

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

Dear Members and Friends,

It's seems hard to believe, but Spring is finally here. Not only are we enjoying more sunlight, but we haven't had a day with temperatures below freezing for a while!

We had a fun guessing game going on for the last few weeks. Everyone was invited to guess the day on which the huge snow pile on the side yard of the church building would be totally gone. There were a good number of guesses. And let me first say that my guesses (yes, I submitted multiple) were totally off. It turns out that the last bit of snow disappeared from the side yard on Thursday, April 23rd.

No one guessed the exact day that the snow would be gone. The closest guess was May 1st, submitted by Katherine Stover. The closest guess without passing the day (what I call the "Price Is Right" theory of winning) was April 12, submitted by Mel Lee. Congratulations to both Katherine and Mel! The vast majority of guesses were mid-May and beyond. Whether it was because of the heavy rains or some other reason, God surprised us with the speed by which the snow melted!

Last Sunday (April 19th), there was an informational meeting for the congregation. The leadership of the Church shared information about the upcoming transition in pastoral leadership. One of the messages shared was that God surprised us in that process also. Nearly two and a half years ago, I asked the Church Cabinet to begin a process of continuous evaluation of the pastoral needs of the congregation. It was evident that the objectives in the covenant we entered into at the beginning of my tenure were nearly all fulfilled. So we had regular discussion to better understand who we are as the First Church of Winsted, what factors contribute to making our ministries vibrant and effective, and how our growth was impacting the then present model of pastoral and lay leadership in the Church.

One of the findings from our studies was that we needed help in moving from a smaller congregation to a medium sized congregation. We recognized that we need to communicate in new ways instead of assuming that everyone knows what is going on. We grappled with our varied individual styles of leadership, and the changes in society that affect the way our members and friends are able to participate in the life of the Church. We also met with a potential consultant about helping us transition from a small to medium sized congregation.

That's when God surprised us. The discussions about consulting evolved into discussions about pastoral leadership. The members of the Church Cabinet, over the course of four or five meetings with the potential consultant, discerned that God might be calling the person to act not as a consultant, but as a transitional pastor for our congregation.

We were not able to share specific details until now because the candidate is pastoring another congregation and hadn't yet discussed with them the possibility of leaving that



MAY 2015

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:

Pastor's Word Con't	2
CDC/BOCE/Special	3
Meeting/Prayers	
LCS Concert	4
Steam Vent	
Tag Sale/Mother's Day	5
Brunch	
Upcoming Events	6
Birthdays	
May Calendar	7
Church Info	8



Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

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

Pastor's Word Continued...

pastorate. But a few weeks ago, the candidate decided that God was calling her to leave her current position to work with us and she so advised her current congregation.

For that reason, on May 10 (yes, Mothers' Day), the Rev. Lisabeth (Lisa) Gustafson will be preaching and leading our morning worship service. Immediately following the service, there will be a special meeting of the congregation to act on the recommendation of the Church Cabinet that Rev. Gustafson be called as our next pastor.

The entire process has unfolded in a unique way. Normally, the existing pastor has no part in helping a church discern what attributes and gifts that they should seek in the next pastor. The more common course is for pastors to just "give their notice" out of the blue. The leadership hustles to find temporary pulpit supply while others begin the search for an interim pastor. Both first-hand experience in our recent past and studies show that changes in pastoral leadership cause a church to stand still or slip backwards in an amount equal to two years of growth and progress. From the time I raised the matter of new pastoral leadership with the Cabinet, it has been our stated purpose to follow God's will rather than our personal preferences, and to have whatever change God has in store for us take place with a minimum of trauma or disruption to the ministry of First Church.

While I did not participate in any of the substantive conversations between Rev. Gustafson and the Church leadership that led to the Cabinet's unanimous decision to present her to the congregation as a candidate, I was made aware of the progress being made so that I could plan to assist in the change of leadership. Rev. Gustafson and I have agreed to overlap our work with First Church. Trusting that there will be a positive vote on May 10th, we will be working together the entire month of June. I have utmost confidence in Rev. Gustafson's ability to hear my perspectives and views, and at the same time filter them with her professional objectivity. She will bring to the congregation a fresh, new perspective that is grounded in some background and assistance from the current pastor to speed her assimilation into the life and ministry of First Church.

Rev. Gustafson is an experienced pastor with many gifts and talents. It is interesting how our lives intersected in various ways yet how we are unique and distinct in others. She is a graduate of Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. I was a student at Clark

for the first three years of my undergraduate studies, and two of my brothers graduated from Clark. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in upstate New York. Among her many gifts, she is a multimedia artist, prayer shawl knitter, avid hiker, plays the guitar, sings, gardens, and enjoys reading. She is also a certified K-8 teacher, and has served as a Minister of Christian Education, Senior Pastor, and since 2008, the Transitional Pastor at Bristol Baptist Church in Bristol, CT. Like myself, over the course of her professional career, she has also held secular positions. Rev. Gustafson is very active in the life of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut, as am I.

