

Word from the Pastor

Summer Greetings,

Many people think that the ministry of our Church slows down or is put on hold during the summer months. After all, we can't deny the fact that we all take some time for vacation and attendance at worship services fluctuates widely in July and August.

That said, the ministry of our Church continues in two important ways. There are the obvious activities that continue. There is Sunday School for the children who are able to be with us on Sundays. There is an informal Bible Study group that will be meeting. We are sending a dozen members of our Church to Mexico for the 8th annual Mission Trip. The Bellringer is circulated, and preparations are being made by the Church Boards and the Church Cabinet for the fall.

But there is a second, less obvious way that the ministry of our Church goes on throughout the summer months. Whether you are far away on a long deserved vacation, or whether you are sitting around a table with friends in town, each of us is doing ministry through smiles, by listening to the concerns of others, and by our mere presence. Ministry doesn't just happen through formal Church activities. You don't need the approval of any Board to do God's work. Whether you listen patiently to an angry co-worker, hug a friend who is going through a tough time, or smile at someone you walk by in the grocery store, you are acting as the hands and reflecting the face of God.

While I am in no way downplaying the training, dedication and persistence of people like the Jehovah's Witnesses who go from door to door doing God's work while effortlessly using religious lingo, the Gospel message that Jesus asked us to share doesn't just happen when we use a certain vocabulary. The way you act and the way you treat others is not only a powerful witness of God's love, but it is what effectively sparks an interest in God. When you talk to others about where you go to Church and why you go there, you are doing evangelism.

One of the characteristics that make us distinctive for some other churches is the fact that we don't have one common definition of faith in God, but we all express our faith through compassion, caring and kindness. Whenever a call about a need goes out, whether away or nearby, the members of our congregation respond. And through the collective responses, the need is always met (and usually exceeded). And I honestly believe that this does not stop just because we are not all together in the same place nor because we are not dealing with a church related situation.

Each of us is the hands and face of Christ. And wherever we happen to be, we are doing ministry. So the ministry of our Church is in full force throughout the summer months!

I hope that you all have an opportunity to enjoy some relaxation during these summer months.

Blessings,

Mike



JULY-AUGUST 2014

**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**

Inside this issue:

Church News	2
News Con't	3
Class of 2014	
Trivia	
Youth	4
Upcoming Events	5
Birthdays/Taco Pizza	
July Calendar	6
August Calendar	7
Church Info	8
Article submission deadline 25 th each month	

Laurel Queen 2014



Sarah Martin

New Summer Hours for July and August!
Worship Service at 9:30 AM!

Church News...

Check us out online!

www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

Like us on Facebook!

Search: First Church of Winsted!

Board of Christian Education News

BOCE wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to everyone for their help and support making Children's Sunday such a successful. It was a great day right down to the weather.

Summer Sunday school will continue with Barbara Mazzei and Deb Storrs will be having periodic music classes over the summer for the Rock Starz.

We are working on putting together a Middler's activity sometime this summer. Details to follow!



Class
of
2014

Rhett
Geddes

Congrats!

The Magic of Daniel Green Wolf Boar's Head Fest 2015!



Greenwolfmagic.com

SUMMER HOURS

Summer worship services in July and August will begin at 9:30 AM!

OUR NEW BABY!



We purchased an almost new Yamaha Baby Grand from Falcetti's Music in Springfield. The prior owner used it for just a few years and then traded up to a concert hall Yamaha piano. It cost about half of what a new one would have cost, and still came with a 5 year warranty. Our new "baby" was made possible by gifts from the Book of Remembrance, the Helena Grohs Music Fund and a generous but anonymous benefactor. Well, it doesn't really look like this! But it makes us this happy!

Due to the high humidity in our sanctuary year round, you'll notice that there are now two dehumidifiers in place to maintain a slightly drier environment. This will benefit both the new piano and the organ.

MEXICO MISSION 2014

At around 4:00 am on Saturday, July 12th, nearly a dozen church members will leave Winsted to Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. Our Mexico Mission Team will depart on a 6:15am flight (the Pastor booked the reservations on a 9am flight but the airline changed the flight schedule!) and by 7pm Winsted time will be at Casa Hogar in Oaxaca, Mexico.

