

I'm a Pastor and I want you to quit church, now! By Chris Sonkson

At a time when church attendance is shrinking in America, I, a pastor, am encouraging people to quit church. Why?

The answer is birthed out of conversations and research I've been a part of over the last several years.

Regularly, I meet and train pastors and church leaders from all over the country through my leadership platform, ChurchBOOM. The conversations carry a common theme – a lot of people who attend church are passive towards serving, giving and community outreach.

In most churches, 80 percent of the work is being carried out by 20 percent or less of the people. We've become a church of spectators and the pastoral staff is getting burned out. According to my own personal research, the problems are even bigger than the 80/20 principle. Only 39 percent of active believers consider the Bible as the literal word of God. Less than 20 percent of professing believers follow the biblical principle of giving. Only 5 percent have shared their faith with a non-believer. More than half of all church members attend church once a month or less.

Something has to change.

Casual attendance and the belief that others will serve, give and share the Gospel are tearing down churches across our country brick by brick. As believers, it's time that we are either all in or we get out. The solution is simple: quit!

That's right – quit! If we quit the casual way we approach God's principles can you imagine what would happen in our personal walks of faith and in our community of believers?

What if every believer exercised generosity? What if every Christian fought for loyalty in the local church? What if everyone served in their God-given purpose? What would happen if we stopped simply believing and started belonging?

If we would only quit the way we approach our relationship to Christ and our local church, the blessing, the reward, the joy, the fulfillment, the purpose, and the increase would radically transform our lives and the world. Together, we can revolutionize the church!

But my conversations over the past several years revealed the spiritual habits necessary for personal and church growth and revealed the "why" behind disengagement in the church.

The truth is, if we don't feel passionate about something we don't do it. If we don't like something that happens in the church, we find another one. If the spiritual practices don't fit our lifestyle, then we don't do them.

This mindset permeates our "I want it now and I want it my way" culture and is only enforced through social media, website choices, TV options and countless other platforms that have risen in prominence in our lives. This is not the way God intended the church to live.

The local church isn't a building – it's a body of believers fulfilling God's purpose in our lives.

When these believers approach their individual involvement and commitment in a casual manner it weakens the entire body of Christ and the impact we are called to have.

As a result, we lose and so does the local church. God wants us to win, to thrive, to fulfill our potential in him. **We will not experience the abundance he desires for us until we quit our current approach and we are all-in.**

Once you go all-in on generosity, serving, outreach, discipleship and the other biblical behaviors laid out in his word then look out, because God will rain on your life with his blessings like you have never experienced

Jesus felt the church was worth dying for – it should be our mission as Christians to value living for it.

This op-ed is adapted from the book "Quit Church."

Chris Sonkson and his wife Laura are lead pastors of [South Hills Church](#). He is the founder of [Church BOOM](#), an organization that has provided personal coaching to more than 200 churches and impacted thousands of leaders. His latest book is "[Quit Church](#)."



JUL-AUG 2018

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To request a copy
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Happy Summer!

Church News...

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to have Sunday school on July 29, August 5, 12, 19 and 26. We will all meet in a "one room school house" setting. All children are welcome to attend!

Our Rally Day event is scheduled for September 9, 2018.

Have a great summer and we hope to see you when you can make it to service!



Summer is a season filled with blessings. That starts with kids, of course, since summer offers a long-dreamed-of break from school. Probably teachers feel the same way. But summer offers countless other blessings for those who know where to find them: summer blockbusters in movie theaters, warm sand between your toes, neighborhood barbecues, hot sunshine on your face, cool air-conditioning after the hot sunshine -- the list goes on and on. As you enjoy the many blessings of the summer season, keep those in your prayers who are struggling with whatever holds them down. Make time to be with God and please join us when you can in Worship together.

This Sunday we are blessed to have **The Rev. Tim Chesser** sharing the Word with us. The Rev. Tim Chesser comes from Norwich, CT and is an ordained Minister with American Baptist Church, USA. Our Scripture

reading is Mark 5:21 - 43 and the sermon is titled "Mission Interrupted". We will also be having "all ages" Sunday school with Mrs. Mazzei.

