

## Word from the Pastor

### Connect to the divine spark in your heart.

That is the message I found in one of my daily Lenten devotionals the other day. And it made me stop for a second or two and think. But the thought didn't go anywhere so I got about my day.

### This Lent, don't give up your voice.

That was the message that greeted me the next morning from the daily blog of Rebekah Simon-Peter. Again, I stopped and thought some more. Rebekah has been writing about **WHAT NOT TO GIVE UP** for Lent. Yes, she said, "Give up diet sodas, but don't give up these things: your voice, your neighborhood, being the church, people and love."

During Lent, we put a lot of our attention on the sacrificial love of Jesus. No doubt here that it is so powerful. But there is a kind of love that Jesus practiced, according to Ms. Simon-Peter that is the game-changer.

Everything I have been reading this year – theological, biblical, spiritual, cultural – talk about it. I have come to believe it is **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING JESUS TAUGHT US**.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.* (If you want to read the whole story around these fantastic words, turn in your New Testament and read Mark 12: 28 – 34.)

So, the question is put before us: Do you want to love like Jesus? Then it's time to take a quantum leap. To love like Jesus means to love ourselves, and our neighbors, and God. No one of the three kinds of love can be left out.

At the end of the story in Mark, when Jesus sees that those listening understood the Lesson? He said to them, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Not a bad place to be, I'd say.



MARCH 2018

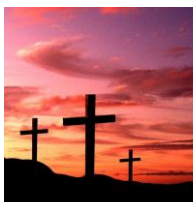
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### EASTER APPROACHES!

March 25 - Palm Sunday 10:00 AM  
March 29 - Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM  
March 30 - Risen the movie 7:00 PM  
April 1 - EASTER!! 6:30 & 10:00 AM



# Church News...

## *Worship with Us!*

### What R U Up 2?

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." - Mark 8: 31-38

Lent began in February and so did our Lenten theme. And in March we continue.

This season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name.

Here is our question:

**What pursuits are we up to in our lives that call us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church?**

### **The Third Sunday of Lent    March 4   "Take Up"**

He was bound to choose the just way, **not the easy way**, through life. To take up the cross was to lose one's life—to let go of certain expectations of safety and acceptance in order to stand for the Gospel message of love.

How are we to take up the causes of Jesus —justice, righteousness and mercy -- in our day?

### **Fourth Sunday of Lent    March 11   "Light Up"**

This Sunday our focus is a most important one for our Lenten journey. God did not send Jesus to condemn the world, but to offer it saving light. As believers in that light, we are called to continue to light up the world through our lives so that the world might see the hope it yearns for.

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent    March 18   "Lift Up"**

"When nothing else would help, love lifted me!" says the old Gospel song.  
To be lifted up is to be drawn into the love of God.

Jesus drew all kinds of people to him during his short tenure on earth, drawing no boundaries for who was invited into that love.

As his hour to die drew nearer, he spread the message that all things would be enveloped in his love even after he was gone.

What uplifting message will we pass on to others?

### **Palm Sunday    March 25   "Sit Up"**

The powers-that-be in Jerusalem sat up and took notice of the actions of Jesus and his motley crew of palm-waving followers on that morning.

It was a show of the "power" of love and justice for the "least of these," in stark juxtaposition to the military might of the Roman rulers. It was a non-violent action featuring a man sitting on a donkey—an action that has offered hope throughout the ages.

Will we sit up and take notice of the injustice of this world and work to eradicate it in ways that honor that first Palm Sunday parade?

### **Easter Sunday    April 1   Sunrise Service at Forest View Cemetery 6:30 a.m.**

### **Festival Worship and Praise in our Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.**

### **"Look Up"**

Three days had passed.

The women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, according to custom.

No doubt the journey to the tomb was heavy.

Perhaps they approached with heads lowered in defeat and grief.

But then they looked up and it changed their lives.

The barrier that they thought would be there was gone and what they discovered instead was life.

Will we look up? Will we look up from our complacency, apathy, fear and depression about "the way things are" and be filled with the promise of new life and hope yet again?

Check us out online!

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

Like us on Facebook!



## Welcome Harry Riggs

Installed as Executive Minister at ABCCONN on



**The Rev. Dr. Harry L. Riggs, II**

90A North Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107-1924

[hriggs@abcconn.org](mailto:hriggs@abcconn.org)

### Responsibilities

- Executive Minister
- Resource Minister for Hartford, South Central, SUNL and Northeast Associations
- Stewardship and Missions



First Church of Winsted,

Presents

"Risen"

A Biblical story about a Roman soldier searching for the resurrected Christ in the 40 days following the crucifixion.

