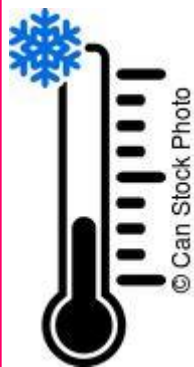


Word from Pastor Lisa Gustafson



until further notice...

It started in January. A decision was made to move Sunday morning worship into the Gathering Room because it was impossible to keep the Sanctuary warm enough for comfort. The temperature on January 7 ranged from - 9 to a balmy 16. In a snap, chairs were brought in from the parlor and arranged for seating, a table was set up for communion and the keyboard was ready for music. Twenty-seven brave souls ventured out that day (21 adults, 4 youth and 2 children). It was clear to all who were gathered that GOD was present!

We have continued to meet for the past several weeks in the Gathering Room. Chairs have been brought from downstairs, choir seating has been added and a worship center created. From comments made by those in attendance, we are enjoying the closeness of gathering in a smaller space. The decision has been made to meet in the Gathering Room until the weather warms up and becomes more spring-like.

This winter's frigid temperatures and the adjustments we have made at First Church for meetings and worship present us with spiritual insights.

The first scripture that came into my mind came from Genesis. Jacob laid down to sleep one night and he had that dream where the angels were going up and down a ladder. When Jacob woke up he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God..." Genesis 28: 16-17

Whether we are in the Sanctuary or the Gathering Room, I know for certain that God is in this place. The architecture, the Bibles in the



FEBRUARY 2018

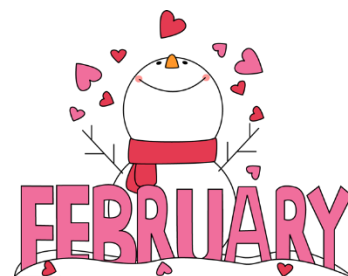
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Article Submission:
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

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Church News...

Pastor's word - continued

pews, the communion table and worship center, the organ and the pulpit surely are signs that our Sanctuary is dedicated to the worship and praise of GOD. This January we have experienced the presence of God in the Gathering Room as well. We have been reminded of the importance of being together in one place. It isn't the room. It is the people. The community gathered is where we find our strength and our purpose...the strength and purpose to live our daily lives as builders of God's Kingdom in Winsted.

And as I think about our gathering together each Sunday in a different room than we are accustomed to I hear Jesus' own words. He was in Capernaum with his disciples and there was time for some teaching. And the disciples were full of questions about sins and forgiveness. And Jesus told them about lost sheep and talking disagreements out with another. He taught them about the abiding presence of GOD, wherever they were.

I invite you to come and gather with your church family each Sunday. Come for fellowship and worship and rekindle and renew your strength and purpose as a follower of Jesus, as a child of God.

I leave you with the word's of Jesus himself:

"...When two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." Matthew 18:20 from the Message



To the congregation,

Thank you for the Christmas gift card. Your kindness and thoughtfulness during my almost 20 years with you (I can't believe it!) has always been appreciated.

Tricia

Meet your 2018 First Church Officers

Voted into office at the Annual Meeting of First Church of Winsted on January 21, 2018:

Moderator - Frank Artruc

Vice Moderator - Dan Jones

Clerk - Laura McCaw

Treasurer - Debby Kane

**Associate Treasurer
Tanya Mongitore**

**Financial Secretary
Joan Eggering**



If you have musical friends who would like to be included in the line-up for Spring of 2018, have them email: info@firstchurchofwinsted.org. This spring the coffee houses will be held on:

March 10 ~ April 14 ~ May 12 ~ June 9

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.

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.

What R U Up 2?

Our Lenten Worship Series

"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
- Mark 8: 31-38

Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, this season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name.

What pursuits are we up to in our lives that call us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church?

Ash Wednesday, February 14th Worship at 7 p.m.
Finding your Life: Listening Deeply

As we prepare for our 40-day journey of Lent, we "turn around" (the root meaning of the word "repent") from the distractions of daily noise and focus our attention on listening in a deeper way. Writer Parker Palmer suggests we must listen "to what our life is telling us"—in other words, to listen to the deep wisdom God gave to us as a birthright, connecting to God's purpose once again.



