

First Church of Winsted
Come as you are...
Leave transformed!

BELL RINGER

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

Word from the Pastor

Lenten greetings!

On certain days, I think that uncertainty is the most certain part of my life....

When I went to sleep last night, I was a bit agitated about some e-mails I received during the day about a trip that had been planned for over a month. Due to other issues that had recently come up, certain team members were not going to be able to travel with us, and we would need to postpone a part of the trip until April. The last minute change really bothered me, as I had prepared myself, my schedule, and even our church life around this long trip. So I had a restless night and had unusual dreams....about change.

As I drove to work this morning, I started to think of the benefits of shortening my upcoming trip. Postponing 7,473 miles of air travel and a week of meetings would allow me to better prepare for the coming of Holy Week. Besides that, I still had another 14,176 of air travel planned in March. And with the change, I wouldn't have to arrive at 3am in Saudi Arabia and be at a 10am meeting the same morning. I finally got my mind wrapped around the change, thinking that it was a good thing.

Ten minutes ago I finished a teleconference, and it was decided to stick with the original plans. So in the span of less than 24 hours, my travel plans for the month changed twice. I can't speak for your life, but in mine uncertainty is one of the few things that I am certain about!

No matter who we are, life seems to be a constant series of changes. The weather changes. Our bodies change as each day passes. Technology changes. But amidst all this change that we have to deal with on a daily basis, God is always there. I'm back to being OK with my original travel plans because it turns out that I hadn't realized that the alternate dates in April would have conflicted with other commitments. And now I don't have to spend hours re-booking hotels and flights. Life is back to normal (if there is any normalcy in my life!)

Somehow, God always makes things work out in my life. And the rollercoaster ride of the last 24 hours was a reminder of what Lent is all about. As I've told the children during Worship, Lent is not just a time to be somber or a time to sacrifice for the sake of sacrificing. Lent is a time when we try to be better Christians. And how do we do that? By developing a better relationship with God. And what is the foundation for a relationship with God? Realizing that God is always with us.

I hope that in these final weeks before Easter, you will feel God's presence in your life and know that God is with us in all times, places and circumstances!

Blessings,
Mike



MARCH 2013

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To request a copy
sent to your inbox
send an email to:
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Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org
Like us on Facebook!

Church News...



CDC News

New Security Practices are being implemented at CDC. The doors are always locked, and a buzzer has been installed. Security measures are being reviewed, in the wake of the Newtown tragedy.

A task group will be created to market the preschool in a different way, based on the size of the program, its goals of esteem building and development of social and emotional behavior, presented through The Arts!

This Summer ...

CDC will hold some out-of-school activities at the preschool, with some free events, such as "Family Night" which could involve outdoors movies for children.

Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 26th.



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

Board of Christian Education

At the February meeting of the Board of Christian Education, Allison Graboski was voted in for another term as Chairperson. Julie Davy and Emma Hennig were voted in as Co-Secretaries.

Ashley Jones agreed to keeping the youth membership list current, and sending notices of activities to them.

A new idea will be implemented beginning March 17! Peer teaching will involve pairing the older youth with the younger children one Sunday a month.

Confirmation Classes will be coordinated by Dan Jones, with several students interested.

Youth Activities are being considered for the Middle Group in grades 4-6. Tanya Mongitore and Holly Cassaday will coordinate these activities.

Youth Group will be visiting Hershey, PA...details are still being worked out.

College Scholarship raffle sold 110 out of 200 tickets, and despite the low sales, \$5,000 was raised for scholarships with the help of donations.

There will be an Easter Flower sale, including lilies, daffodils, tulips and hyacinths. Julie Davy is checking suppliers.

The Calendar Items for the coming year include:

Mar 2- Swim & Pizza Party at the Y from 2-4 PM

Mar no date yet-Hockey Game

Mar 31- Easter Egg Hunt

Spring Tag Sale – Date TBD
May 12- Mother's Day & Confirmation
May 18- Ziti Supper-Scholarship fundraiser
May 26- CDC Graduation
Jun 9- Children's Day/Picnic
Scholarships awarded

Scholarship Applications

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please see Allison Graboski for a form.

Property Maintenance Board

At a meeting of the Property Maintenance Board, Heather Richardson was voted in as Chairperson, and Bud Roberts will continue in the roll of Secretary.

Debby Kane will help Heather transition into the roll.

Areas of concern continue to be the leakage issues with the bulkhead door, the bell tower and the flat roof. Chaz is looking into the possibility of coating it.

Humidifiers seem to be alleviating the swelling problem with the dining room floor. The tiles will be tapped back into place, and the spacers replaced.