Good Friday, March 30th  
7pm -9pm  
Gathering Room



## Choir Schedule

### For the month of March:

**Worship Choir - Tricia Wu, Director**  
**Rehearsals:**

Tuesdays, at 5:30pm

Sundays, March 4, 18, 25 with warm-up @ 9:30 am

**Muddy Boots - Dan Jones, Director**

Muddy Boots will be singing March 11, Rehearsing at 9:30

**Puddle Jumpers** are doing the Introit on the 25th, so Worship Choir may have to rehearse earlier (so they can rehearse @ 9:30)

Normally rehearses after Sunday services.





# STEAM VENT



## Coffee House



*Steam Vent will begin its spring season on*

**March 10 from 6 until 10 PM**

First Church of Winsted, 95 North Main Street.

### **Featured performers will include:**

6:00 Open Mic

6:30 The Axe Factory-Mark Moriarty

7:00 Bill Morrell

7:30 Silk-n-Steel-Con & Patti

8:00 Paula Ryan

8:30 Blue Yonder-Jean McMillan

9:00 Tom Sheely

9:30 Dave Kenna

Open Mic time slots are available from 6-6:30PM with sign-up the night of the event.

Steam Vent Café will serve up a meal with an Italian/Irish Theme including pasta choices, Meatballs or Chicken Parmesan served with salad and garlic bread. Various Irish Themed Home-made desserts will also be available.

# REMARKABLE

## A 40-DAY JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF MARK LENT READING GUIDE

What if you spent the next 40 days walking alongside Jesus, listening to His lifechanging teachings, and falling more in love with God with each turning page?

You're invited to rediscover the Remarkable One by reading through the Gospel of Mark in 40 days—with a Sabbath rest each week. Whether you choose to read through the Bible or listen to an audio version, you'll cover around 17 verses each day for six days a week. Now reading Mark in 40 days isn't easy. This demands intentionality. We must reach for the Bible instead of Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, or that latest episode of your favorite show.

Studying Scripture is a powerful way to rediscover the #Remarkable One. Our prayer is that at the end of 40 days, you'll feel so spiritually full you'll never want to live on empty again.

- Print out this Lent Calendar Reading Guide to use as a treasure map for our adventure. Tuck it in your Bible or journal.
- Order a copy of the Remarkable Bible Study complete with devotions and discussion questions.
- Checkmark or cross off the calendar day when you finish that day's reading.
- Celebrate the joy of Sabbath each Sunday. With no assigned readings on Sundays, use the time to rest or as a catch-up day.
- Share what God is revealing to you during Lent on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag: #Remarkable.

Much love,

*Margaret*

facebook.com/MargaretFeinberg

Twitter & Instagram: @mafeinberg  
#Remarkable

- ☐ DAY 1: **Mark 1:1-13**
- ☐ DAY 2: **Mark 1:14-28**
- ☐ DAY 3: **Mark 1:29-45**
- ☐ DAY 4: **Mark 2:1-13**
- ☐ DAY 5: **Mark 2:14-22**
- ☐ DAY 6: **Mark 2:23-3:12**
- ☐ DAY 7: **Mark 3:13-35**
- ☐ DAY 8: **Mark 4:1-25**
- ☐ DAY 9: **Mark 4:26-41**
- ☐ DAY 10: **Mark 5:1-20**
- ☐ DAY 11: **Mark 5:21-43**
- ☐ DAY 12: **Mark 6:1-13**
- ☐ DAY 13: **Mark 6:14-32**
- ☐ DAY 14: **Mark 6:33-44**
- ☐ DAY 15: **Mark 6:45-56**
- ☐ DAY 16: **Mark 7:1-23**
- ☐ DAY 17: **Mark 7:24-37**
- ☐ DAY 18: **Mark 8:1-21**
- ☐ DAY 19: **Mark 8:22-38**
- ☐ DAY 20: **Mark 9:1-13**

- ☐ DAY 21: **Mark 9:14-29**
- ☐ DAY 22: **Mark 9:30-50**
- ☐ DAY 23: **Mark 10:1-12**
- ☐ DAY 24: **Mark 10:13-31**
- ☐ DAY 25: **Mark 10:32-52**
- ☐ DAY 26: **Mark 11:1-12**
- ☐ DAY 27: **Mark 11:13-33**
- ☐ DAY 28: **Mark 12:1-12**
- ☐ DAY 29: **Mark 12:13-34**
- ☐ DAY 30: **Mark 12:35-44**
- ☐ DAY 31: **Mark 13:1-23**
- ☐ DAY 32: **Mark 13:24-37**
- ☐ DAY 33: **Mark 14:1-11**
- ☐ DAY 34: **Mark 14:12-31**
- ☐ DAY 35: **Mark 14:32-52**
- ☐ DAY 36: **Mark 14:53-72**
- ☐ DAY 37: **Mark 15:1-15**
- ☐ DAY 38: **Mark 15:16-41**
- ☐ DAY 39: **Mark 15:42-47**
- ☐ DAY 40: **Mark 16:1-20**