As will be explained at the special meeting on May 10th, Rev. Gustafson will be initially called for a period of two years. She possesses great confidence in God's wisdom and will, and has agreed that after her first year, she will jointly with the Church Cabinet assess her ability to continue to facilitate the growth of First Church's mission and ministry. It will be mutually decided at that time whether she will continue as pastor beyond the second year or whether she will use her second year with us to assist the leadership in finding more suitable pastoral leadership.

Over my fifteen years as a member of the First Church family (including ten years as Pastor), I have come to consider each of you as family. The decision to pass the baton to Rev. Gustafson is not because of any breakdown in our relationship. It is because of the opportunities that God has set before First Church. When I accepted the call to be the Pastor of First Church, I agreed to always do what is in the best interests of God's ministry at First Church, not what was easy or comfortable for me. In my heart I sincerely believe that the Church I love so dearly will grow further and continue to flourish with new pastoral leadership.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mike



"There's a big, wonderful world out there for you. It belongs to you. It's exciting and stimulating and rewarding. Don't cheat yourselves out of this promise."

— Nancy Reagan



CDC News...

Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 21st at 6:30 PM. Wednesday, May 20th at 9:30 rehearsal will be held in the Sanctuary.



Board of Christian Education

The board has tentatively rescheduled the annual Ziti Supper from May to Sept 19. There is currently \$6,000 in the scholarship fund. Received one scholarship application to date, will vote on next meeting Scholarship apps are available from Barbara Mazzei and must be completed and handed in by May 10th.

The Children's Interests Survey in progress, Aidan Callahan took the lead, and will follow up - youth class to complete and poll younger classes.

We have received one scholarship application to date, will vote on next meeting

CDC Liaison Report:

CDC had a successful spring fund raiser and made about \$450 profit (along with the fall fund raiser they usually bring in close to \$1,000 a year). New Registration packages have been sent out and fees were not raised this year. Marketing strategies were discussed. Full scholarships are available up to \$5,000 from Libby Holman this upcoming year.

Winsted area child care requested and was granted use of CDC building if needed for staff safety training.



Special Congregational Meeting Called for May 10, 2015

It is my pleasure to announce that the Moderator has called a Special Congregational Meeting of the members of the First Church of Winsted on Sunday May 10, 2015.

The meeting will take place in the Church Sanctuary immediately following the 10:00am worship service. The purpose (agenda) of the meeting will be to act on the nomination by the Church Cabinet of the Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson to assume the role of Transitional Minister of our Church. Rev. Gustafson will be leading the worship service (as well as preaching) that day.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Graboski, Clerk



Baptism: Caroline Darlene Cardillo, was Baptized on April 19, 2015. She was born August 26, 2014 to Parents Julia and Mark Cardillo, God Parents are Candy Paulson and Tyrell Klebe.



PRAYERS FOR NEPAL!

Reports from Nepal have been heartbreaking. Though nobody knows for sure, estimates suggest that more than 4,000 may have died. It is the worst earthquake to strike Nepal in over 80 years.

United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is already present on the ground in Nepal, working through our partners in the ACT Alliance, providing food, water, and temporarily shelter. Those who survived the quake will need support for many years to come.

Here's how you can help:

1. Pray for the people and communities impacted by the earthquake.
2. Make a gift payable to your congregation marked for Nepal Earthquake, with the request it be sent payable to the United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

3. Send gifts, payable to United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion Nepal Earthquake, to United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

4. Make a secure on-line donation to the International Emergency Relief Fund. Please note: Nepal Earthquake in the comment section.



Prayers for Baltimore!

The scenes from Baltimore are numbing. Let us pray for the family of Freddie Gray, the residents of the city who have been impacted by the riots, the authorities as they try to restore calm, and for those who are engaging in violence, that God might calm their anger.

Jesus our Savior, you did not raise your hand when they came for you, but you rose instead from the very hands of death. We pray that those in Baltimore do not need to follow so harsh a road. Instead, renew the hearts and minds of all concerned. Fill their souls with dedication to their neighbors. Fill their hands with help for those who have suffered. Fill their mouths with words of comfort and of hope.

After a night of violence, may there be a resurrection dawn.
Amen!