On August 5th, we will be having a church informational meeting immediately after the Worship service. We have not done this in the past but the Cabinet would like to share with the congregation the status of how the search for the Interim Pastor is going, the financial status of the church, the results of the recent survey that was sent out and the possibility of leasing the empty CDC building. And anything else that you may have questions about. We would encourage all to attend and will be sending out a summary to the church members after the meeting if you are unable to come. Please feel free to contact our Moderator, Frank Artruc at (203) 560-8544 or firstchurchwinstedmoderator@gmail.com or any member of the Cabinet with any questions or concerns.

"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him" Psalm 62:1

Blessings,
Debby Kane



Photo: Cindy Roys
Keep looking up! I learn from the past, dream about the future and look up. There's nothing like a beautiful sunset to end a healthy day.
-Rachel Boston



Old Church Sign... pictured Shirley Hutchens (Deb Storrs and Joan Eggering's Aunt). Our grandparents attended Huntington Street Baptist Church.

It seems like a struggle that all churches are still facing today!

This is a prayer that the ladies of the church said before meetings:

OTHERS

Charles D Meigs

"For none of us liveth to himself and no man doeth to himself." Romans 14:7.

Lord, help me live from day to day in such a self-forgetful way.

That even when I kneel to pray, my prayer shall be for OTHERS.

Help me in all the work I do to ever be sincere and true, and know that all I'd do for you, must needs be done for OTHERS. Let "SELF" be crucified and slain and buried deep and all in vain.

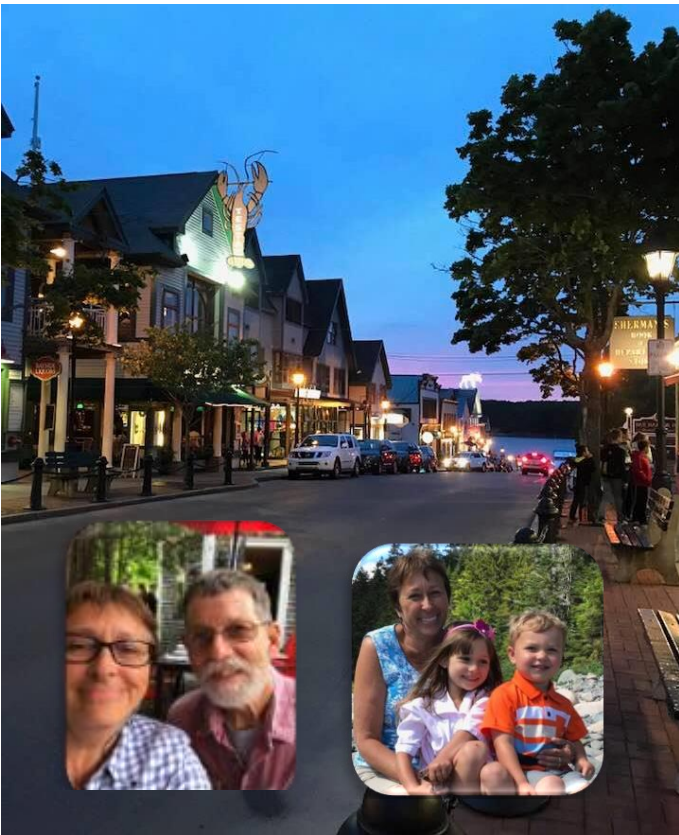
May efforts be to rise again, unless to live for OTHERS.

And when my work on earth is done and my new work in heaven begun, may I forget the crown I've won while thinking still of others.

OTHERS Lord, yes OTHERS! Help me to live for OTHERS.

Let this my motto be that I may live like THEE.

Summer Vacation Pics



Bar Harbor, ME – Steve & Cindy Roys Anniversary



Also Maine...Cyndi Whipple



Connecticut Shoreline...Jim Paradis - Steam Vent

*Small craft in a harbor that's still and serene
Give no indication what their ways have been
They rock at their moorings all nestled in dreams
Away from the roll of the sea!*

-Allister MacGillivray



Congratulations to the 2018 Laurel Court:

Laurel Queen Anna King

Laurel King Adrian Delacruz

Runner-up Queen Alexis Kacmarcik

Runner-up King Andrey Zhovkly

(Thrones provided by First Church of Winsted)

"The linden, in the fervors of July,
Hums with a louder concert. When the wind
Sweeps the broad forest in its summer prime,
As when some master-hand exulting sweeps
The keys of some great organ, ye give forth
The music of the woodland depths, a hymn
Of gladness and of thanks."