This will be their first trip to Mexico for Aidan Callahan, Alex Artruc and Mike Artruc. The rest of the team members have been on at least one of the previous 7 mission trips to Mexico. Because of a decrease in the number of

mission teams visiting Casa Hogar, the work list is a bit more challenging that in prior years.

Our Church agreed to be responsible for the replacement of the back wall of the Casa Hogar compound. It currently is made of cinderblocks and cement, and has been leaning more precariously as the weeks pass. When originally constructed, it was an above ground wall that merely served to keep the children inside the home and to keep outsiders out. However, there are some less than nice neighbors who live on the back side of the complex who have continually caused problems for Casa Hogar. Originally, they did things like bring their stereo speakers out to the edge of the wall at 6am on Saturday mornings and blare loud music into Casa Hogar to wake the children. But like all children, the impact only lasted a few weeks and soon the obnoxious music was inaudible to them.

So without permission of the City, the neighbors brought in truckloads of dirt and clay and raised the level of the road between their homes and Casa Hogar's wall by six or eight feet. It is only a dirt road, so during the rainy season each year, the increased weight and pressure of the mud and clay against the wall, along with the vehicle traffic, have been collapsing the wall into the Casa Hogar playground.

Because of the magnitude of the project, we have provided the funds to have two "maestros" begin the project before our arrival. Tino, a former resident of Casa Hogar who is completing his BA in Architecture, drafted plans for a new wall. Those plans were used to obtain a building permit (unlike the neighbor, we are doing things legally....). Because of the amount of weight that the wall has to support, it will be made of stone and concrete instead of cinderblocks and rebar. By the time we arrive, we hope that soil would have been excavated and the old wall removed. Temporary supports will hold up the road while we complete the new wall.

Our commitment is to provide a wall up to the level of the road. The cost of materials and the salaries of the maestros for that totals a bit over \$4,000. Casa Hogar has issued an appeal to other churches who support their ministry asking them to unite with First Church and fund the construction of the cinderblock wall that will rise about 6 feet above the road (another \$3500).

Mexico Mission 2014 Continued...

Some of our team members will spend the week working with the maestros to complete the lower section of the wall. Depending on the weather, we may have the wall completed and painted by the time we leave.

Other team members will be completing the re-wiring of the electrical system at Casa Hogar. This project was started last summer, and there have been considerable savings in electrical consumption. Completion of the project will mean even more savings on electric bills and will greatly reduce the risk of a fire due to the numerous short circuits in the 25 year old wiring that is being replaced.

Providing hot water to the facility has always been a challenge, and we purchased a replacement, newer technology propane water heater to replace two antiquated (one which hasn't worked for years) heaters. We will need to install the new unit in a safe location and we'll be moving and installing new water pipes to accommodate the new heater.

Most importantly, we intend to spend time with the children who live at Casa Hogar. Last year was the first year we fully integrated the children in our work projects. This year we will again enlist their help to re-stain the wood flooring around the classrooms, to mix cement for the wall. etc.

Summer Concerts in the Park

Friends of Main Street are pleased to announce the line-up for the first five Summer Concerts! Held Thursday evenings in East End Park at 7:00 pm, the Summer Concert Series is made possible through the generosity of Northwest Community Bank.

July 10 – Joseph FireCrow

July 17 – Sirius Coyote

July 24 – Farmington Valley Band

July 31 – The Kerry Boys

August 7 – Valley Swing Shift

The Summer Concerts are held in East End Park on Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The concerts are free and are held rain or shine. Rain location is the Auditorium in Founders Hall at the Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

Summer concert goers are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets so that they are able to sit, relax and enjoy!! If you have any questions check out the concert link at www.foms.org or call the Friends of Main Street at 860-738-3351

Confirmation Class

Mike Artruc, Susie Hall, Anna King,
Isabelle Rein, Penelope Rein and
Alex Sherman.
Welcome!!

We are all Needy...