STEAM VENT Coffee House First Church of Winsted

SATURDAY, May 9th
6 – 10 PM

Music is Free...!
Donations gladly accepted
to benefit Children's Missions!
Fully Tax Deductible

SCHEDULED PERFORMERS

6:00 ~ Open Mic
6:30 ~ Gypsy Jo
7:00 ~ Nancy Johnson
7:30 ~ Jean Stokes Recchia
8:00 ~ Michael Lovallo
8:30 ~ Howard Baldwin
9:00 ~ "43" John & Gordie
Cooke & Diane Davis
9:30 ~ Joel Blumert



STEAM VENT CAFÉ Chinese Night!

Serving Pot Stickers with
Fried Rice (Meat or Veggie)
Adult or Child Portions
Available
Yummy Desserts
Serving 6 - 8 PM



Shake it Off...

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

MORAL:

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred - Forgive.
2. Free your mind from worries - Most never happens.
3. Live simply and appreciate what you have.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less from people but more from yourself.

Laurel City Singers Jazz it UP!

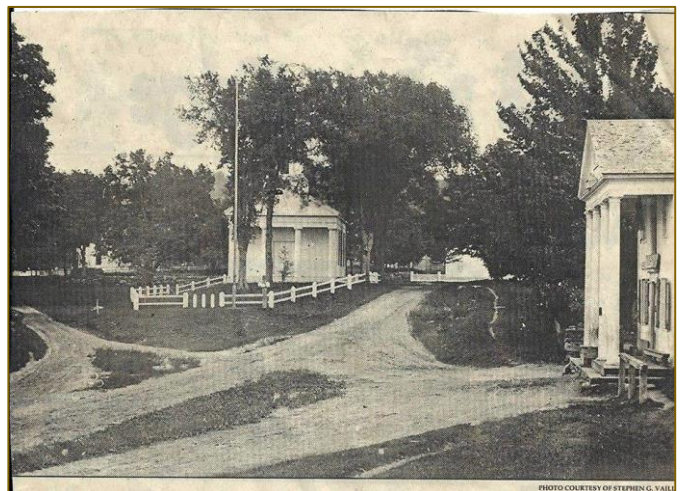
Concert of
Jazz Classics and Beyond!

Special Guests
The Gilbert School Jazz Band

Sunday, June 7th at 2 PM

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED

Church Family Tickets:
\$5 Adult / \$4 Senior / \$10 Family



Remember when? Probably not!
Colebrook Center Circa 1877

Note of Thanks from Will Minton regarding Harmony for Hunger concert!

"Wow, what a concert!" Those words were spoken often to me Saturday evening, both during and after the wonderful musical gift we all provided to those in attendance at our 17th Annual "Harmony for Hunger" Concert. At the first of these concerts, I don't think that Roger Atkins (who started this event 17 years ago) or I could possibly have imagined that this concert would still be taking place after so many years. What a tribute to the power of music to bring people together this concert demonstrates each year. And how about the wide range of musical styles and performing groups (and the ages of their members) we had this year!

Performers included: 2nd Congregational Church Senior Choir, Cindy Rines, Will, Patty and Roger, Gilbert Flute Choir, Muddy Boots (Praise Choir from 1st Church), Annie Trepanier and Steve Larson, The Gilbert Choir, Lynn, Chet and Roger, North Canton Community UMC Quartet, Chris King, Lewis Mills Saxophone Quartet and finally Laurel City Singers.

To each of our performers, a sincere THANK YOU for donating your time and talent to this collaborative event. Donations are still coming in, but through your efforts we have received more than \$1,300 to date to share with the Open Door Soup Kitchen and the Salvation Army Food Bank in Winsted. Along with the large amount of non-perishable food items that were donated, we will be able to make a significant difference in the operations of these two organizations that provide vital support to our neighbors in need.

I wish I had email addresses for all of the individuals who helped make this Concert so successful so that I could thank them individually. Please be certain to share this message of appreciation with all of your folks on my behalf. A special thanks to Denise Torson, chair, and the entire Music Committee of the 2nd Congregational Church of Winsted for their efforts throughout the year, but especially for helping to make this concert a reality. Thanks, also, to Carol Tomassetti in the church office for the beautiful concert programs she prepared.

Best regards and thanks to you all,
- Will



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

Tag Sale



**Tag Sale
to be held on
May 2nd
8 AM – 3 PM**

**Time to clean out your attics and cellars!
If you have any good junk...please consider
donating it to the church's Tag Sale.**

**Drop offs will be accepted
Wednesday – Friday 5-8 PM**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Anyone willing to help organize the items are
invited to come to the church on these nights and
many hands will be needed to help the day of the
sale. Baked items also needed!**

Contact:

Lisa 860-751-2575 or Laura 860-480-1565

❧ Mother's Day Brunch ❧

***Sunday, May 10th
Immediately Following
Worship Service***

Kindly bring a dish to share!