First Sunday in Lent February 18 "Come Up"

The first Sunday of this series brings us to the moment at which Jesus comes up out of the waters of baptism to hear, "You are my beloved." We are called to come up out of the depths of whatever seeks to keep us under and know that we are beloved of God. Come up, for now is the time to be fully who you are created to be for the sake of the world.

Second Sunday in Lent February 25 "Raise Up"
Contemporary Worship

The story of Jesus' response to the temple being made into a marketplace was profound and may have been another step toward his ultimate demise on the cross. He refers to raising up a new temple in three days—something his disciples later remembered as a foretelling of his resurrection. How might we raise up as the Body of Christ and be a holy temple—a holy dwelling place of God—in the world?

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

| <i>Celebrate With Us...</i> | | <i>Looking Forward</i> | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Sunday - 9 am | Bible Study | February 2 | Ground Hog Day |
| Sunday - 10 am | Worship | February 4 | Super Bowl Grinder Pick up |
| Sunday - 11:15 am | Puddle Jumpers Rehearsal | February 13 | Fat Tuesday – Mardi Gras |
| Tuesday - 5:30 pm | Rehearsal~Worship Choir | February 14 | Ash Wednesday |
| Wednesday - 8:00 pm | AA / Alanon Meetings | February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Thursday - 7:00 pm | Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers | February 19 | President's Day |
| Thursday - 6:00 pm | Girl Scouts | February 25 | WRAP Service |
|  | <i>Board Meetings...</i> | |  |
| | February 4 February 6 February 11 February 2 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 - Suzie Larson
 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
 22 - Sharon Doyle
 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



Camp Wightman

Registration for Camp Wightman's
 2018 summer camp programs
 is now open!

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



The Silver Lake 2018
 Summer Brochure
 is now available online!

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

Laurel City Singers



Open to new singers...!!

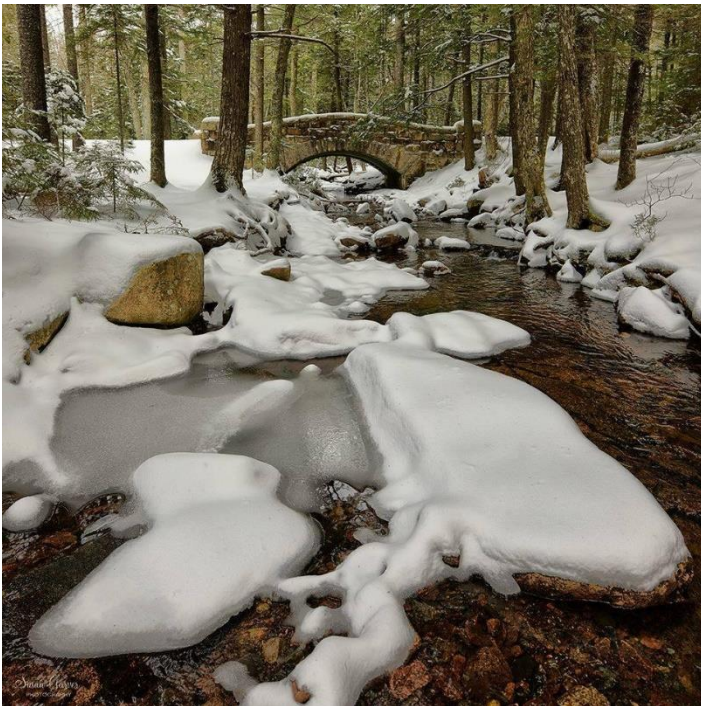
Rehearsals beginning March 1st for our Slightly
 Off-Broadway concert to be held on June 10 at 2 --
 PM. Those interested please call Debbie Storrs at
 860-482-3491.