Everyone will go through some hard times at some point. Life isn't easy. Just something to think about...did you know the people that are the strongest are usually the most sensitive? Did you know the people who exhibit the most kindness are the first to get mistreated? Did you know the ones who take care of others all the time are ...usually the ones...who need it the most? Did you know the three hardest things to say are I love you, I'm sorry, and Help me? Sometimes, just because a person looks happy, you have to look past their smile and see how much pain they may be in. So in honor of anyone who is going through some issues right now--let's start an intention avalanche. We all need positive intentions right now. Let's all try to take a moment to support all those who have family problems, health struggles, job issues, worries of any kind and just need to know that someone cares. Do it for all of us, for nobody is immune.

Matthew 25:35-40 New International Version (NIV)

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



No rule book. No time frame.

No judgment.

Grief is as individual as a fingerprint.

Do what is right for your soul. ♥

~Author Unknown



Congratulations Class of 2014



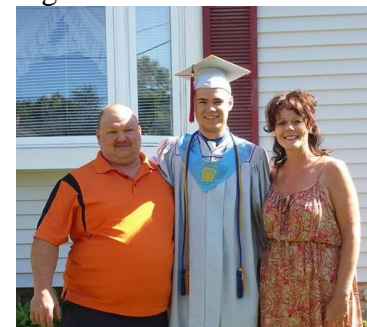
Patricia Lynn McAllister



Aleigh Valickis

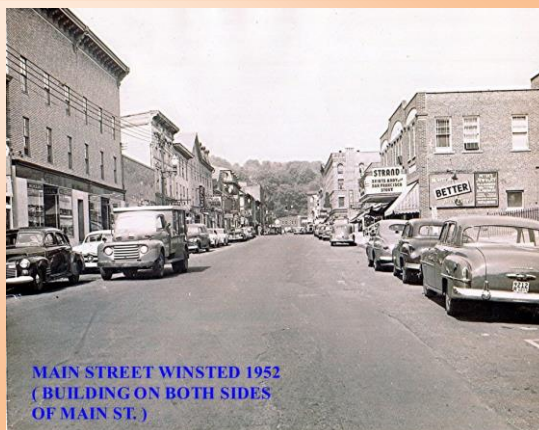


Meghan Kane & Sarah Martin



DJ Sherman

Camera Shy: Owen Lovejoy



Trivia Questions...

Main Street Winsted 1952

Name any of the cars?

What current building is to the right of the bottom right car?

What's the next intersection?

Email replies to:

info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

Answers next edition...

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Coe Memorial Park Civic Center 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Tuesday	June 17	St. Peter's Drum Corp.	Begins @ 7:30
Friday	June 20	Apricot Brandy	Classic Rock
Tuesday	June 24	WIBO and Friends	R & B
Friday	June 27	Coyote River Band	Country & Classic Rock
Tuesday	July 1	Jacque Williams Experience	R & B
Friday	July 4	No Concerts - Holiday	
Tuesday	July 8	Daybreak	Classic Rock
Friday	July 11	Tracy Walton Band	Classic Rock
Tuesday	July 15	Those guys	Rock and Roll
Friday	July 18	Uncle Polly's & the Family Jam	Rock & Roll
Tuesday	July 22	Nashville Drive	Country
Friday	July 25	Steve Dunn Band	Pop/Rock/Country
Tuesday	July 29	RBO Orchestra	Polka / Variety
Friday	August 1	Torrington Symphony	Classical
Tuesday	August 5	Brian Mattiello	Popular Acoustic Music
Friday	August 8	Night Moves	Classic Rock
Tuesday	August 12	John Macbeth	Classic Rock, Blues and Beyond
Friday	August 15	Corvettes	50's and 60's Tribute
Saturday	August 16	Tim Urban	Former American Idol Contestant



MAYOR'S POLKA NIGHT
Friday, August 22nd at 6 p.m.
Torrington City Hall
Entertainment provided by the Eddie Forman Band
Great music, and free popcorn and drinks for all Polka lovers

14

~ YOUTH EVENTS ~

Our Mexico Missioners are about to embark on the 8th journey to Oaxaca! Our prayers go with you for a safe and productive trip! Trip updates will be posted on the website, and will be available in upcoming newsletters. **Vaya con Dios!**

Your children learn who you are by spending quality time with you.



