

First Church of Winsted

Come as you are...  
Leave transformed!

# BELLRINGER

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

## Word from the Pastor

January 2015

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the many Christmas gifts that I received from you all. A Mexican Snoopy who plays "Feliz Navidad" on a trumpet and who rocks with the tune was certainly beyond my expectations! The Christmas gifts were not necessary and I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Although I don't like to say the same things year after year, 2015 seemed to come much faster than I expected. The past year was full of both joys and challenges for First Church, and I'm sure that the New Year will be just as exciting as last year. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is just a few weeks off, and the leadership of the Church has decided to not only review some key events of the last year, but to focus the meeting on 2015 and beyond. I am confident that God has important plans for First Church, and it is an honor and a pleasure to work with you all in discerning God's plans for our Church.

Also, Epiphany is just a week away. The Boar's Head Festival will fill our sanctuary with beautiful music and people in costume. This is not something we could ever do on our own, and we are blessed with the assistance from people throughout the community. As we again celebrate the arrival of the three people from the East to the birthplace of Christ, I hope we'll also again reflect on how Christ accepts people from across political subdivisions, cultural barriers, races and religions. In the same way that Christ came into the world to be savior of all, we are called to be open to different people and different perspectives.

There's a bit of irony to being open to change as Christ's people. The Christian Church through the centuries has been steeped in traditional practices and perspectives. The Church reflects the humanity of its members, and as human beings we often adhere to history and prior practices as a security blanket. The bottom line is that our past provides a secure foundation for the future. We can't ignore it. But nor should we let it limit the way that we answer Christ's call.

New Year's blessings to you all,

*Mike*



JANUARY 2015

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Check us out  
online!

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

Like us on  
Facebook!

## Church News...

Santa came for a visit at  
Children's Discovery Center!  
Ho Ho Ho!



December was a short month for us but we managed to accomplish everything we needed to do! We are now into handwriting and the children are enjoying it. We will continue writing and practicing! To kick off the holiday break, the children enjoyed pajama day with a holiday movie and popcorn. All of the children looked adorable! We also had a special visit from Santa again this year!

We have had a wonderful year so far and we could not do it without the help of so many. So thanks to the Board of Christian Education, Liaison Committee, Cindy Distin, Letty Gibb and Gretel Eddy for all of your support! Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

*Melissa Lillie and Pam Allen*



Thanks to all who helped out with the 94th Annual Christmas Fair on December 6th. Many hands helped! It was a very successful fair in so many ways. Thank you to all of you who attended as well!

*Laura McCaw and Lisa Nanni*



I would like to thank the church family for the Barnes & Noble gift card...!

Being able to rejoice at sharing musical talents with the kids is the best gift of all!

Thanks!!

Debbie Storrs

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

Sunday, January 18, 2012  
(Snow date: January 25, 2012)  
Immediately following the  
10:00 AM Worship Service

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Lunch will be served!!

## Boar's Head



## Festival



**January 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 1:30 & 4:30 PM**  
**January 11<sup>th</sup> ~ 3:30 PM**

*Special Guest*



**TICKETS: 860-379-8966**

**\$15 ADULT ~ \$12 SENIOR ~ \$8 CHILD 12 & Under**



**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**

*It's almost here!*

*Respect is earned  
Honesty is appreciated  
Trust is gained  
Loyalty is returned*



## EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS...

Santa has completed his rounds, and is taking a well-deserved rest at the North Pole, but for many Christians, the holiday season doesn't officially end until the 12th day of Christmas (remember the lengthy carol about "a partridge in a pear tree"?) known as the "Feast of the Epiphany" or "Three Kings' Day".

