

## Word from Pastor Lisa Gustafson

February is a short month with a big punch. We celebrate the birthdays of **beloved** presidents, we find out our **beloved** spring will return to us, we root for our **beloved** champions of the gridiron, and we send valentines to our **Beloved**.

**Beloved.** That is a word that comes into my mind this February. It is an adjective meaning greatly loved, dear to the heart. It is a noun meaning a person who is greatly loved. It comes from Middle English in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, *biloven*: to like or to love. It is the title of the 1987 Pulitzer prize winning book by Toni Morrison. Of all those meanings of "Beloved", there is one other very important use of the word yet to be mentioned and that is Beloved of God. Consider the verse in 1 John 4:

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God;  
and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.  
<sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.  
1 John 4:7-8 (KJV)*

The love of Jesus Christ is a central element of Christian belief and theology. It tells about the love of Jesus for humanity, the love of Christians for Christ, and the love of Christians for other people. This love is what makes the teachings of Jesus so revolutionary. Our love for Jesus reflects his love for us, his followers.

There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear,  
the sweetest name on earth.

O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!

What does it look like, this love of Jesus? What did it look like to the blindman by the pool of Bethesda or to the Samaritan woman at the well?

*Continued next page*



FEBRUARY 2017

First Church of Winsted  
95 North Main Street  
Winsted, CT 06098  
860-379-1778

Article Submission:  
[info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org)

To request a copy  
sent to your inbox  
send an email request  
to [dstorrs@snet.net](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)

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## Church News...

*Continued...*

What does it look like at this moment, in this place, in your life?

I urge you to set aside some time to think about these questions for yourself and for the life of our church. I urge you to consider coming to the February W.R.A.P. on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Come into God's presence and experience in word and music, just what it means to be the Beloved of GOD.

Blessings  
Pastor Lisa

### February Worship and Preaching Theme

February can be a time when the lack of sunlight affects our mood and ability to cope. The experts call it Seasonal Affective Disorder. But there is something else that factors in when our lives become too crowded, busy, overcommitted, and uncertain. I call it Spiritual Affective Disorder.

During February, our focus in worship is going to be on everyday spiritual practices that can deepen our experience of God and make us more "light-hearted." Just what we may all need when February rolls around?



To the congregation,  
Thank you for the Christmas  
gift cards. Your  
thoughtfulness is  
appreciated. Tricia

**WE DON'T GO TO  
CHURCH.  
WE ARE  
THE CHURCH  
AND WE EXIST  
FOR THE WORLD.**  
— CRAIG GROESCHEL

### STEAM VENT Coffee House

If you have musical friends who would like to be included in the line-up for Spring of 2017, have them email: [info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org). This spring the coffee houses will be held on:

**March 11 ~ April 8 ~ May 13 ~ June 10**

Open mic will run from 6 pm – 7 pm with the option of 1 to 3 songs up to a half hour depending on interest. Featured performers will begin at 7 pm with the last slot beginning at 9:30. **\*\*Update-March is full! 9:00 or 9:30 slots available in April, May or June!\*\***

**Help is always needed and appreciated**, setting up tables and chairs, cooking parts of the meal or, serving or helping to tear down at the end of the night.

The March Dinner Theme will be Italian Night, serving Lasagna, Baked Ziti with sauce and meat balls/sausage, salad and garlic bread! Yum yum! First come - first served! Benefit Missions.



## 2017 Mexico Mission Plans



For the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row, a group of youth and adults from First Church of Winsted will travel to Mexico this summer. We will be spending time working at a school for children with multiple physical and emotional disabilities. It is located on the Yucatan peninsula in the city of Merida and is called "SolyLuna." The school provides outpatient services otherwise not available. As we head home our hope is to stop in Cuba to visit a sister church. The Baptist Convention of Cuba has a very close relationship with the American Baptists. The size of the mission team is limited this year due to travel logistics. We ask participant to try to raise \$750 toward the costs of the mission trip (the actual cost per participant is over twice that amount). Many fundraisers make that goal achievable, including an annual work-a-thon held in June. We'd love to have you join us! Please contact Debby Kane at 860-307-8554 for more details.