***The beauty of a woman
isn't in the clothes she wears,
the figure that she carries
or the way she combs her hair.
The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes,
because that's where love resides.
The true beauty of a woman
is reflected by her soul.
It's the caring that she gives
and the passion that she shows.
And the beauty of a woman,
with passing years, only grows!***

Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	May 2 – 8 AM until 3 PM	Tag Sale
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	May 9 – 6 PM until 10 PM	Steam Vent Coffee House
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	May 10 after service	Mother's Day Brunch
Thursday – 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	May 21 – 6:30 PM	CDC Graduation
		May 25	Memorial Day
		June 7	Children's Sunday
		June 7 at 2 PM	Jazz it Up Concert-Laurel City Singers
UCC Upcoming Events http://www.ctucc.org/events/ ABC of CT Events www.abcconn.org	<i>Board Meetings</i>		REMEMBERING OUR LOST
	May 3 May 5 May 12 May 29	PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons Cabinet Meeting	Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day , it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the fallen Union soldiers of the Civil War. By the 20th century Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died in all wars.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

04 - Jay Nanni
 04 - Lia Nanni
 05 - Frank Artruc
 05 - Makenna Blische
 05 - Jeff Whipple
 08 - Joan Eggering
 09 - Christina Wu
 11 - Debby Kane
 11 - Lina Smith
 13 - Sarah Martin
 13 - Philip Smith
 14 - Brianna Smyth
 16 - Skip Fredericksen
 19 - Michael Doyle
 22 - Peter Marchand
 25 - Butch Eggering
 25 - Rose Stover
 25 - Russ Stover
 25 - Chelsea Swanson
 26 - David LeKang
 30 - Emily Michelle Wu

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 06 - Bonnie & Ryan Geddes
 ♥ 12 - Brenda & Bruce Sherman
 ♥ 12 - Korie & Gary Valickis
 ♥ 16 - Lorraine & Joe Tatar
 ♥ 17 - Samantha & Rick Rice
 ♥ 21 - Christine & Kelvin Smith
 ♥ 25 - Kathy & Don Garneau
 ♥ 26 - Christina Wu & David Ryu

First Church of Winsted Children's Discover Center Annual Raffle

Drawing to be held May 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM
during the CDC graduation!

Tickets are \$20 each

1st prize is a Samsung 55" LED Smart TV
 2nd prize is a Microsoft Surface 3 Tablet

Tickets are available at the
 Children's Discovery Center
 or contact

Debby Kane either at church
 or by phone: 860-307-8554


Scholarship Applications are available for those interested. Please see Barbara Mazzei. *All applications must be returned by May 10, 2015.*

Children's Day is June 7 at 10:00.
Scholarships will be awarded. We will
have our annual picnic immediately
following the service. All are invited to
attend and bring a side dish to share.



May 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	May Birthstone: Emerald 	May Flower: Lily of the Valley 	Astrological Signs Taurus: April 20 - May 20 Gemini: May 21 - Jun 21		1	2 TAG SALE
3 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Property Maint	4 Jay Nanni Lia Nanni	5 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Christian Ed 7:00 pm National Teacher Day Frank Artruc Makenna Blische Jeff Whipple	6 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm ♥ Bonnie & Ryan Geddes	7 Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm	8 Victory in Europe Day Joan Eggering	9  STEAM VENT Coffee House Chinese Nite in the Café Serving 6-8 PM Christina Wu
10 Worship Service 10:00 am Congregation Meeting Muddy Boots PC 9:30 am Mother's Day Brunch	11 Debby Kane Lina Smith	12 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Deacons 7:00 pm ♥ Brenda & Bruce Sherman ♥ Korie & Gary Valickis	13 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Sarah Martin Philip Smith	14 Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm Brianna Smyth	15	16 Armed Forces Day Pet Parade 2 PM Skip Fredericksen ♥ Lorraine & Joe Tatar
17 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am	18	19 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Michael Doyle	20 CDC Graduation Rehearsal 9:30 am AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	21 CDC Graduation NO Laurel City Singers	22 Peter Marchand	23 Prayer Shall Ministry 10 am - noon
24 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots PC ♥ Samantha & Rick Smith	25 Memorial Day Butch Eggering Rose Stover Russ Stover Chelsea Swanson ♥ Kathy & Don Garneau	26 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm David LeKang ♥ Christina Wu & David Ryu	27 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	28 Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm	29	30 Emily Michelle Wu
31 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am			"The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another." — William James			

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 - Bob Adkins
Clerk - Allison Graboski
Treasurer - Debby Kane
Associate Treasurer - Joan Eggering
Financial Secretary - Tanya Mongitore
Board of Deacons Co-chairs - Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni
Property Maintenance Chair - Frank Artruc
Christian Ed Chair / Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei
Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu
Muddy Boots 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

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