- William Cullen Bryant, Among the Trees



*At night, I open the window and ask the moon to come
and press its face against mine. Breathe into me. Close
the language-door and open the love-window. The moon
won't use the door, only the window.*

-Rumi

FREE ADMISSION



Praise God Fest - 2018

Saturday, July 21, 2018
11:00 AM - 3:15 PM
Coe Park, Torrington

LIVE Music, FREE Food, Prayer Tent, Interpretive Dance, Face Painting, Kids Games & Prizes, Balloon Sculptures, Bicycle Giveaways

PARTICIPATING MINISTRIES:
Advent Christian, AME Zion, First Congregational, Freedom Hills Center, Full Gospel Lighthouse, Grace Life, Joseph's House, Mid Week Worship, New Creations in Christ, Thomaston Covenant, Torrington Foursquare, United Youth, Voice of the Martyrs...



LAURELIVE BENEFIT CONCERT

Acoustic Showcase is *Playing it Forward* in the town of Winsted hosting a FREE event & concert. The event includes: Bands, Singers, Songwriters, Children's activities, Refreshments & More!

When: AUGUST 10th

Where: Winsted Green - East End

Time: 2pm-9pm

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Band Names: | |
| 2PM | Eric Paradine Folk |
| 3PM | Jim Moore Classic Country & Hits of the 70s |
| 4PM | Salmon Eye Alternative Rock & Originals |
| 5PM | Blue Yonder Classic Rock |
| 6PM | Matchstick Architects Rock, Country, Folk, & Americana |
| 7PM | Axe Factory Classic Rock |
| 8PM | Travin Trout "Happy Cocktail" |

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

All proceeds will be donated to Salvation Army in Winsted, FISH in Torrington, & Helping Hands Soup Kitchen in Winsted.
Come & join us!

Sponsored by the town of Winsted

FRIENDS OF
MAIN STREET
WINSTED
Presents the

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST COMMUNITY BANK

THURSDAY EVENINGS - 7 PM

EAST END PARK - WINSTED

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT
In case of rain, concerts will be held across the street at First Church of Winsted.

July 12 - The Farmington Valley Band
Concert music, favorites, marches

July 19 - The Kerry Boys
Connecticut's Irish Balladeers

July 26 - Theresa Wright & Company
Jazz & Soul

August 2 - Potter's Field
Rock & Roll

August 9 - Redline
Hits of the 80s & 90s

August 16 - The Zolla Boys
Bluegrass sensations!

August 23 - Last Train Out
Classic Rock & Blues

For more information call 860-738-3351 or email fomswinsted@gmail.com



LITCHFIELD SALTWATER GRILLE

Charity of the Month - July

37th Annual Family Nature Day

White Memorial Conservation Center

September 22, 2018

The day is filled with live animals, guided nature walks, information booths, horse drawn wagon rides, and yummy food. Shop until you drop at the artisans market. Get in a bidding war at our silent auction. Lots of nature crafts for the kiddies too! This family-friendly event happens rain or shine and is entirely dependant upon contributions.

You Can Help!

Make a reservation at Saltwater Grille for any day during the month of July (Friday/Saturday lunch only) and we will donate 10% of your check to support White Memorial Conservation Center Family Day!

SALTWATER GRILLE
26 COMMONS DRIVE
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT

860-567-4900
SALTWATER-GRILLE.COM

| Upcoming Events | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Celebrate With Us... | | Looking Forward | |
| Worship | Sunday – 10:00 am | July 04 | Independence Day |
| Rehearsal~Worship Choir | Summer Break – Resuming in August | July 7-15 | Mexico Mission |
| AA / Alanon Meetings | Wednesday - 7:30 pm | Aug 05 | Church Semi-Annual Meeting |
| Laurel City Singers | Summer Hiatus - See you in September | Aug 26 | Ice Cream Sundae!! |
| | | Sept 03 | Labor Day |
| | | Sept 08 | Steam Vent Coffee House |
| | | Sept 09 | Sunday School Rally Day |
|  | | Board Meetings | |
| | | No Meeting in July -TBA No Meeting in July-Aug TBA No Meeting in July-Aug 19 July 24-Aug 21 <i>Photo left: Cyndi Whipple</i> | Board of Christian Ed. PM Board Deacons Cabinet Meeting <i>Photo right: Jim Paradis</i> |
| | |  | |