Children need what we rarely give them in school – time for “Messing About.”
John Holt



And time to enjoy God's beautiful creation!
Could be the best summer of all...



Do You Know Any 3 or 4 Year Old Children???

The Children's Discovery Center, First Church's nursery school, has openings available for both 3 and 4 year old children. Families can chose from either a Monday, Wednesday and Friday program, or a Tuesday and Thursday program, or a Monday through Friday program.

The Discovery Center combines both creative arts and kindergarten preparedness in a wholesome, caring environment. For further information, contact the Program Director and Head Teacher, Melissa Lillie at melissalillie23@gmail.com. Since its founding, the Discovery Center has graduated over 1,000 children from its program. Scholarship assistance is available.



If you wish to have your young person to join us in the fall... see Debbie!

Open to age 3 to high school. Music has no age limit...and we will mentor each other.

Rock Starz 4 Jesus...

Will meet during the Sunday School time during the summer to work on guitar chords, glow stick dancing and hula hoop routines for the September Steam Vent. We'll take away the chord buddies...slowly!

Older youth with dance capabilities needed to help develop glow stick dance routine! See Debbie Storrs



CDC Graduation 2014

We had a wonderful Graduation on May 22nd. Nine children graduated that night. Children shared a few songs and recited various nursery rhymes. We also presented a slideshow highlighting all of the children and their time spent at CDC. A very special thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful celebration! We are currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2014-2015 preschool year. We have availability in all programs (2, 3 or 5 day). Please contact Melissa Lillie if you would like more information! 860-379-4838 We are looking forward to another wonderful school year!!



Many many thanks to all those who have helped make Steam Vent a success this Spring including the musicians, set-up and tear down crew, sound man, videographers, chefs, bakers, servers and listeners!

With your help, we raised \$2,055 for the Mexico Mission!

We are on a brief hiatus over the summer, but will be back on September 13 with more musical mayhem...

🎵 See you ...in September!

Upcoming Events

Celebrate With Us...

Sunday – 9:30 am Worship – Summer Hours

No Summer Rehearsals Rehearsal~Worship Choir

Rehearsals Resume Aug 26 at 5:30 pm

DURING Sunday School (summer) Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus

Wednesday - 7:30 pm AA / Alanon Meetings

Looking Forward

July 4 Independence Day

July 13 – 20 Mexico Mission

August 24 Make your own Sunday

August 25-27 CDC Open House /9:30 - 11:00 am

August 26 Worship Choir Rehearsals Resume

September 13 Steam Vent

September 14 Rally Day

January 10 & 11 25th Annual Boar's Head Festival!



Board Meetings

2nd Tuesday in August Board of Christian Ed.
Summer Meeting times PM Board
To Be Announced Deacons
Stewardship Committee
Cabinet Meeting

"Each fairy breath of summer,
as it blows with loveliness,
inspires the blushing rose."
~Author Unknown



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 - Kristine Ohotnick
12 - Kyle Valickis
14 - Adam Bensle
14 - Charles McCaw III
17 - Dawn Hughes
17 - Aiden Callahan
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

♥ 19 - Jay & Lisa Nanni
♥ 29 - Mike & Tricia Wu



Taco Casserole

1 7oz. bag Nacho Cheese Doritos, crushed
1 lb. hamburger, browned
1 pkg. taco seasoning, mixed according to directions
1 (8 oz.) pkg. shredded Cheddar cheese
1 (8 oz.) pkg. shredded Mozzarella cheese
Shredded Lettuce
Sliced tomato

Layer ingredients in 9 x 13 pan as listed -
crushed chips, meat and seasonings, 2/3 of
cheese, lettuce, tomato, and remaining cheese.
Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Ummm...like a taco pizza...!