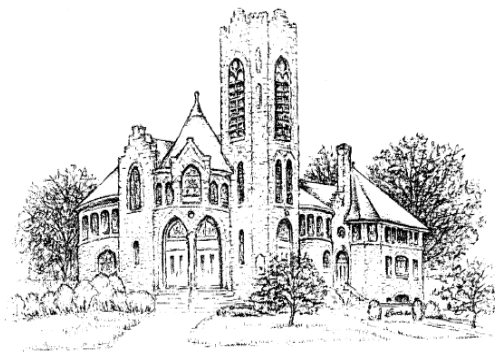
The holiday falls annually on Jan. 6 and marks the biblical adoration of baby Jesus by the three Kings, also referred to as Wise Men or Magi. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the men found the divine child by following a star across the desert for twelve days to Bethlehem. Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar -- representing Europe, Arabia, and Africa respectively-- travelled by horse, camel, and elephant in order to present baby Jesus with three symbolic gifts.

The gold offered by one of the wise men is a symbolic acknowledgment of Jesus' royal standing as "King of the Jews," while the frankincense manifests the divine nature of the baby's existence, since he is not an earthly king but the Son of God. And finally the myrrh, often used to embalm corpses, was gifted to the newborn as a symbol of Jesus' mortality -- foreshadowing his death as a means to cleanse humanity of its sins.

The Boar's Head Festival is probably one of the longest running Christmas celebrations, and is rooted in ancient times when the boar was sovereign of the forest. A ferocious beast, and menace to humans, it was hunted as a public enemy. At Roman feasts, boar was the first dish served. Roasted boar was a staple of medieval banquets. As Christian beliefs overtook pagan customs in Europe, the presentation of a boar's head at Christmas came to symbolize the triumph of the Christ Child over sin.

Legend has it that a scholar was studying a book of Aristotle while walking through the forest on his way to Midnight Mass. Suddenly, he was confronted by an angry wild boar. Having no other weapon, the resourceful youth rammed his metal-bound philosophy book down the throat of the charging animal, whereupon the brute choked to death. That night the boar's head, finely dressed and garnished, was borne in procession to the dining room, accompanied by carolers singing "in honor of the King of bliss."

By 1607 the traditional Boar's Head Festival had grown to include lords, ladies, knights, cooks, hunters, and pages. Eventually, shepherds and wise men were added to tell the story of the Nativity. The whole was embellished with additional carols, customs and accoutrements. Mince pie and plum pudding, good King Wenceslas and his pages, a yule log lit from the last year's ember ... all found a place and a symbolic meaning in the procession.



## NOTICE

The election of officers and board/committee members will take place at the annual meeting in January. The following positions are elected annually:

Moderator	Auditing Committee
Vice-moderator	
Clerk	1/3 of the following:
Treasurer	Diaconate, Christian
Associate Treasurer	Education, Property
Financial Secretary	& Maintenance
Denominational	Boards and the
Representatives	Nominating Comm.

If you are interested in serving on a Board of Committee, please contact Kim Janak, Ashley Jones, Ann Jones or Debby Kane.

## Boar's Head Festival – Cast Luncheon Food Donations Needed!



**The Cast and Musical folk need to eat something between the performances on Saturday...**



**We are requesting finger foods:  
Sandwiches, chips, fruit tray or veggie trays  
and of course desserts...  
but finger desserts...like cookies, brownies, etc.**

**Please no hot foods that require utensils and plates!  
Food donations may be dropped off in the kitchen on Saturday after 1:00 pm!  
Please see Holly Cassaday or Ann Jones...Thanks!**

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	January 10	Boar's Head Fest 1:30 & 4:30
Sunday - 9:15 am	Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus	January 11	Boar's Head Fest 3:30
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	January 13	Reports due for Annual Report
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	January 18	Annual Meeting after worship
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	January 25	Snow Date for Annual Meeting
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	Jan 4 after Worship Service	PM Board	
	No meetings scheduled	Board of Christian Ed.	
	No meetings scheduled	Deacons	
	Jan 27 at 7:00 PM	Cabinet Meeting	
	Jan 28 at 7:00 PM	CDC Liaison	

