - All Employees (and CDC)	9,000	7.16%	0	9,000
TOTAL	31,254	24.86%	549	30,705
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP:				
601 Pastor's Base Salary/Benefits inc. Line 603	15,249	12.13%	1,386	13,863
602 Housing Allowance	29,040	23.10%	2,640	26,400
603 Pastor's Retirement and Life Insurance	-	0.00%	0	-
TOTAL COMPENSATION TO PASTOR	44,289	35.23%	4,026	40,263
604 Substitute Minister	1,000	0.80%	0	1,000
TOTAL PASTORAL LEADERSHIP	45,289	36.02%	4,026	41,263
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2012	125,736	100%	1,575	124,160
ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 2012				
Estimated Rental Income	2,800	2.23%	AA & Alanon/CDC Reimbursed Ins./DR rental	
ABCCONN Housing Allowance	15,248	12.13%	From funds invested by ABCCONN	
Estimated Other Income	16,800	13.36%	Boar's Head, Tag Sales, Christmas Trees/CDC 941 tax	
	34,848	27.72%		
PLEDGES, OFFERINGS AND FUNDRAISING				
NEEDED TO BALANCE 2012 BUDGET	90,888	72.28%		
			Needed to balance budget	
APPROXIMATE PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS IN 2012				
	69,030	54.90%	21,858	17.38%



Praying for Ice Cream!

Last week, I took my grandchildren to a restaurant.

My six-year-old grandson asked if he could say grace.

As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if

Nana gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my grandson burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my grandson and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my grandson asked.

"Cross my heart," the man replied.

Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my grandchildren ice cream at the end of the meal. My grandson stared at his for a moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."

The End

Sometimes, we all need some ice cream.

I hope God sends you some ice cream today!

Officers & Board Members 2012

Moderator: Dan Jones
Vice-Moderator: Richard Mazzei
Clerk: Deborah Storrs
Treasurer: Debby Kane
Associate Treasurer: Joan Eggering
Financial Secretary: Korei Valickis
ABC/USA Rep: Bob Adkins

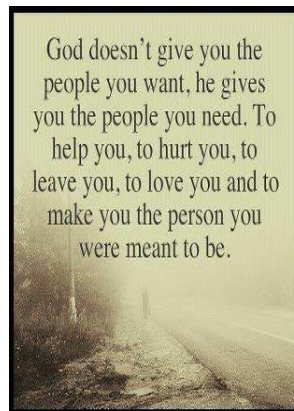
Deacons:
Bob Adkins
Carlton Roberts
Laura McCaw
Lisa Nanni
John Eggering
Jay Nanni
Bruce Sherman
Tom Mazzei

Property Maintenance:
Debby Kane
Tom Mazzei
Carlton Roberts
Bruce Sherman
Chaz McCaw
Steve Vaill

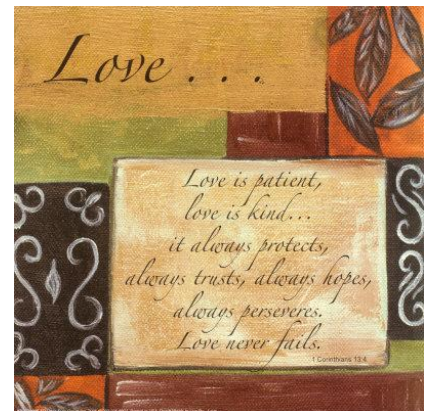
Board of Christian Ed:
Cindy Lounds-Roys
Tanya Mongitore
Julie Davy
Allison Graboski
Ashley Jones
Emma Hennig

Nominating Committee:
Ashley Jones
Barbara Woodard
Carol Miles
Tanya Mongitore
Pam Allen
Gretel Eddy

Audit Committee: Robert Miles, Helen Nye, Christine Steele





God doesn't give you the people you want, he gives you the people you need. To help you, to hurt you, to leave you, to love you and to make you the person you were meant to be.