The Beauty of God's Creation – WINTER 2017



Photographer: Katherine Griswold



Photographer: Sandra Thibault



Photographers: Kelly McCarthy



Isabelle Rein



Martha Rein



Photographers: David DuRocher



Holly Marchand Cassaday



Photographers: Sandra Thibault






Debbie Storrs



February 2018



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|  Artist: Karen Delton | February Birthstone: Amethyst  | February Flower: Violet  | Astrological Signs <i>Aquarius:</i> Jan 21 – Feb 18 <i>Pisces:</i> Feb 19 – Mar 20 | 1 <i>Overeaters Anonymous</i> 10:00 am <i>Girl Scouts</i> 5:00 pm <i>Elexis Savoy</i> | 2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> National Wear Red Day <i>Suzie Larson</i> | 3 <i>Sabrina McAllister</i> <i>Bailey McCaw</i> <i>Julie Davy</i> |
| 4 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00 am <i>Worship Choir</i> 9:30 am <i>Puddle Jumpers</i> 11:15 am <i>Property Maintenance Bd</i> 11:15 am Super Bowl Grinder pickup | 5 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:00 pm <i>At Pastor Lisa's</i> | 6 <i>Worship Choir</i> 5:30 <i>BOCE</i> 6:45 pm <i>Kate Roys</i> | 7 <i>AA/Alanon</i> 8:00 pm <i>Lorraine Tatar</i> | 8 <i>Overeaters Anonymous</i> 10 AM <i>Girl Scouts</i> 5:00 PM | 9 | 10 |
| 11 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00 am <i>Muddy Boots</i> 9:30 am <i>Puddle Jumpers</i> 11:15 am <i>Diaconate</i> 11:30 <i>Bonnie Geddes</i> <i>Dan Jones</i> | 12 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:00 pm <i>At Pastor Lisa's</i> <i>Jessica Toomey</i> <i>Sandra Thibault</i> | 13 <i>Worship Choir</i> 5:30 pm Mardi Gras Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day ♥ <i>Ted & Donna Sherman</i> | 14 <i>AA/Alanon</i> 8:00 pm Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday <i>Matthew Marvin</i> <i>Korie Valickis</i> | 15 <i>Overeaters Anonymous</i> 10 AM <i>Girl Scouts</i> 5:00 PM <i>Heather Richardson</i> ♥ <i>Robert & Ann Jones</i> | 16 <i>Chinese New Year</i> <i>Holly Cassaday</i> <i>Devan McCaw</i> | 17 |
| 18 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00 am <i>Worship Choir</i> 9:30 am <i>Puddle Jumpers</i> 11:15 am <i>Virginia Hughes</i> <i>Eric Smith</i> <i>Jess Wu</i> | 19 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:00 pm <i>At Pastor Lisa's</i> Presidents Day ♥ <i>Paul & Diane Richards</i> | 20 <i>Worship Choir</i> 5:30 pm <i>Cabinet</i> 7:00 pm <i>Will Hurlbut</i> <i>Carol Miles</i> <i>Debbie Storrs</i> | 21 <i>AA/Alanon</i> 8:00 pm <i>Curtis Blische</i> | 22 <i>Overeaters Anonymous</i> 10 AM <i>Girl Scouts</i> 5:00 PM | 23 <i>Bellringer Deadline</i> | 24 |
| 25 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00 am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00 am <i>Puddle Jumpers</i> 9:30 am WRAP <i>Helen Nye</i> | 26 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:00 pm <i>At Pastor Lisa's</i> <i>Kelvin Smith</i> | 27 <i>Worship Choir</i> 5:30 pm <i>Alexandra Cassaday</i> | 28 <i>AA/Alanon</i> 8:00 pm <i>Jaimie McAllister</i> <i>Eileen Bensle</i> <i>Rick Rice</i> | | | |



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor – The Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson

Moderator - Frank Artruc Vice-Moderator - Dan Jones
 Clerk - Laura McCaw
 Board of Deacons - Kathy Garneau
 Property Maintenance - Frank Artruc
 Treasurer - Debby Kane / Associate Treasurer – Tanya Mongitore
 Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering
 Christian Education Chair/Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei
 Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu
 Muddy Boots - Dan Jones
 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. W. Kenneth Williams
 Telephone (860) 521-5421
 ABCCONN Web-Site www.abcconn.org

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

BELLRINGER

