

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!

A Note from the Pastor

Summer Greetings!

As the days get longer and temperatures creep upward, I hope you'll have the chance to enjoy the beauty of God's creation. While we all hope that things slow down a bit during the next few months, there will be a lot going on in the life of our congregation.

As noted in this month's Bellringer, please remember that Sunday Worship Services during the month of July and August will be at 9:30am. Hopefully this is a good compromise between those who prefer 9am and those who prefer 10am!

Also, for the 8th consecutive year, a Mission Team from our Church will be going to Oaxaca, Mexico. There is an article that follows describing our work there in past years and mores specifically about our work there this summer.

Finally, at our Church Leadership Retreat in late April, the group studied and considered the wonderful growth in the size of our congregation over the past few years. With that growth has come some subtle changes, and to be honest, some challenges. We came to the conclusion that we need to be intentional about implementing some changes to the way we do things in the Church to accommodate that growth.

For example, a recent study found that most people in a certain age group delete emails without ever opening them based on what is contained in the subject line. That brings home the point that as we grow, our congregation is becoming more diverse from an age perspective. And what is an effective way of communication for one group may not be for another group. So we'll be looking at trying to communicate through multiple methods such as email, texts, phone calls, the Church website, Facebook, etc.

This is an exciting time for our congregation, and we're glad you are part of our Church family!

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



June 2014

95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098
860-379-1778

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To request a copy sent to your
inbox send an email to:
sandrabenget@hotmail.com

For article submission:
sandrabenget@hotmail.com



<div> <div>Mon</div> <div>Tue</div> <div>Wed</div> <div>Thu</div> <div>Fri</div> <div>Sat</div> </div>						
1	2 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Last one until August	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 10:00 am	9	10	11 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	12	13	14 Steam Vent
15 Father's Day Brunch Worship Choir 9:20 am Worship Service 10:00 am	16	17	18 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	19	20	21 Dessert & Bingo
22 Worship Service 10:00 am Laurel Singers 2 pm	23	24	25 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Worship Service 10:00 am  Rock Starz 4 Jesus 9:15 am	30					Artist: Karen Delton 

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

Laurel City Singers

Celebrate

American Composers

Featuring the music of:

Billy Joel, Eric Whitacre, Frank Ticheli, James Taylor
& more...

Sunday, June 22nd at 2 PM

First Church of Winsted
95 North Main Street

Tickets: Adults \$10, Seniors \$8
Family Ticket \$20



An opportunity to serve First Church of Winsted

Church Clerk - Looking for a church member who is interested in serving as one of the five officers of the Church and to be an active member of the Church Cabinet (consisting of the officers of the Church, the chairs of each Board, and the denominational representatives). The ideal person for this position would enjoy sharing their thoughts and opinions and would have an organizational knack. The Clerk, among other things, is responsible for keeping the Church's records on its membership and takes the minutes of both Cabinet meetings and meetings of the Congregation.

The Clerk is a voting member of the Church Cabinet and attends all Cabinet meetings (which currently are on the fourth Tuesday of each month along with occasional special meetings). S/he also attends meetings of the Congregation (including the Annual Meeting in January). The Clerk keeps the record (minutes) of the Cabinet meetings and the meetings of the Congregation. The Clerk also maintains the Church's files of official documents and records (such as letters of transfer, etc.); in coordination with the Diaconate maintains the list of the members (with dates of their reception, death, transfer, or dismissal); provides a report on membership information from the prior year at the Annual Meeting; completes statistical data questionnaires from the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches each year; and will utilize ICON, the church management software program, to record membership information and statistics.

United Church of Christ Denominational Representative - First Church of Winsted is affiliated with both the United Church of Christ (UCC or Congregational Church) and the American Baptist Churches. Each of those denominations allows for every member church to designate a voting member to represent the local congregation in the denomination. The ideal person for this position would have an interest in expanding our Church's relationship with the UCC and other Congregational Churches, and would be comfortable sharing information about First Church with other Congregational Churches in Connecticut and in sharing information about the ministry, mission work and activities of the UCC with members of First Church.

The UCC representative is also a voting member of the Church Cabinet and attends all Cabinet meetings. S/He also attends meetings of the Litchfield North Association of the United Church of Christ (usually twice a year) and attends the annual meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

For more information or to volunteer for either of these positions, please see any member of the member of the nominating committee : Gretel Eddy, Kim Janak, Ann Jones, Ashley Jones, Debby Kane or Tanya Mongitore.

First Church Mexico Mission Trip

For the 9th year in a row, We will be traveling with a group of youth and adults from First Church of Winsted to Oaxaca, Mexico. This is a life altering trip both for the youth in our church and the children at Casa Hogar. Not only are we helping others down there but it make a profound change to the kids that come from our area of the world. It helps them expand their horizons and experience life outside of the small town they grew up in. The kids we have taken down with us have said that it changed their life plans and they have become better people because of what they have experienced.

This year, the group will spend a week at Casa Hogar Benito Juarez, home to more than 60 children whose parents are unable or unwilling to raise them, most of them have either physical or emotional handicaps. The home is located in Oaxaca City and is operated by Carol and Francisco Marin. Casa Hogar means, "Not only a house but a home." It raises children as a family, providing everything that a child needs to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Casa Hogar has no age maximums and is one of the only children's homes in the entire state that accepts children with disabilities. The home provides an education to each resident at all levels. Many have gone onto college and earned professional degrees.