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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

*Samantha Ostrander

02 - Zachary Sibbach
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
18 - Allison Graboski
20 - Reece Geddes
20 - Owen Lovejoy
20 - Tanya Mongitore
20 - Jaron Morris
22 - SaraLee Relihan
22 - Aleigh Valickis
23 - Brigitte Smyth
25 - Kyle Jones
27 - Nicole Martin
27 - George Stickles
29 - Ashley Jones
30 - Ben McCaw
30 - Christine Steele

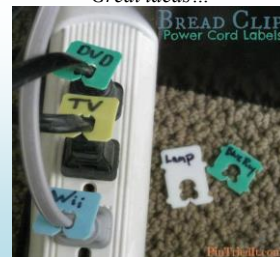
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 02 - Timothy & Dawn Hughes
♥ 09 - David & Rhonda LeKang
♥ 17 - Scott & Allison Graboski
♥ 18 - Gary & Debbie Storrs
♥ 18 - Roger Hurlbut & Julie Davy
♥ 31 - Richard & Barbara Mazzei

**Winsted Farmer's
Market on the Town
Green, 3:00 to 6:00 pm.**

The Market will take place
each Friday afternoon from
now until September 13.

Great ideas...



Bread Bag Clips!



July 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	July Birthstone: Ruby 	July Flower: Larkspur 	Astrological Signs Cancer: June 22 – July 22 Leo July 23 – Aug 22	 Photo by Mark Moriarti...ahhh...Maine in the fog...!		
		1	2 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM Riley Geddes	3 Justin Richards	4 Independence Day J R McCaw	5 Derek Storrs
6 Worship Service 9:30 AM Bill Hassig Gail Roberts	7	8 Amelia Roberts Dawn Cyr	9 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM Donna Sherman James Relihan	10 Ash NeJaime Brenda Sherman	11	12 Mexico Mission Begins! Kristine Ohotnicky Kyle Valickis
13 Worship Service 9:30 AM	14 Adam Bensle Charles McCaw III	15	16 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM	17 Dawn Hughes Aiden Callahan	18	19 Kendra McCaw ♥ Jay & Lisa Nanni
20 Worship Service 9:30 AM Mexico Mission Ends! Donald Bunel Ken Storrs Peter Toomey	21 Gary Storrs	22	23 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM Barbara Woodard Gary Valickis	24	25 Denise Jones	26
27 Worship Service 9:30 AM	28	29 ♥ Mike & Tricia Wu Gretchen Fredericksen	30 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM	31 Meghan Kane	<p style="text-align: center;">  “The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new”. -Socrates  </p>	



August 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	August Birthstone: Peridot 	August Flower: Gladiola 	Astrological Signs Leo July 23 – Aug 23 Virgo Aug 24 - Sept 23		1	2 Zachary Sibbach ♥ Tim & Dawn Hughes
3 Worship Service 9:30 AM	4	5	6 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM	7	8	9 Brandi Gilbert-Corey ♥ Dave & Rhonda LeKang
10 Worship Service 9:30 AM Jane Lovejoy Jennifer Marsh	11	12 Board of Chris Ed 7:00 PM Chuck McCaw	13 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM	14 Brett McAllister Nadya Roys	15	16
17 Worship Service 9:30 AM Richard Relihan ♥ Scott & Allison Graboski	18 Allison Graboski ♥ Roger Hurlbut & Julie Davy ♥ Gary & Debbie Storrs	19	20 AA/Alanon 8:00 PM Reece Geddes Owen Lovejoy Tanya Mongitore Jaron Morris	21	22 SaraLee Relihan Aleigh Valickis	23 Brigitte Smyth
24 Worship Service 9:30 AM Make your own Sundae Sunday	25 CDC Open House 9:30-11:00am Kyle Jones	26 CDC Open House 9:30-11:00am Worship Choir 5:30 PM	27 CDC Open House 9:30-11:00am AA/Alanon 8:00 PM Nicole Martin	28	29 Ashley Jones	30 Ben McCaw Christine Steele
31 Worship Service 9:30 AM ♥ Rich & Barb Mazzei				Hot August Nights... Photo by: Katherine Griswold www.katherinegriswoldphotography.com		
“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” — Albert Einstein						

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



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu

Moderator - Dan Jones

Vice-Moderator - Robert Adkins

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 - Allison Graboski

Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Youth Choir Director - Debbie Storrs

Webmaster - John Eggering

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED



95 North Main Street, Winsted, CT



ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM **(Summer Hours)**

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

