

Word from Pastor Lisa Gustafson

"You have a place in this world. It is a place where awkwardness dissolves and you are most fully alive, therefore most fully human. You know this place very well, though you may feel far from it. Take a deep breath and hold it briefly. Exhale slowly. You know this place. You may not always know how to get to it, but you recognize it every time."

- Eric Elnes, Gifts of the Dark Woods

This is the opening paragraph of the book I have chosen to read for my personal Lenten study. The title is what caught my attention at first. Gifts? From the Darkness? The author describes the book this way: "This book is about finding your place in this world at the very point where you feel farthest from it. It's about recognizing the fierce beauty and astonishing blessing that exists within experiences that most of us fear but none of us can avoid...it's about seeing life through new eyes, recognizing that experiences of failure, emptiness, and uncertainty are as critical for finding our way through life as they are unavoidable." (p. 14)

Well, I don't know about you, but this is something that I need right now. I need to adjust my focus to see the blessings in those parts of life I would like to avoid. So far the book has been amazing. It is so amazing I am using it as the theme for our Lenten Journey together. In our worship, my preaching, our conversations together, I will be speaking from what I am seeing and hearing and learning.

Lent is a somber time when we have the opportunity to go deep into topics of faith and spiritual life we don't look at as much the rest of the year. The road leading to the Cross lends itself to such exploration.

So, I invite you to join me this year. Come to worship each Sunday. Make time in your life to reflect on what you are hearing and experiencing. If you would like to join me in reading the book, it is available for your nook. I also can order copies at a discount. I would love to have a discussion about what Mr. Elnes presents.

Won't you journey with me to find the "Unexpected Love in the heart of our everyday struggles"?



FEBRUARY 2016

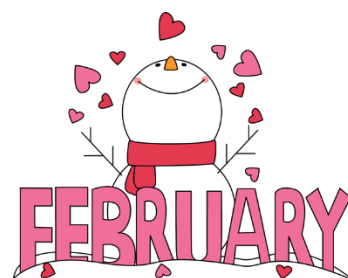
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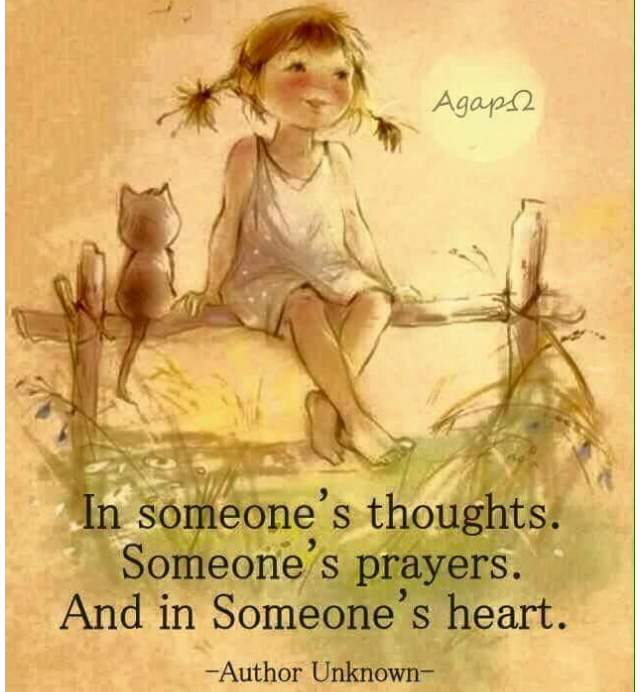
Church News...



CDC NEWS...

We finally got to enjoy some snow...so we celebrated with snow angels! We are busy learning about all things related to Winter (hibernation, Arctic animals, etc.). We will be starting our Spring fundraiser in a few weeks. We have decided to participate with the Jeannine Fundraiser. If you are interested in supporting our fundraiser, please contact Melissa or Pam.