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

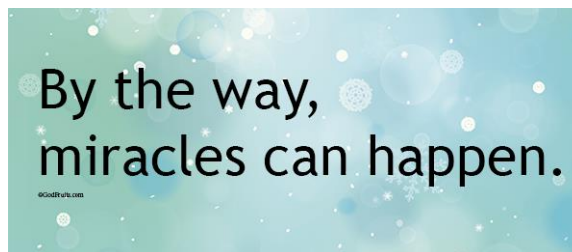
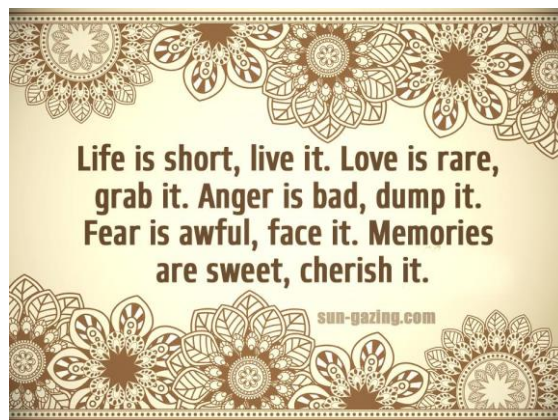
### January BIRTHDAYS

04 - Barbara Mazzei  
 04 - Brett Marvin  
 06 - Ryan Geddes Jr.  
 07 - Raymond Savoy  
 08 - Christian McAllister  
 08 - Joyce Woodard  
 09 - Susan Marsh  
 10 - Caryl Pizinger  
 11 - Maridel Fredericksen  
 11 - Belinda Corey  
 12 - Andrea Ohotnicky  
 12 - Hope Carfiro  
 12 - Jeff Dorr  
 13 - Kathy Riiska-Lovejoy  
 13 - Judy Savoy  
 14 - Angela Graboski  
 15 - Cindy Roys  
 17 - Mary-Pat Fredericksen  
 17 - Maggie McAllister  
 18 - Scott Graboski  
 20 - Kayla McCaw  
 22 - Kathy Weaving  
 22 - Joe Tatar  
 23 - Betty Greeley  
 24 - Cheryl Jones  
 26 - Victoria McAllister  
 26 - Diane Richards  
 27 - Kathryn McCusker  
 28 - Jayden Dileo

### January Anniversaires

♥ 22 - Ray & Judy Savoy  
 ♥ 24 - Mel & Gloria Lee

If you would have your birthday or anniversary added to our list, please email Deb Storrs: [dstorrs@snet.net](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)



Celebrating 25 Years – We Three Kings!  
Tim Yeadon, Dave Lewis & Dave Pastorello

### Little Angels

When God calls little children  
 to dwell with Him above.  
 We mortals sometimes question  
 the wisdom of His love.  
 for no heartache compares with  
 the death of one small child,  
 who does so much to make our world  
 seem wonderful and mild.  
 Perhaps God tires of calling  
 the aged to His fold.  
 So He picks a rosebud  
 before it can grow old.  
 God knows how much we need them  
 and so He takes but few,  
 to make the land of Heaven  
 more beautiful to view.  
 Believing this is difficult  
 still somehow we must try.  
 The saddest word mankind know  
 will always be "Goodbye".  
 So when a child departs  
 we who are left behind,  
 must realize God loves children,  
 Angels are hard to find.