Love . . .
Love is patient,
love is kind...
it always protects,
always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.
Love never fails.
1 Corinthians 13:4

*Before you assume, learn the facts.
Before you judge, understand why.
Before you hurt someone, feel.
Before you speak, think.*

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	February 2	Ground Hogs Day
Sunday - 11 am	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	February 5	Super Bowl Sunday
Tuesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	February 7 at 7 PM	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	February 14	Valentine's Day
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	February 20	President's Day
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	February 18 date not confirmed	Swim & Pizza Party
		February 22	Ash Wednesday
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
		February 7	PM Board
		February 14	Board of Christian Ed.
		February 21	Deacons
		February 28	Cabinet Meeting
			

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

February BIRTHDAYS

01 - Elexys Savoy
 02 - Susan Tripodina
 03 - Sabrina McAllister
 03 - Bailey McCaw
 03 - Julie Davy
 03 - Laura Day
 04 - Paul Hamilton
 06 - Kate Roys
 07 - Lorraine Tatar
 11 - Dan Jones
 12 - Jessica Toomey
 14 - Mildred Barshaw
 16 - Holly Cassaday
 16 - Devan McCaw
 18 - Dilshan Gunawardena
 18 - Virginia Hughes
 18 - Eric Smith
 18 - Jes Wu
 20 - Will Hurlbut
 20 - Carol Miles
 20 - Debbie Storrs
 21 - George Majewski
 22 - Bill Calkin
 22 - Sharon Doyle
 22 - Sarah LeKang
 23 - Jason Roberts
 25 - Helen Nye
 26 - Bud Roberts
 26 - Kelvin Smith
 26 - Terry Smyth
 27 - Alex Cassaday
 28 - Jamie McAllister
 28 - Eileen Bensle
 29 - Peyton Storrs

February Anniversaires

♥ 15 - Robert & Ann Jones
 ♥ 19 - Paul & Diane Richards



"A few feathery flakes are scattered widely through the air, and hover downward with uncertain flight, now almost alighting on the earth, now whirled again aloft into remote regions of the atmosphere."

— Nathaniel Hawthorne
Photography of Katharine Griswold

The light shines brighter through cracked pots.
~Joyce Meyer

Hello All,

Happy New Year! Linda and I are having a great time in the Sunshine State. The weather is warm and sunny. We think of you folks often, and realize how lucky we are to be down here out of the cold weather. We look forward to seeing you again the middle of March.

Love... Bud & Lynda Roberts



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS/TRIPS

Youth trip to Whale Hockey game to be scheduled in late Feb or March. Date to be announced!

Call Ashley Jones at 860-480-5450 for more information or... Follow us on Facebook!! Search First Church Youth Group!!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/282926171742587/>



February 2012

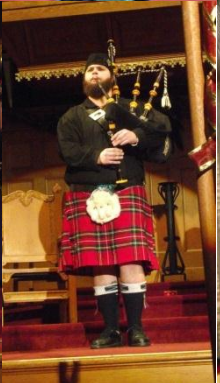


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	February Birthstone: Amethyst 	February Flower: African Violet 	Astrological Signs Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20 Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 19	<div> "The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time." ~Abraham Lincoln </div>		
Cherub Choir Rehearsing Sundays after Service as well as Wednesdays at 6 so that many may participate.		Worship Choir Rehearsing Tuesday evenings at 5:30, open to all who want to sing and have fun! New day & time!	1 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4
5 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Super Bowl XLVI 6:30 Kickoff	6	7 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Men's Fellowship 7:00	8 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	9 LCS Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11
12 Worship Service 10:00 am Cherub Choir 9:45 am Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Worship Choir 5:30 pm  Valentines Day	15 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	16	17	18 Swim & Pizza Party at the YMCA Tentative Date Stay tuned...
19 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Cherub Choir 11:10 pm	20 President's Day	21 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	22 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Washington's Birthday	23	24	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Cherub Choir 11:10 pm	27	28 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	29 Cherub Choir 6:00 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3



The Boar's Head Festival 2012







Boar's Head Festival Thank You!!

Many Thanks to all those who attended and participated in the 2012 Boar's Head Festival! Special thanks to Cummerford Farm and John Stenman for lending and carting our gentle critter folk! Lucy the Donkey, who absolutely loved Pastor Mike, even came to church on Sunday, only commenting on the sermon once! Spirit the Dove also attended...cooing gently her tunes during service. Pictures inside!

First Church has been blessed by each and every one of you!

Thank you once again...! To borrow from John's preshow announcements, "Yes we have been doing this for 22 years, and you keep coming back...why?"

It is simply because it is a beautiful way to celebrate the real reason for the Christmas Season...and the greatest gift of all.



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

BELLRINGER