## First Church Concert Outing Youth and confirmation class



Sunday . April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

6:30 pm. XL Center . Hartford

*Line up:*

Toby mac

Matt maher

Mandisa

Mac Powell I from third day

Capital kings

Ryan Stevenson

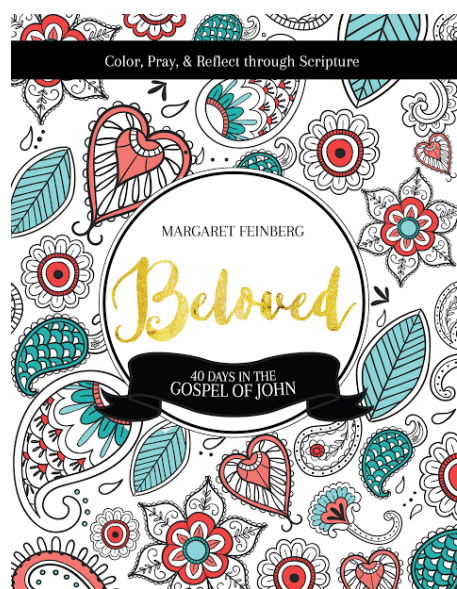
Hollyn

## 40 Days in the Gospel of John A Guided Reading for the Lenten Season

Take the challenge to read through the Gospel of John during LENT. The study guide breaks the gospel into 40 segments, with a Sabbath day each week. The guide is available at church.

Are you someone who likes to underline, circle, star, add exclamation marks and take notes? Margaret Feinberg, author and Bible Study leader, is organizing the Lent readings into a printed booklet, [\*Beloved: 40-Days in the Gospel of John\*](#).

This workbook contains the whole text of the Gospel of John in various translations so you can read, reflect, color, and doodle along the way.



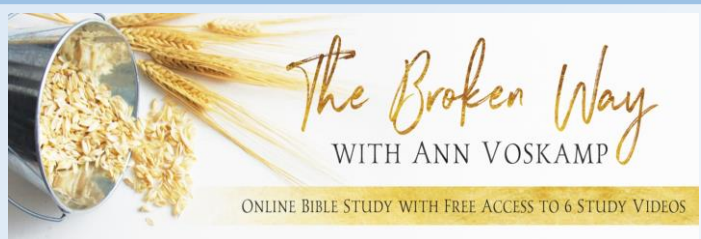
**This will be an extremely limited edition.**

You can secure your pre-order copy  
at Margaret Feinberg's webstore:  
<http://www.margaretfeinbergstore.com>

Cost of this book is \$14.99

**The Women's Bible Study Group** will be using the Gospel of John as their study during Lent. You can join us every Monday during Lent, beginning March 6 @ 5 pm. We meet at Pastor Lisa's home on Whiting Street. All women are welcome and invited to bring a friend.

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has NOT overcome it!" John 1:1-5**



## WHAT IF BROKENNESS IS THE PATH INTO THE ABUNDANT LIFE?

Broken dreams, broken promises, broken families and careers... broken joy. Shards of glass there at our feet. There isn't one of us who isn't carrying their own unspoken broke.

*The Broken Way* is a new six-week online Bible study with bestselling author Ann Voskamp, where you will discover that...

- wholeness and brokenness are not opposites
- the abundant life you crave is found in the broken pieces of your life
- you don't have to be afraid of broken things, because Christ is redeeming everything and you can actually experience genuinely breaking free into the most meaningful, fulfilling, joy-filled life.

Here are the six sessions:

- How Do We Live This One Broken Life
- Real Koinonia
- Living Cruciform
- Embracing Inconvenience
- Learning to Receive
- Who We Serve

**Check out the promo:**

**Go to YouTube and search: The Broken Way.**

## Meet your 2017 First Church Officers

*Voted into office at the Annual Meeting of First Church of Winsted on January 22, 2017:*

**Moderator - Dan Jones**

**Vice Moderator - Frank Artruc**

**Clerk - Laura McCaw / Treasurer - Debby Kane**

**Associate Treasurer - John Eggering**

**Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering**

This year I have been humbled and blessed by the vision, courage, strength and grace of the members and friends of First Church. This church is an extended family and you, celebrate the joys and support one another through difficult times. I want to thank each of you for sharing your stories, your faith and your courageous hope with me as we journey together in ministry.

One of the things I have come to like about God, is that we are not given much advance notice of what God's future hold. This one thing I am sure of: the year that lies ahead will be far more than we can ask or imagine. I look forward to discovering that future together.

Pastor Lisabeth Gustafson





**2017 Boar's Head Festival** was visually stunning. As the stage began to fill with the folks taking on the rolls, the overall effect was one of amazement. Jess Wu and Tino Gaspar with babe Eliana were the epitome of the Holy Family, the adoration of the mother for the child so apparent. Sharing the spirit of adoration, Courtney Toomey and Brian Quinones with baby Sydney on Sunday. There was no acting, this was real, as it would have been over 2,000 years ago!



The weather was not with us, (we cannot pick the weather) which affected attendance, with approximately 70 in attendance Saturday and 170 on Sunday, in a room that seats 250.

Smaller Audiences equal smaller income! The net after expenses was \$1,223.99, down about \$3,000 from the previous year.

We truly owe so much to those from other congregations for coming out to help retell this story, for 27 years. We also thank The Gilbert School Basketball Team...We could not do it without all them and you! Thanks be!