Last year, our team re-wired two thirds of the electrical system wiring at Casa Hogar. We found 25 year old wiring that were charred and burnt in many places due to overloads and short circuits. When we asked some of the children why they never told anyone that you get shocked every time you touched the light pole at one end of the soccer court, they replied that everyone knows not to touch it, especially when it rains. The electrical work required us to remove the pavers and trench in many places to lay new electrical cables. We also replaced the leaky metal roofs on two of the older classroom buildings on the grounds of Casa Hogar, stained the flooring outside the three new classrooms, and did maintenance on all of the vehicles owned by the home. The children of the home assisted us in all of the work. Even those with severe disabilities enjoyed painting or digging.

This summer's activities will include re-wiring the remaining electrical circuits in their buildings, installing a new waterheater to replace both a broken one and an old technology, and replacing the retaining wall in the back of the complex that is collapsing and which has been a significant safety hazard to the children. Because of the critical importance of the retaining wall, we will hire a "maestro" (expert) to help us do the work properly.

Although the facilities are always in need of maintenance and repair, the most important activity will be spending time with the children of the home. With only five resident adults (three of whom are wheelchair-bound), the children need attention and love. We will host the annual birthday party for all the children (providing gifts of clothes to each), provide a live mariachi band, and serve them their favorite dinner (pizza from Sam's Club).

We will be traveling down on July 12th this year. You can assist by making a contribution to the First Church of Winsted, Mexico Mission Trip Fund or by sponsoring a walker on our annual Walk-A-Thon around Highland Lake on June 21, 2014. Any support is sincerely appreciated! A receipt for your donation will be sent out prior to year end for tax deduction purposes.

Thank you for your support!



June Birthdays

Courtney Kane - June 2

Alexandra Arturc-June 6

Paul Richard Sr. - June 10

Sam Stover - June 10

Catharine Wu - June 11

Patty McAllister - June 12

Bruce Sherman - June 16

Brittaney Gilbert - June 22

Sarah Stover - June 22

Amethyst Steele - June 25

Alannah Callahan - June 27

June Anniversaries

Chuck & Laura McCaw - June 3

Dan & Denise Jones - June 22

Steve & Cindy Roys - June 23

Duane & Brandy Blische - June 26

Final Steam Vent Event for the Spring Season

At First Church of Winsted, 95 North Main Street,
Winsted, CT.

Evening filled with performers...beginning at 6 PM and
ending at 10...there will be no open mic.

Picnic Night theme in the cafe, serving picnic fare from 6-8
PM.

Music is free...dinner will cost you...adult and child
portions.

Family Friendly Event!

Tax deductible donations go to missions.

June 14th Performers:

6:00 – Nancy Johnson

6:30 – David Conrad

7:00 – Bill Morrell

7:30 – Jim Moore

8:00 – Eric Paradine

8:30 – The Russell Band

9:00 – Michael Orlen & Chris

9:30 – Eric Krieg & Ronnie Walter

Steam Vent Events will resume in September...
See you in September...as the song goes!

Psalms 9

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell
of you wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I
will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Send a little Sunshine - If there is someone
in need of a "Thinking of You", "Get Well
Soon" or "Prayers are with you in this time
of Need" please let our Sunshine Girl know
by emailing her at bonniegeddes@aol.com

INVITATION TO A TALK ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN CT

Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven will speak at the UCC in Cornwall on Sunday, June 8th at 11:30 a.m. about the work of IRIS in re-settling refugees in Connecticut.

The talk will be at our Parish House, and all are invited!

The mission of IRIS is to enable refugees to establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of their new communities. The organization works to provide housing, jobs, education, language classes, health and wellness programs, and legal services for refugees and other displaced people, mainly during the first year after their arrival in Connecticut.

Current refugee clients are from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Congo, and other countries.

IRIS also educates communities about the refugee experience and issues of national and international importance to us all.

The Parish House is directly in back of the church, at 8 Bolton Hill Road, just off Route 4 in Cornwall Village. We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information, please call the church office, (860) 672-6840.

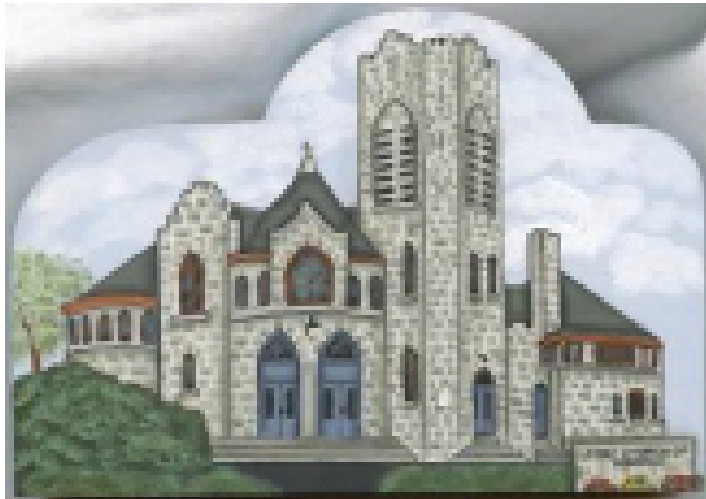
Psalms 1: 1-2.

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
Or take the path that sinners tread,
Or sit in the seat of scoffers;
But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they
meditate day and night.

Psalms Chapter 3

O Lord, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
Many are saying to me, "There is not help for you in God."

But you, O Lord, are the shield around me, my glory, and the one
who lifts up my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me
from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord
sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have
set themselves against me all around. Rise Up, O Lord!
Deliver me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the
cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to
he Lord; may your blessing be on your people!



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Michael Wu

Moderator - Dan Jones

Vice-Moderator – Richard Mazzei

Clerk –

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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 95 North Main Street
 Winsted, CT 06098

BELLRINGER