~Author Unknown

### ***We are all God's Children***

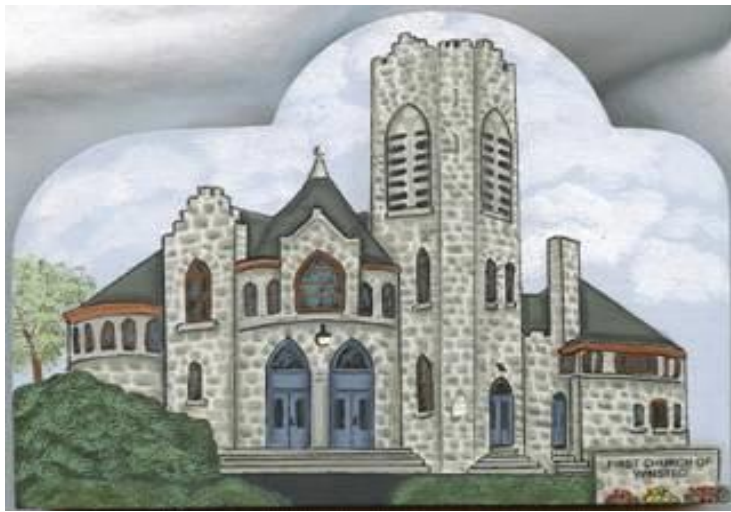
In Memory of those called  
home in 2014

Mildred Barshaw  
 William Calkins  
 Marion Chapin  
 Randy Corey  
 Paul Hamilton  
 Warren Hughes  
 Owen Lovejoy

# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Artist: Karen Delton</p>	<p><b>January Birthstone: Garnet</b></p> 	<p><b>January Flower: Red Carnation</b></p> 	<p><b>Astrological Signs</b></p> <p>Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20 Aquarius: Jan 21 – Feb 19</p>		<p><b>ANNUAL REPORTS Due JAN 13th</b></p>	
<p>“The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity.”</p> <p>— Ulysses S. Grant</p>				<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>New Year's Day</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Laurel City Singers 6:00</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service 10:00 am</b></p> <p><b>Property Maint Bd 11:15 am</b></p> <p><b>Boar's Head Festival Dress Rehearsal 1:30 pm</b></p> <p>Barbara Mazzei Brett Marvin</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Worship Choir 5:30 pm</b></p> <p>Ryan Geddes Jr.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</b></p> <p>Raymond Savoy Jr.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Laurel City Singers 6:00</b></p> <p>Christian McAllister Joyce Woodard</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Susan Marsh</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>  <p><b>1:30 PM</b> <b>4:30 PM</b></p> <p>Caryl Pizinger</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service 10:00 am</b></p> <p><b>Muddy Boots 9:30</b></p>  <p><b>3:30 PM</b></p> <p>Maridel Fredericksen Belinda Corey</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Martin Luther King Day</b></p> <p>Andrea Ohotnicky Hope Cafiro Jeff Dorr</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Worship Choir 5:30 pm</b></p> <p><b>Turn in Reports for Annual Meeting</b></p> <p>Cathy Riiska-Lovejoy Judy Savoy</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</b></p> <p>Angela Graboski</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Cindy Roys</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Mary-Pat Fredericksen Maggie McAllister</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service 10:00 am</b></p> <p><b>Worship Choir 9:20</b></p> <p><b>Annual Meeting</b></p> <p>Scott Graboski</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Worship Choir 5:30 pm</b></p> <p>Kayla McCaw</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Kathy Weaving Joe Tatar</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Betty Greeley</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Cheryl Jones</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service 10:00 am</b></p> <p><b>Snow Date for Annual Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Victoria McAllister Diane Richards</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Worship Choir 5:30 pm</b></p> <p><b>Cabinet 7:00 pm</b></p> <p>Kathryn McCusker</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</b></p> <p><b>CDC Liason 7:00 pm</b></p> <p>Jayden Dileo</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>





Artist: Karen Delton

### **Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu**

Moderator - Dan Jones  
 Vice-Moderator - Robert Adkins  
 Clerk - Allison Graboski  
 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/Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei  
 Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu  
 Youth Choir Director - Debbie Storrs / Praise Choir Director - Dan Jones  
 Webmaster - John Eggering

## **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. Judy G. Allbee  
 Telephone (860) 521-5421  
 ABCCONN Web-Site [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org)

First Church of Winsted  
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 Winsted, CT 06098

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