The most wonderful places to
be in the world are:



In someone's thoughts.
Someone's prayers.
And in Someone's heart.

—Author Unknown—



For Lent the BOCE will be sponsoring "Fill the Ark" a Heifer project. "Fill the Ark" is a calendar and giving bank that families fill with loose change for collection. As the bank gets full, we will learn how Heifer animals help families in need. One person, one family, one congregation is all it takes to Fill the Ark and make a difference in today's world. At the end of Lent we will combine all the monies collected to purchase an animal to help end hunger for a family in need.



We will also sponsor a Family Fun Trip to Camp Jewell to go sledding for an afternoon in February. Tentative date is February 28th. Stay tuned for more details.

BOCE would like to invite all interested parties to our Feb 8th meeting. Along with our regular business, **we will be discussing the future of the Children's Discovery Center.** After 40 years of service to our congregation and our community preparing young children for the big step to Kindergarten, it is time to discuss the next big step for us.



Gifts of the Darkness

This Lent we embark on a journey to explore all the places where we find ourselves. Not just the places that seem stable and blessed, but the ones when we feel disillusioned, afraid, or lost. We are invited to explore how these dark places we want to avoid are actually God- Given Gifts to us. How can the struggles of life be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fullness of life?

Ash Wednesday, Feb 10 @ 7:30 pm

Crossing the Threshold – Beginning on the Journey Together

First Sunday Feb 14 The Gift of Uncertainty

Life is Uncertain. What if we saw that uncertainty as a gift helping us let go of all we cannot know? Do you want to be made well?

Second Sunday Feb 21 The Gift of Emptiness

Sometimes we feel empty inside, like there just isn't anything left there. What if the best way to find God is to just get empty?

Third Sunday Feb 28

The Gift of Being Thunderstruck

Ancient people have described the voice of God as coming through thunder and lightning. This day we will go into the midst of the storm and open up all our senses to experience what we find there.

The Challenge of Generosity and Stewardship In the 21st century Church

Sunday, February 21 from 3 pm to 5 pm
Snow Date: February 28

A Workshop led by The Rev. Stacy Emerson,
Stewardship Facilitator of the
American Baptist Churches, USA

Here's what we are going to do:
Explore current trends and challenges in the church in regard to stewardship along with ways to address those challenges.

Open to Everyone in the
First Church Family

Pizza and Salad will be served, and
Child Care will also be available.



SAVE THE DATE

192nd Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut

Saturday April 30, 2016

Second Baptist in Suffield

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame
the gift of God, which is in you
through the laying on of my hands.

2 Timothy 1:6

STEAM VENT

Coffee House

NO Repeat Spring Season...Amazing!

March 12th Performers

6:00 ~ Open Mic
 6:30 ~ Eric Jacklin
 7:00 ~ Michael Lovallo
 7:30 ~ Cody Bondra
 8:00 ~ Eric Paradine
 8:30 ~ Blue Yonder Jeanne McMillan
 9:00 ~ Melanie Michaud
 9:30 ~ Open Mic

April 9th Performers

6:00 ~ Open Mic
 6:30 ~ Howie B Baldwin
 7:00 ~ Bill Morrell
 7:30 ~ Con & Patti Wilion
 8:00 ~ Jim Palermo
 8:30 ~ Muddy Boots
 9:00 ~ CRB
 9:30 ~ Open Mic

May 14th Performers

6:00 ~ Open Mic
 6:30 ~
 7:00 ~ Martha Rochelle
 7:30 ~ [Robert Alan Scalla](#)
 8:00 ~ Carl D & Co.
 8:30 ~ Breathless Charm Danielle Emberley
 9:00 ~ Jean Stokes Recchia
 9:30 ~ Open Mic

June 11th Performers

6:00 ~ Open Mic
 6:30 ~
 7:00 ~ Bluebyrd Stephen Haskell
 7:30 ~ Salmon Eye Sam Guglielmino
 8:00 ~ Abby Lappen
 8:30 ~ Joel Blumert
 9:00 ~
 9:30 ~ Open Mic

Dinner Themes to be announced! To schedule an act:
dstorrs@snet.net or message me on Facebook!



