

Word from the Pastor

COWS HAVE MEETINGS AND THEN GO TO LUNCH....

Summer Greetings!

I'm writing to you from 34,000 feet above the Great Plains as I head to San Francisco. Yesterday evening, at 9:40 pm, Alexander Wu Ryu was born. He's the first decent chance the Wu family has to make it into the NFL: 8 lbs 14 oz, and 21 ¾ inches long. When his mom was born back in the late 70's, it was inconceivable that a grandparent who lives on the other opposite side of the country could, upon hearing that his daughter was in labor, make arrangements to greet the grandchild within 18 hours of his birth. The world has changed. And much of the change that takes place in our world is a product of three things: God's grace; a solid understanding of the world in which we live; AND a bit of dreaming and imagination.

The true reason I need to see our first grandchild immediately is to indoctrinate him in my world view as quickly as possible. You see, Christina has pledged to NOT teach her children something that I taught her in her earliest days of childhood....that cows have meetings and then go to lunch. As you all realize, I'm a city slicker. Honestly, I did not see a real, live cow until an elementary school trip to the Easton Dairy Farm in third grade. Prior to that time, the only cow I knew was named Elsie, and she was on the side of Borden milk cartons. But when Christina was young, I promised that my children would not be deprived of nature the way I was.

So I shared with Christina my fascination for cows and other animals. We traveled by car regularly to visit relatives in the Midwest, and we'd see our share of cows out in the fields. During rest breaks, I'd carry her into fields so we could get a close look at them. Christina soon noticed that at certain times of the day, the cows would all follow each other in a nice line. She was a very inquisitive child, and asked me what the cows were doing. Not having the opportunity to "commune with nature," I had no idea why they were walking together like that. But as her father, I felt that I owed her an answer. So I told her that the cows were going to a meeting. Shortly thereafter, she noticed that the cows in a field were all eating out of a stainless steel feed bin. And she asked what they were doing. So I told her, "After their meeting, they have lunch."

From that time on, whenever we saw cows walking in a line, Christina would enthusiastically say, "The cows are going to a meeting!" And whenever she saw cows eating, she'd say, "The cows are having lunch!" That all fit in very well into my personal, imaginary world that I shared with Christina, where animals (even stuffed ones) talk and have the ability to reason the way we do. But as children grow older, society discourages them from living in their imaginary world. One day someone must have popped the bubble of our shared, imaginary world and told Christina that cows don't have meetings, and they don't go to lunch. And she felt a bit silly about her heartfelt belief and reliance on her dad's representation that cows, like humans, have meetings and lunches. And so she pledged never to teach her children that silly, imaginary fact.

While cows having meetings and lunch probably didn't have a prominent role in making our nation great, faith, a solid grounding in reality, and a good dose of dreaming did. The same is true for the ministry of our church. All of our ministries began with visions, dreams and imagination. Children's Discovery Center, the Boar's Head Festival, the Mexico Mission Trips, and so many things we now see as the "norm" were probably seen by many as beyond our reach when first imagined. The same is true for many of the future dreams we have for our Church. But with faith and a good understanding of the realities of the world in which we live, we have made what was previously fantasy a reality.

So no matter what everyone says, I'm going to teach Alexander that it's OK to fanaticize and imagine that cows have meetings and then go to lunch.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



JULY 2012

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To request a copy
sent to your inbox
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Church News...



CDC News...

Registrations for the fall are now being accepted!

Do you know of a wee person who would like to go? Call the school at 860-379-4838.

SUMMER HOURS

Services will continue to be 10:00 am during the summer.

Come on down...and we put the air conditioning on for ya! Oops, we don't have air conditioning!

Time to slow down, sit still and listen...



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

Property Maintenance Board

Dehumidifiers are running down-stairs, and in order not to try to dehumidify the town of Winsted, please make sure the doors to the downstairs stay closed.

CDC received some funds and will be adding insulation to the ceiling, to help reduce the cost of heating, installing new linoleum and carpet are also on the "to do" list.

The sign for CDC and the planter have been repaired by Scot & Allison Graboski. Now for repainting, volunteers?? Please see Debby Kane.