JULY BIRTHDAYS

*Georgette Benson

02 - Riley Geddes
 03 - Justin Richards
 04 - J R McCaw
 05 - Derek Storrs
 06 - Bill Hassig
 06 - Gail Roberts
 08 - Amelia Roberts
 08 - Dawn Cyr
 09 - Donna Sherman
 09 - James Relihan
 10 - Ash NeJaime
 10 - Brenda Sherman
 12 - Kyle Valickis
 14 - Adam Bensle
 14 - Charles McCaw III
 17 - Dawn Hughes
 19 - Kendra McCaw
 20 - Donald Bunel
 20 - Ken Storrs
 20 - Peter Toomey
 21 - Gary Storrs
 23 - Barbara Woodard
 23 - Gary Valickis
 25 - Denise Jones
 29 - Gretchen Fredericksen
 31 - Meghan Kane

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 03 - Erik & Ashley Fontanez
 ♥ 19 - Jay & Lisa Nanni
 ♥ 26 - Mike & Tricia Wu

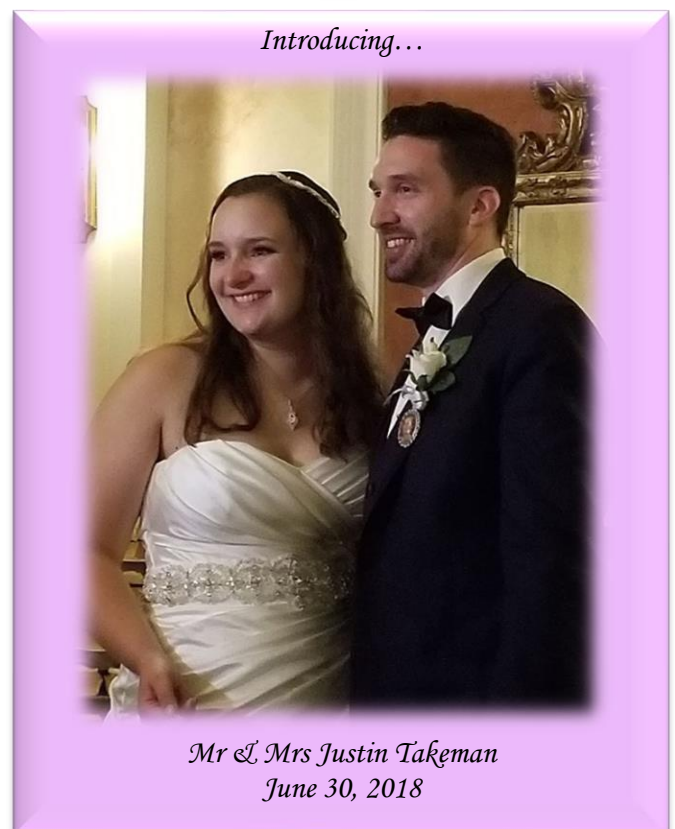
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

*Samantha Ostrander

02 - Zachary Sibbach
 05 - Cam Picard
 05 - Kai Picard
 07 - Pauline Fancher
 09 - Brandi Gilbert-Corey
 10 - Jane Lovejoy
 10 - Jennifer Marsh
 12 - Chuck McCaw
 14 - Brett McAllister
 14 - Nadya Roys
 17 - Richard Relihan
 20 - Reece Geddes
 20 - Tanya Mongitore
 20 - Jaron Morris
 22 - SaraLee Relihan
 22 - Aleigh Valickis
 23 - Brigitte Smyth
 24 - Erik Fontanez
 25 - Kyle Jones
 27 - Nicole Martin
 29 - Ashley Jones
 29 - Aiden Picard
 30 - Ben McCaw
 30 - Christine Steele

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 02 - Tim & Dawn Hughes
 ♥ 09 - Dave & Rhonda LeKang
 ♥ 18 - Gary & Debbie Storrs
 ♥ 18 - Roger Hurlbut & Julie Davy
 ♥ 31 - Richard & Barbara Mazzei