Super Bowl Grinder Sale

Benefit Sunday School Activity Fund

**Please make out a separate sheet if
 ordering more than one grinder**

HAM TURKEY ROAST BEEF COMBO
 (Circle One)

CHEESE: Provolone Swiss American
 (Circle One)

Lettuce Tomato Onions
 Sweet Peppers Hot Peppers

Name: _____

Orders must be in by Tuesday, Feb 2nd

Give this form to Barbara Mazzei
 or call 860-379-2900

**Pickup will be Sunday, Feb. 7th
 Here at Church
 \$6.00 each six inch grinder**



Boar's Head Festival 2016

Cast shot after Sunday performance. Over 500 in attendance for the 3 performances...! Profit before donations: \$4,284.63. Pretty good year! God Bless Us, Everyone! Thanks!! Deb Storrs

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

Albert Einstein

JUST
FOR
FUN!

"Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success."

Napoleon Hill

2016 MEXICO MISSION

Plans are in the works for the 2016 Mexico Mission Trip! For the ninth summer in a row, a team from First Church of Winsted will travel over 2,000 miles southwest to Oaxaca, Mexico. In our past eight visits, we have built homes for people living on the edge of a dump, distributed tons of food in a remote mountain village, used more paint to cover walls, floors and ceilings than we ever thought we would use in our entire lives, and watched some of the children at Casa Hogar Benito Juarez grow up to be responsible, college educated adults. The tasks are sometimes pretty normal like cleaning, performing maintenance on vehicles, and playing soccer with the children. But the impact made is lasting for both the members of the First Church team and for our friends in Mexico. Lasting relationships have been established. Horizons have been broadened. And we've witnessed the wonders of God's creation and the impact of sharing and caring.

The dates for this year's trip are July 9 through July 17. As was the case last year, we will be working at Casa Hogar's facilities in both Oaxaca and Cuicatlan. Although only a few hours apart, Oaxaca is a bustling, noisy city of over a million inhabitants with warm days and cool nights. Cuicatlan is a small, quiet community that endures hot, humid summer weather. Oaxaca is clearly trying to catch up to and be like the rest of the modern world, while Cuicatlan calls you to slow down and experience Mexican culture as it was 20 years ago.

If you are interested in traveling to Mexico this summer to participate in the Mission Trip, please see Debby Kane, or call 860-307-8554.

Mexico memories at right.



CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT

Featuring



JARED ANDERSON & JOHN WALLER

2ND Congregational Church

Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 PM

Free Admission -Love Offering

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am Tuesday - 5:30 pm Wednesday - 7:30 pm Thursday - 7:00 pm	Worship Rehearsal~Worship Choir AA / Alanon Meetings Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	February 2 February 14 February 15 February 16 February 17 February 28 Tentative	Ground Hog Day Valentine's Day President's Day Fat Tuesday – Mardi Gras Ash Wednesday Sledding at Camp Jewell
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		 Boar's Head Festival Pictures available on Facebook and at www.firstchurchofwinsted.org Boar's Head Festival tab!
	February 1 February 8 February 10 February 24	PM Board 11:20 am Board of Christian Ed. 6:45 pm Deacons 6 pm Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	