The Louvers in the Bell Tower have been totally installed. The framework still needs to be painted. PM Board will be looking for some price quotes to complete this part of the project.

Yellow tape has been placed on the edge of the step going from the Gathering Room into the Sanctuary. This has been done to emphasize the fact that there is a step there, in hopes that it can be a deterrent to falls!

Board of Christian Education

Summer Sunday School will begin on July 15 and continue through Rally Day!

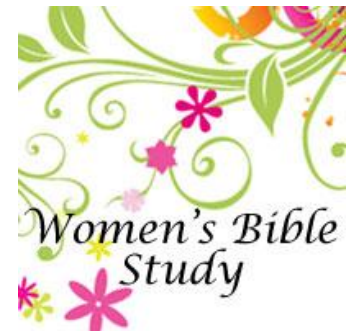
Mexico Mission trip July 28 – Aug. 5

Rally Day will be September 9, with a picnic to follow...stay tuned for details!



The choirs take the summer off...so here is your opportunity to sing!! Open to all ages! Brief organizational meeting right after the service on July 8th...or call Debbie Storrs for details. 860-482-3491. We will attempt some Christian Contemporary...got a favorite...let me know, and we'll try to work it in!

He who sings...prays twice! Come be part of the prayer team!



Heather Richardson will be leading a Women's Bible Study on Wednesday evenings beginning July 11th.

Meeting either at the church or at peoples' homes. For more information, please see Heather.

"We must teach our children to dream with their eyes open."

-Harry Edwards

Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org
Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Church-of-Winsted/189629511047827>

Friends of Main Street 2012 Summer Concert Series

East End Park, Winsted
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
Rain Location - Founders Hall, Auditorium

SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST COMMUNITY BANK

July 5 th	Last Train Out	Country
July 12 th	Farmington Valley Band	www.farmingtonband.com
	Concert Music, Favorites, and Marches	
July 19	Vinyl Vortex	Covering hits from the 70s, 80s and 90s
July 26	Mac Talla Mor Band	http://www.mactalla.com
	Celtic Roots Band!	
August 2	Potters Field	Rock and Roll
August 9	Kerry Boys	www.thekerryboys.com
	Connecticut's Irish Balladeers	
August 16	Toucan Loose	http://facebook.com/ToucanLoose



Say a prayer for the folks in Colorado during these horrible wild-fires!...and don't forget the critters too!



Heather Cappabianca gives a heart-felt memorial for her brother Terry Smyth during the July 1st service. Terry believed in the power of prayer, and only prayed that he would be able to see his girls grow up after he got throat cancer. The Lord gave him the 12 years he needed...and we give thanks for that grace!

Coe Park Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Torrington's Parks and Recreation Department has announced that the schedule for the. All concerts are 7 to 9 p.m. at Coe Memorial Park Civic Center. All concerts are free. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy.

Friday July 6 - [The Regulators](#) - Americana/Country

Tuesday July 10 - [Dennis Polisky](#) - Polka

Friday July 13 - [Night Moves](#) - Classic Rock

Tuesday July 17 - [Rob Ross and Side Kick](#) - Classic Rock

Friday July 20 - [All in Band](#) - Classic Rock

Tuesday July 24 - [Tracy Walton Band](#) - Classic Rock

Friday July 27 - [Yesteryear](#) - Fifties and Sixties

Tuesday July 31 - [Glamour Girls](#) - Classic Rock

Friday August 3 - Torrington Civic Symphony

Tuesday August 7 - [Jus Us Band](#) - Motown

Friday August 10 - Rod Henry Band - Polka

Tuesday August 14 - No Concert

Friday August 17 - [Nashville Drive](#) - Country

Friday August 31 - Mayor's Polka Night - [Eddie Forman Band](#) - Concert is final of Summer Series takes place at Torrington City Hall and starts at 6 p.m.

Be sure to attend the right service...

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.' 'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

'Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?'



Summer Community Choir forming...

The Summer Community Choir under the direction of Nhung T Truong (ntruong@friars.providence.edu) will begin rehearsing on July 10th, and then at the Thursday rehearsal of every week, beginning July 12. The second rehearsal night will be dependent on people's schedules. Rehearsals will be 7PM to around 830 PM.