The driveway and sidewalk are in need of repair. Estimates are being sought, comparing concrete to asphalt.

Diaconate Board News

At a meeting of the Board of Deacons, Laura McCaw and Lisa Nanni were voted in as Co-Chairs,

Continued from page 2...

and Joan Eggering was elected Secretary for 2013.

The Fellowship Committee (formerly known as the Social Committee) will be taken on as a responsibility of the entire board.

Bonnie Geddes volunteered to send greeting cards to those with birthdays, anniversaries or to those dealing with illness, etc.

Tom Mazzei and Joan Eggering will continue to be the Music Sub-Committee.

With Easter rapidly approaching, we are reminded that it is a time of Forgiveness! We must remember how God has forgiven us for the things we have done wrong, and it is now time for us to try to do the same with others.

Diaconate/Fellowship Committee

Upcoming Events...

March 2-Beef Stew and Bingo

March 9- Steam Vent Coffee House

April 8-Sunrise Service and Easter Service

Apr13- Steam Vent Coffee House

April 21-Theme Dinner

May 11-Steam Vent Coffee House

May 13-Mother's Day Brunch

June 16-Father's Day Brunch

June 29-Dessert and Bingo

August 25-Make your own

Sundae Sunday-during fellowship hour.

September 28-tenative date for

Apple Picking at March Farm

October 19-Progressive Dinner

December 7-Christmas Fair



For the month of March:

Worship Choir

Trisha Wu, Director

Sundays March 3, 17, 31 @ 9:20 am - Worship Choir

Sunday March 24 - @ 9:20 am - Men's Choir

Every Sunday @ 11:15 am - Men's Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday March 5 - NO Worship Choir Rehearsal

Tuesdays March 12, 19, 26 @ 5:30 pm - Worship Choir Rehearsal

Thursday March 28th – Choir Rehearsal at 7:00

Calling all Men . . .

Singers, that is!

The worship choir has started working on a men's 2-part piece for Palm Sunday, March 24th. Please join us at rehearsals on Sundays after the worship service (at approximately 11:15 am) for 15-20 minutes. Bring a friend!



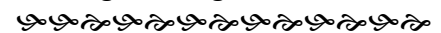
Rock Starz 4 Jesus (formerly the Cherub Choir)

Debbie Storrs, Director

RS4J meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 downstairs in the "music room" outside of the side door to the nursery. Rock Starz age 3 & up are welcome, and we sing during worship on the 4th Sunday. We will be singing the introit on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

RS4J is currently working on ukulele, hand drums AND even some singing! Rhythm Rocks...it's in everything, even the way you say your name. Can you beat out your name's rhythm? We can!

We are currently working on "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" not the Wizard of Oz version, but the Israel Kamakawiwo'ole version for Children's Sunday! Many thanks to Tia Mongitore who is helping us with the ukulele part of that song. Jesus Rocks! Thanks to the Father for the glorious gift of music!



I Love Choir!



STEAM VENT Coffee House Welcomes...March 9th ~ 6-10



6:30 Carl D & Co - My mission is to bring attention to the one who gave it all .My heart is to share God's Love with the Word in song. If I can change one heart with the music I play it is a good day. I believe God put us all here for a purpose and the purpose of this journey is so that, (Carl D & Company) becomes an open door for me to express my God given talents and to make use of some Original Christian Music that was inspired by God. My goal is to bring forth a message of deliverance to the ears of those who are listening. The music I play is a reflection of my desire to know God better and to give honor and glory to His Name. With an evangelistic flare and a wide variety of styles I play my hearts for Him!!!!



7:00 Rattlin' Windows is a Waterbury/Hartford area based band, which includes Wayne Levandoski on Guitar and vocals, Rosanne Shea on vocals and Sherrill Reichenbach on guitar, percussion and vocals. They will be performing some sweet three part harmonies on some familiar Americana tunes and a few originals with a folk flavor.



7:30 The Light Hearts - CT-based duo "The Light Hearts" is comprised of sibling team, Brian Kiss & Suzanne Vick. With their memorable melodies and soul-stirring lyrics, The Light Hearts create an evocative twist on the folk music they heard as kids, taking listeners on an acoustic journey through shadowy places and back out into the light again. The duo is currently working on their debut album, which they plan to release in 2013...