## 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 5 February 14 February 14 February 20 February 28 March 1	Ground Hog Day Super Bowl Grinder Pick up Valentine's Day WRAP Service President's Day Fat Tuesday – Mardi Gras Ash Wednesday
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		 Boar's Head Festival Pictures available on Facebook and at <a href="http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org">www.firstchurchofwinsted.org</a> Boar's Head Festival tab!
	February 5 February 7 February 19 February 28 Dates subject to change	PM Board 11:20 am Board of Christian Ed. 6:45 pm Deacons after worship Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	

## ★HAPPY BIRTHDAY★

### February Birthdays

01 - Elexys Savoy  
02 - Susan Tripodina  
03 - Sabrina McAllister  
03 - Bailey McCaw  
03 - Julie Davy  
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: [dstorrs@snet.net](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)



**Camp Wightman**  
Registration for Camp Wightman's  
2017 summer camp programs  
is now open!  
Visit [www.campwightman.org](http://www.campwightman.org) /  
summer camp to review the schedule



The Silver Lake 2017  
Summer Brochure  
is now available online!

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



***“Take chances,  
make mistakes. That’s how you grow. Pain  
nourishes your courage. You have to fail in  
order to practice being brave.”***  
**-May Tyler Moore (1936 – 2017)**





# February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
  <b>Artist: Karen Delton</b>	 <b>Worship Choir Rehearsal</b> Tuesday at 5:30 pm Worship Choir @ 9:30 am on Sundays, 2/5, 2/19  <b>Muddy Boots Praise Choir</b> @ 9:00 on 2/12	<b>1</b>  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  Elexys Savoy	<b>2</b>  LCS Meeting 6:00 pm  <b>Ground Hog Day</b>  Susan Tripodina	<b>3</b>  <b>National Wear RED Day</b>  Sabrina McAllister Bailey McCaw Julie Davy	<b>4</b>  <b>World Cancer Day</b>	
<b>5</b>  Worship Service <b>10:00 am</b> Worship Choir 9:30 am PM Board 11:20  <b>Super Bowl Sunday Grinder Pickup!</b>	<b>6</b>  Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm  Kate Roys	<b>7</b>  Worship Choir 5:30 pm  Chris Ed Bd 6:45 pm  Nicole Ladd Lorraine Tatar	<b>8</b>  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Bonnie Geddes Dan Jones
<b>12</b>  Worship Service 10:00 am  Muddy Boots Praise Choir 9:00 am  <b>Confirmation Class Lincoln's Birthday</b>  Sandy Thibault Jessica Toomey	<b>13</b>  Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm  ♥ Ted & Donna Sherman	<b>14</b>  Worship Choir 5:30 pm  <b>WRAP Service At 7:00 pm</b>  <b>Valentine's Day</b>  Mathew Marvin Korie Valickis	<b>15</b>  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  Heather Richardson ♥ Robert & Ann Jones	<b>16</b>  LCS 7:00 pm  Holly Cassaday Devan McCaw	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Virginia Hughes Eric Smith Jessica Wu
<b>19</b>  Worship Service 10:00 am  Worship Choir 9:30  Deacons meet after service  ♥ Paul & Diane Richards	<b>20</b>  <b>President's Day Washington's Birthday</b>  Women's Bible Study 5:00  Will Hurlbut Carol Miles Debbie Storrs	<b>21</b>  Worship Choir 5:30 pm  Curtis Blische George Majewski	<b>22</b>  CDC Liason 7:15  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  Sharon Doyle	<b>23</b>  LCS 7:00 pm	<b>24</b>  William Bastenbeck	<b>25</b>  <b>Prayer Shall Ministry 10:00 am</b>  Helen Nye
<b>26</b>  Worship Service 10:00 am  Bud Roberts Kelvin Smith	<b>27</b>  Women's Bible Study 5:00  Alexandra Cassaday	<b>28</b>  Worship Choir 5:30 pm  Cabinet 7:00 pm  Jamie McAllister Eileen Bensle Rick Rice	<b>Mar 1</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b>   Peyton Storrs	<b>February Birthstone: Amethyst</b>  	<b>February Flower: Violet</b>  	<b>Astrological Signs</b>  <b>Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 18 Pisces: Feb 19 – Mar 20</b>



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson  
 Moderator - Dan Jones  
 Vice-Moderator - Frank Artruc  
 Clerk - Laura McCaw  
 Treasurer - Debby Kane / Associate Treasurer - John Eggering  
 Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering  
 Board of Deacons - Co-chairs - Not yet Elected  
 Property Maintenance - Not yet Elected  
 Christian Education Chair/Sunday School Director - Not yet elected  
 Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu  
 Muddy Boots Praise Choir and Puddle Jumpers youth choir - 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. W. Kenneth Williams  
 Telephone (860) 521-5421  
 ABCCONN Web-Site [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org)

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

# BELLRINGER

