

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

Greetings in the name of Christ!

With the seemingly unending winter weather, it is hard to believe that the Lenten Season is upon us. What is Lent? It is the 40 day period (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day. Because the Easter event is the focal point of our Christian faith, it has been a tradition for centuries to use those 40 days of Lent to prepare oneself for Easter Day.

From my childhood days, I remember Lent as the time when we were required to give up something that we really liked. It was often candy, dessert, or something like that. The purpose was to help us better understand the sacrifice that Christ made for all of us. Coming to a better understanding of Christ's sacrifice for us is very important. But we can do that in many different ways and we should not limit ourselves to giving up something we like for the 40 day period of Lent. In fact, to best prepare for Easter, I think it is important to do different things to round out our understanding of the importance of the event.

While I welcome you to give something up, I want to encourage you to also do something different during this year's Lenten season. Christ gave his life so that we would all be freed from the bondage of sin. That bondage is often manifested by guilt, anger, and the inability to do what God really wants us to do. So to more fully understand the meaning of Christ's crucifixion, I ask you to consider forgiving someone who has done something that continues to this day to bother you. I can almost guarantee you that this will be much more difficult than not eating candy or dessert for 40 days. But even if we cannot successfully let go and forgive someone for something that happened in the past, the attempt to do so will help us better understand the meaning of Easter.

As you will read in this edition of the Bellringer, there is a lot going on in the life of our congregation. One of the most important activities of our Church is to care for one another. During this busy time of year, I also ask that you pick up the phone once in a while and check in on another member of the congregation. The stronger we are as a church family, the better we will be able to do God's work in our community and around the world.

May this Lenten season be full of blessings,

Pastor Mike



March 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:
sandrabenge@hotmail.com

For article submission:
sandrabenge@hotmail.com



Church Events

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us..</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	March 5	Ash Wednesday
Sunday - 9:15 am	Rehearsal~Rock Starz 4 Jesus	March 8	Steam Vent
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	March 17	Saint Patrick's Day
Thursday - 7:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	March 20	First Day of Spring
	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		
	March 2	PM Board	
	March 11	Board of Christian Ed.	
	March 16	Deacons	
	March 25	Cabinet Meeting	

8th ANNUAL SILVER LAKE GOLF TOURNAMENT
The Country Club of Waterbury
Silver Lake
June 3rd, 2014

Biggest fundraiser of the year;
Open to the public.

For complete info please call: 860-364-5526

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

2014 Mexico Mission Trip

For the eighth consecutive year, First Church will be sponsoring a mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. Our work over the years has been varied and challenging: the mission trip participants built homes at the local dump for families that collect plastic bottles for a living, distributed food to thousands of needy people in the mountains, and last year did major infrastructure repairs at the Casa Hogar children's home. Those repairs included replacing roofs on the classroom buildings, rewiring the electrical system of two thirds of the facility, and of course, spending time with the nearly 70 residents of the home. This year we will again be returning to Casa Hogar, and once again, our mission team will include both members of our congregation and friends from Saltillo, Mexico (a city over a thousand miles north of Oaxaca). If you are interested in being a member of the mission trip team, please contact Pastor Mike for more information. Even if you can't travel to Mexico to work with the team, there will be many opportunities for you to be part of the endeavor and support this year's team.

Special Thanks!

The Bellringer is an important communication tool for our congregation. Hats off to Debbie Storrs for her many years of collating and editing the Bellringer, and thanks to Sandy Bengé for taking on the editor role.

First Church "Kitchen Band" Resurrected for April 6th Performance

The Worship Choir will be singing "Dry Bones" during the worship service on April 6th. We are in need of help--people willing to play a kitchen instrument. That is, people who are willing to bang on a pot or lid or some such thing. Your singing voice will be welcomed, but is not necessary. We will have short rehearsals after the Worship Services on Sundays, March 16, 23 and 30. If you are interested, please contact Tricia after Worship on any Sunday between now and then.

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



Old Testament Teachings...

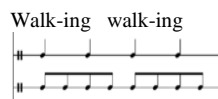
A Psalm of David

Psalms 37: 3-5

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so that you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him. And he will act.

Psalms 105: 4-6

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually! Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Abraham his servant, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!



Running, running,
Running, running

Hey do you feel
the rhythm?

Rock Starz 4 Jesus will begin to explore rhythms and some stringed instruments. Guitars proved a bit large for small fingers...so we are also going to start some Hawaiian fun with Ukeleles! Perhaps a little Somewhere Over the Rainbow...Israel Kamakawiwo 'Ole style...! Oddly enough, it seems almost everyone has one...hum...? I know...funny...huh? We could use a couple of more. If you have one, that is sitting around collecting dust somewhere...and are willing to donate it, you can even take it as a tax deduction...! Rhythm is everywhere...and we will even find it in our names! And other silly things! Rehearsing Sunday mornings at 9:15!

Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

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

March 2014

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	March Birthstone: Aquamarine 	March Flower: Daffodil 	Astrological Signs Pisces: <i>Feb 19 – Mar 20</i> Aries <i>Mar 21- April 20</i>			1
2 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am PM Board 11:15	3	4	5 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm</i>	6	7	8
9 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Sunday	10 Laurel City Singers Board Meeting 6:00 pm	11 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Chris Ed Bd 7:00	12 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Deacons 7:00 pm	17 	18 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	19 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i> 	21	22
23 Worship Service 10:00 am  Rock Starz 4 Jesus 9:15 am	24	25 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm	26 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	27	28	29
30 Worship Choir 9:20 am	31					

What Jesus Said:

Luke 12: 22- 24

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body, what you shall put on. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!



Artist: Karen Delton

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

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

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 ctucc.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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