★HAPPY BIRTHDAY★

February Birthdays

01 - Elexys Savoy
02 - Susan Tripodina
03 - Sabrina McAllister
03 - Bailey McCaw
03 - Julie Davy
05 - Daniel Hall
06 - Kate Roys
07 - Lorraine Tatar
07 - Nicole Ladd
11 - Bonnie Geddes
11 - Dan Jones
12 - Sandy Thibault
12 - Jessica Toomey
14 - Mathew Marvin
14 - Korie Valickis
15 - Heather Richardson
16 - Holly Cassaday
16 - Devan McCaw
18 - Virginia Hughes
18 - Eric Smith
18 - Jessica Wu
20 - Will Hurlbut
20 - Carol Miles
20 - Debbie Storrs
21 - Curtis Blische
21 - George Majewski
22 - Sharon Doyle
24 - William Bastenbeck
25 - Helen Nye
26 - Bud Roberts
26 - Kelvin Smith
27 - Alexandra Cassaday
28 - Jamie McAllister
28 - Eileen Bensle
28 - Rick Rice
29 - Peyton Storrs February

Anniversaries

♥ 13 - Ted & Donna Sherman
♥ 15 - Robert & Ann Jones
♥ 19 - Paul & Diane Richards

If you would have your birthday or anniversary added to our list, please email Deb Storrs:



Camp Wightman

Registration for Camp Wightman's
2016 summer camp programs
is now open!

Visit www.campwightman.org /
summer camp to review the schedule



The Silver Lake 2016
Summer Brochure
is now available online!

Registration is now open
<http://silverlake.ctucc.org/>

Pewter Memorial Ornaments

Over thirty year ago, First Church held a fund raiser by purchasing pewter ornaments from silversmith James Gagnon. Mr. Gagnon was located in Riverton at the time. Recently, Mr. Gagnon moved his studio to the Whiting Mills across the street off of Holabird Ave.





It was mentioned during a cabinet meeting that many of our members today did not know the history behind the ornaments. Mr. Gagnon still has the ornaments for sale and for those who wish to add the memory of your loved ones is welcome to contact him. If you do, please let Barbara Mazzei know, so that she can add your loved ones names to the list that is placed in the bulletin each Christmas.





February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	1 Elexys Savoy	2 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Ground Hog Day Susan Tripodina	3 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Sabrina McAllister Bailey McCaw Julie Davy	4 LCS Meeting 6:00 pm	5 Daniel Hall	6 Kate Roys
7 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am PM Board 11:20 Super Bowl Sunday Grinder Pickup! Nicole Ladd Lorraine Tatar	8 Chris Ed Bd 6:45 pm	9 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	10 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Deacons Meeting 6:00  ASH WEDNESDAY Service 7:30 pm	11 Lincoln's Birthday Bonnie Geddes Dan Jones	12 Sandy Thibault Jessica Toomey	13 ♥ Ted & Donna Sherman
14 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots Praise Choir 9:30 am Valentine's Day Mathew Marvin Korie Valickis	15 President's Day Washington's Birthday Heather Richardson ♥ Robert & Ann Jones	16 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Mardi Gras Holly Cassaday Devan McCaw	17 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	18 LCS 7:00 pm Virginia Hughes Eric Smith Jessica Wu	19 Chinese New Year ♥ Paul & Diane Richards	20 Will Hurlbut Carol Miles Debbie Storrs
21 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 Curtis Blische George Majewski	22 Sharon Doyle	23 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm	24 CDC Liason 7:15 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm William Bastenbeck	25 LCS 7:00 pm Helen Nye	26 Bud Roberts Kelvin Smith	27 Prayer Shall Ministry 10:00 am Alexandra Cassaday
28 Worship Service 10:00 am Sledding at Camp Jewell Tentative Date Time TBA Jamie McAllister Eileen Bensle Rick Rice	29 Peyton Storrs			February Birthstone: Amethyst 	February Flower: Violet 	Astrological Signs Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18 Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson
 Moderator - Dan Jones
 Vice-Moderator - Tom Mazzei
 Clerk - Allison Graboski
 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
 Youth Choir - Katherine Timmeney / Praise Choir Director - Dan Jones
 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 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. Judy G. Allbee
 Telephone (860) 521-5421
 ABCCONN Web-Site www.abcconn.org

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

BELLRINGER