Thursday August 16th is our tentative concert day.

For more information, please contact Nhung.
(ntruong@friars.providence.edu)

Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am No Rehearsal in the summer No Rehearsal in the summer Wednesday - 7:30 pm Thursday - 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Worship Rehearsal~Worship Choir Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus AA / Alanon Meetings Summer Community Choir Rehearsal beginning July 10	July 14 – Coe Park Torrington July 28-Aug 5 Augs 16 at 7 PM Sept 2 at 7:00 PM Sept 9 Sept 15-16	Praise Fest Mexico Mission Trip Summer Community Choir Concert Church in the Wildwood-1 st Church Rally Day & Picnic Church Board Retreat
	<i>Board Meetings</i>		
	July 3 July 10 July 17 July 24	PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Cabinet Meeting	

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

03 - Justin Richards
04 - J R McCaw
05 - Derek Storrs
06 - Bill Hassig
06 - Gail Roberts
08 - Amelia Roberts
10 - Ash NeJaime
10 - Brenda Sherman
12 - Kristine Ohotnicky
14 - Adam Bensle
14 - Charles McCaw III
19 - Kendra McCaw
20 - Ken Storrs
20 - Peter Toomey
21 - Gary Storrs
23 - Barbara Woodard
25 - Denise Jones
29 - Gretchen Fredericksen
31 - Meghan Kane

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 27 - Bob & Eileen Bensle
♥ 26 - Mike & Tricia Wu



CHRONIC RHYTHM at the June Steam Vent Coffee House!

Front row left to right: Trent Smith, Sam Gugliemino, Andrew Farkas and in the back on drums, Owen Lovejoy!



Begins...

July 15th

Let
the
summer
fun
begin!



Some Montreal Cyclists...



First Church of Winsted Upcoming Youth Activities



July BOCE Meeting – Tuesday, July 10, 7:00pm

Mexico Mission Trip Participants

Passport copy to Mike Wu by July 15
Next Planning Meeting - Sun, July 22 - following worship service

Mexico Mission Trip - July 28 - Aug 5



First Church of Winsted will have a booth at this Festival! Looking for folks to sit at the booth from 2-5, and some setup help at 10 am. Please call Debbie Storrs 860-482-3491. We will have free handouts, some tee shirts to sell, some Mexican Coffee and some video presentations...not to mention music! This is a chance to show what we do, who we are...Services, Mexico Mission, Bible Study, Boar's Head Festival, Steam Vent Coffee House, Laurel City Singers, Children's Discovery Center, and somewhere...we must make three points...but they will be with us. Father, Son & Holy Spirit... !

Praise God Fest 2012

**Saturday July 14, 2012
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (rain or shine)
Coe Park, downtown Torrington**

An awesome FREE outdoor concert, community enrichment groups, and other fun stuff including: children's activities, prizes and giveaways. FREE hotdogs, snowcones, popcorn & more.

Bring yourself, friends & family, blanket or lawnchair.

[www. PraiseGodFest.org](http://www.PraiseGodFest.org)



July 2012



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			
1 Worship Service 10:00 am Terry Smyth Memorial	2	3 Property Maint 7:00	4  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 10:00 am	9	10 Christian Ed 7:00 pm	11 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	12	13	14 Praise Fest Coe Park Torrington 11-5 Free Music & Hot Dogs
15 Worship Service 10:00 am	16	17 Deacons 7:00 pm	18 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	19	20	21
22 Worship Service 10:00 am	23	24 Cabinet 7:00 pm	25 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	26	27	28
29	30	31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4

Early morning at Colebrook River
Boat Launch
Picture by
Bill Benson



The beauty
of creation
Praises
God's name!!!
Psalm 148

**Come...be uplifted
by the Spirit and
strive to follow
God's path for you!**



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu

Moderator - Dan Jones

Vice-Moderator – Richard Mazzei

Clerk - Debbie Storrs

Board of Deacons - Co-chairs

Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni

Treasurer – Debby Kane

Christian Education Chair - Allison Graboski

Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Cherub Choir Director - 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. Judy G. Allbee

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Web-Site www.abcconn.org

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BELLRINGER