Mr & Mrs Justin Takeman
 June 30, 2018



July 2018



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| 1 Worship Service 10:00 am | 2 Riley Geddes | 3 Justin Richards | 4 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM Independence Day J R McCaw | 5 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Derek Storrs | 6 Bill Hassig Gail Roberts | 7 |
| 8 Worship Service 10:00 am Amelia Roberts Dawn Sherman | 9 Donna Sherman | 10 Ash NeJaime Brenda Sherman | 11 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM | 12 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Kristine Ohotnicky Kyle Valickis | 13 | 14 Adam Bensle Charles McCaw III |
| 15 Worship Service 10:00 am | 16 | 17 Dawn Hughes Aiden Callahan | 18 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM | 19 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Kendra McCaw | 20 Ken Storrs Peter Toomey | 21 Gary Storrs |
| 22 Worship Service 10:00 am | 23 Barbara Woodard Gary Valickis | 24 Cabinet 7:00 PM | 25 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM Denise Jones | 26 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm ♥ Mike & Tricia Wu | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Worship Service 10:00 am Gretchen Fredericksen | 30 | 31 Meghan Kane |  Artist: Karen Delton | July Birthstone: Ruby  | July Flower: Larkspur  | Astrological Signs Cancer: June 22 – July 22 Leo July 23 – Aug 22 |

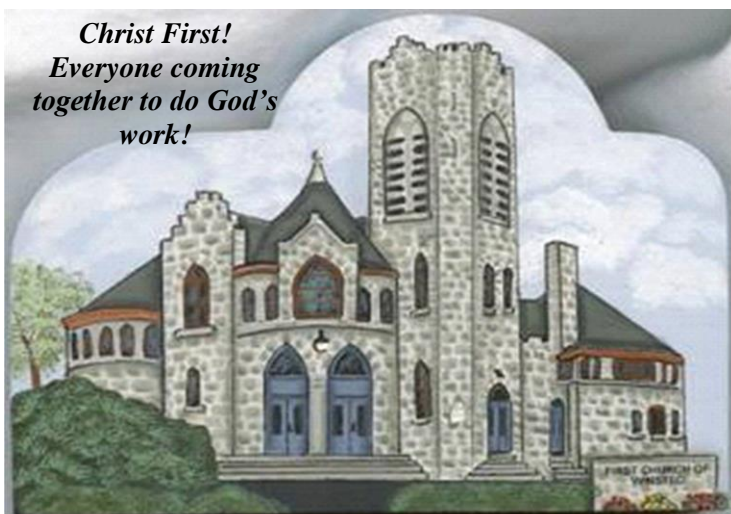


August 2017



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
|  Artist: Karen Delton | August Birthstone: Peridot  | August Flower  Gladiola | 1 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM | 2 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Zachary Sibbach ♥ Tim & Dawn Hughes | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Worship Service 10:00 am Semi-Annual Informational Meeting | 6 | 7 †Pauline Fancher | 8 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM | 9 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Brandi Gilbert-Corey ♥ Dave & Rhonda LeKang | 10 Jane Lovejoy | 11 |
| 12 Worship Service 10:00 am Chuck McCaw | 13 | 14 Brett McAllister Nadya Roys | 15 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM | 16 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm | 17 | 18 ♥ Roger Hurlbut & Julie Davy ♥ Gary & Debbie Storrs |
| 19 Worship Service 10:00 am Diaconate 11:00 am | 20 Rebecca Geddes †Owen Lovejoy Tanya Mongitore Jaron Morris | 21 Cabinet 7:00 PM | 22 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM Aleigh Valickis | 23 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Brigitte Smyth | 24 | 25 Kyle Jones |
| 26 Worship Service 10:00 am Ice Cream Sundae | 27 Nicole Martin †George Stickles | 28 | 29 AA/Alanon 7:30 PM Ashley Jones | 30 Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Ben McCaw Christine Steele ♥ Rich & Barb Mazzei | 31 | Astrological Signs Leo July 23 – Aug 23 Virgo Aug 24 - Sept 23 |

Christ First!
Everyone coming
together to do God's
work!



Artist: Karen Delton

Moderator - Frank Artruc Vice-Moderator - Dan Jones
Clerk - Lisa Nanni
Board of Deacons - Kathy Garneau
Property Maintenance - Frank Artruc
Treasurer - Debby Kane / Associate Treasurer - Deb Storrs
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
(July & August - 9:30 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

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut - ABCCONN

Executive Minister: The Rev. Dr. Harry L. Riggs, II

Telephone (860) 521-5421

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BELLRINGER