8:00 Michael Orlen - A singer songwriter with roots in the Boston music scene of the late sixties and early seventies, a frequent performer at legendary Boston venues including the Sword in the Stone and Turk's Head. He performed alone and as a member of folk pop duo "Orlen and Gabriel", as well as the popular seventies acoustic rock trio "Home Free". His songs are confident expressions of optimism with a dose of irony thrown in. He also draws on an extensive knowledge of twentieth century folk, blues, and ragtime music to choose songs that resonate in today's world.



8:30 Bill Benson - started his musical journey as a drummer...but got tired of being in the back. He hails from Unionville, CT. He has been writing music since he was 16...and can find a song in almost any situation! He has a very comfortable, easy listening folk/acoustic rock style...and is sometimes a little bit country! He is a frequent attraction at LaSalle's Market in Collinsville, during open mic nights on Friday evenings, and has performed on Better Connecticut, The Bitter End in NYC, Blue Back Square in Hartford, Jitters in Southington and Cheney Hall in Manchester. Bill is a favorite at Steam Vent Coffee House too! His original tune, "Porch Time" has two videos on Youtube, search Porch Time Bill Benson...and Porch Time 2 Bill Benson. His extensive song list can be sampled on Reverb Nation <http://www.reverbnation.com/billbenson>



9:00 Don Lowe explores life as he sees it with songs that are at turns witty, arcane, profane, sad, and sometimes, downright silly. After 15 years in New York City and Los Angeles as an actor, Don moved to Connecticut where he enjoys a freelance writing career, teaches college writing, and is featured in music venues throughout the Northeast and upper-Midwest. He's opened for Kenny White, Toby Walker, Danielle Miraglia, David Jacobs-Strain, Johnny A, The Dana Fuchs Band, and Maria Sebastian among others and has been featured in venues throughout Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota and North Dakota. His CD, "Dogs, Clowns and Belles" is available on CDBABY.com or at venues where he's playing.

HELPFUL HINTS – Home-made Jewelry Cleaner

1 tablespoon each of salt, baking soda & dish detergent
1 cup water and 1 piece aluminum foil

Directions:

1. Heat water in the microwave for 1 or 2 minutes.
2. Cut a piece of aluminum foil that roughly covers the bottom of a small bowl (like a cereal bowl).
3. Pour hot water into bowl. Place salt, soda, and dishwashing liquid into bowl. Place jewelry on top of foil and let it sit for 5 to 10 minutes. Rinse jewelry in cool water and dry jewelry completely with soft cloth. Discard solution after use and make a new batch next time.



Easter Basket items will be collected so that we can put together 8 baskets for children at the Homeless Shelter in Winsted. Items we are looking for are:

Crayons, coloring books, children's book, chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, peeps, toothbrushes, jump ropes, kids card games, bubbles, silly putty or play dough. Items need to be brought in on or before Palm Sunday as the baskets will be delivered on Good Friday.

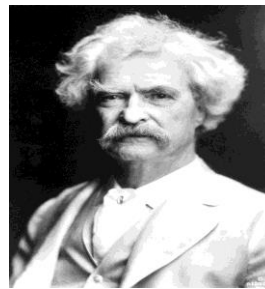


VNA Northwest is offering an eight-week training course for individuals who would like to become volunteers for the agency's Hospice Program.

Participants will learn how to provide support to terminally ill patients and their families.

The afternoon sessions will be held **on Wednesdays** from 1-4 p.m. at the VNA Northwest office, 607 Bantam Rd., Unit F, in Bantam, beginning Wednesday, April 3rd. The course concludes on May 22nd.

For more information or to register, please call Patricia Stengel, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 860-567-6000. There is no charge for the training, but advance registration is required.



"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see"
Mark Twain



Easter flowers will again be available through the Board of Christian Education: Please use this bulletin insert or call Allison Graboski at 860 238-7484 for more information.

All flowers are (6") pots.

Tulips	\$8.50	Lilies	\$9.00
Hyacinths	\$8.50	Daffodils	\$8.50

In Memory or Honor of:

Given by:


**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
First Church of Winsted
All requests and payments are due MARCH 21st**



Alex C making *Snow Angels*



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	March 2	Swim/Pizza Party 2-4
Sunday - 9:15 am	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	March 2	Beef Stew & Bingo 5:30
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	March 9 – 6-10 PM	Steam Vent
Wednesday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Cherub Choir	March 9	Set your clocks ahead!
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	March 10	Daylight Savings begins
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	March 17	St Patrick's Day
		March 20	Spring Begins
		March 24	Palm Sunday
		March 28	Maundy Thursday 7:30
		March 29	Good Friday
		March 31	Easter 6:30 & 10:00
Happy Birthday First Church	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	March 06	PM Board	
	March 13	Board of Christian Ed.	
	March 20	Deacons	
	March 27	Cabinet Meeting	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

No Date Listed
Erik Janak
Elisabeth Streeter

01 - Peyton Storrs
01 - Pat Wood
01 - Stephen Vaill
04 - Aedan McAllister
05 - Perry Green
06 - Steve Cassaday
06 - Roger Hurlbut
14 - Brandy Blische
17 - Henry Bengé
17 - Terence O'Neil
17 - First Church of Winsted
22 - Brittany Smyth
24 - Gretel Eddy
25 - Brianna Sollito
26 - Carlton (Bud) Roberts
28 - Laura McCaw
28 - Brigitte Gilbert-Corey
31 - Tamsin Pizinger

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

None

If you would have your birthday or anniversary added to our list, please email Deb Storrs: dstorrs@yahoo.com



Palm Sunday Services March 24th

Prepare ye...the way of the Lord! Come join in the celebration of the beginning of Holy Week as we remember Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem!

Maundy Thursday Service

To be held on March 28 at 7:30 PM. Come to remember the events leading up to and following the last supper of our Lord.

Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 AM at Forest View Cemetery on March 31

Meet us at the top of the hill to greet the sun and celebrate the renewal of life! Bring some white carnations...as a sign of hope...to put on graves of loved ones...

Easter Services

10:00 Worship Service

As is our tradition, the Alleluia Ball will come back into the sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning! All of our choirs will take part in the service, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Come celebrate the good news...Christ is Risen!

Flower Cross

Add your flowers to our Flower Cross...bring your own or use ours. Bud Roberts built this beautiful wooden cross, that we fill with flowers, which has been our tradition for several years. The empty cross filled with flowers is such a powerful image. Come be part of the resurrection celebration...death has lost its sting!

"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind." – Mother Teresa



March 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	March Birthstone: Aquamarine 	March Flower: Daffodil 	Astrological Signs Mar 1-20 Pisces Mar 21-31 Aries	March Birthdays <i>No Date Listed</i> <i>Elisabeth Streeter</i> <i>Erik Janak</i>	1 <i>Peyton Storrs</i> <i>Pat Wood</i> <i>Stephen Vaill</i>	2 Swim/Pizza 2-4 Beef Stew & Bingo 5:30 
3 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>9:20 am</i> <i>Cherub Choir</i> <i>9:15 am</i>	4 <i>Aedan McAllister</i>	5 <i>NO</i> <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>Men's Fellowship</i> <i>6:30 PM</i> <i>Perry Green</i>	6 <i>AA/Alanon</i> <i>7:30 pm</i> <i>PM Board</i> <i>7:00 pm</i> <i>Steve Cassaday</i> <i>Roger Hurlbut</i>	7 <i>LCS</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	8	9  STEAM VENT <i>Coffee House</i> <i>Set your Clocks Ahead!</i>
10 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Cherub Choir</i> <i>9:15 am</i> <i>Open Mic</i>	11	12 <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>5:30 pm</i>	13 <i>AA/Alanon</i> <i>7:30 pm</i>	14 <i>LCS</i> <i>7:00 PM</i> <i>Brandy Blischi</i>	15	16
17 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>9:20 am</i> <i>Cherub Choir</i> <i>9:15 am</i> <i>Henry Benge</i> <i>Terence O'Neil</i> <i>First Church of Winsted</i>	18	19 <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>5:30 pm</i>	20 <i>AA/Alanon</i> <i>7:30 pm</i> Spring Begins	21 <i>LCS</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	22 <i>Brittany Smyth</i>	23 <i>Prayer Shall</i> <i>Ministry</i> <i>10 am - noon</i>
24 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Cherub Choir</i> <i>9:15 am</i> Palm Sunday <i>Gretel Eddy</i>	25 <i>Brianna Sollito.</i>	26 <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>5:30 pm</i> <i>Cabinet</i> <i>7:00 PM</i> <i>Carlton (Bud) Roberts</i>	27 <i>AA/Alanon</i> <i>7:30 pm</i>	28 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm <i>NO LCS</i> <i>Laura McCaw</i> <i>Brigitte Gilbert-Corey</i>	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30
31 <i>Sunrise 6:30</i> <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship Choir</i> <i>9:20 am</i> EASTER <i>Tamsin Pizinger</i>			March 17th Happy St. Patrick's Day!	Awake, thou wintry earth - Fling off thy sadness! Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth Your ancient gladness! <i>~Thomas Blackburn, "An Easter Hymn"</i>		



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

First Church of Winsted
95 North Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098

BELLRINGER