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us... Weekly!</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9:00 am	Bible Study with Cyndi Whipple	March 10 - 6-10 PM	Steam Vent
Sunday - 10:00 am	Worship	March 17	Happy Birthday First Church
Monday - 5:00 pm	Women's Bible Study at Lisa's	March 17	St. Patrick's Day
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	March 20	Spring Begins
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	March 24	Clean-UP Day!!
Thursday - 7:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	May 19	Tag Sale
		May 20 - 2 PM	Slightly Off-Broadway (LCS)
<b>Happy Birthday First Church!</b>	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		<b>Happy Birthday First Church!</b>
	March 05	PM Board	
	No March Meeting	Board of Christian Ed.	
	March 11	Deacons	
	March 28	Cabinet Meeting	

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

No Date Listed  
Erik Janak  
Elisabeth Streeter

01 - Pat Wood  
01 - Stephen Vaill  
01 - Katherine Timmeney  
04 - Aedan McAllister  
05 - Perry Green  
06 - Steve Cassaday  
06 - Roger Hurlbut  
07 - Morgan Blische  
14 - Brandy Blische  
17 - Henry Bengé  
17 - Terence O'Neil  
17 - Keith Rellihan  
17 - First Church of Winsted  
22 - Brittany Smyth  
23 - Kurt Timmeney  
24 - Gretel Eddy  
25 - Brianna Sollito  
28 - Laura McCaw  
28 - Brigitte Gilbert-Corey  
31 - Tamsin Pizinger

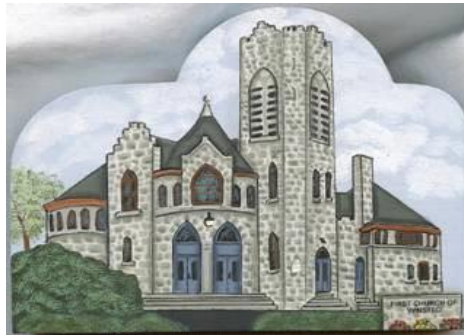
### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

None

If you would have your birthday  
or anniversary added to our list,  
please email: Deb Storrs  
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org

# Happy Birthday

## FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED



*240 Years Old!*

*March 17, 1778 - 2018*

*Still in His Service!*

# Spring

CLEAN UP

## March 24<sup>th</sup>

Helping Hands  
needed!



### Silverlake

<http://silverlakefamily.com/youth-programs/silverlake-academy/summer-camp/>



### Camp Wightman

<http://www.welovecamp.org/youth-camp-2018.html>





# March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Artist: Karen Delton</p> <p>March Birthdays No Date Listed Erik Janak Elisabeth Streeter</p>	<p><b>March Birthstone: Aquamarine</b></p> 	<p><b>March Flower: Daffodil</b></p> 	<p><b>Astrological Signs</b> <b>Mar 1-20 Pisces</b> <b>Mar 21-31 Aries</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Girl Scouts 5:00 pm</p> <p>LCS 7:00 pm</p> <p>First Rehearsal Katherine Timmeney Peyton Storrs Stephen Vaill Pat Wood</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>4</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Property Maintenance Bd After Service Aedan McAllister</p>	<p><b>5</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's Perry Green</p>	<p><b>6</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm Christian Education No Meeting Steve Cassaday Roger Hurlbut</p>	<p><b>7</b> AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Morgan Blische</p>	<p><b>8</b> Girl Scouts 5:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>  <p>STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 pm Italian/Irish Night! Turn Clocks Ahead!</p>
<p><b>11</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots 9:00 am Daylight Savings Deacons Meeting After service</p>	<p><b>12</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's</p>	<p><b>13</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b> AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Brandy Blischi</p>	<p><b>15</b> Girl Scouts 5:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</p> <p>Henry Benge Terence O'Neil Keith Rellihan First Church of Winsted</p>
<p><b>18</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am</p>	<p><b>19</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's</p>	<p><b>20</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm Spring Begins Brittany Smyth</p>	<p><b>21</b> AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> Girl Scouts 5:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Kurt Timmeney</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Church Clean-UP Day Gretel Eddy</p>
<p><b>25</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:00 am Puddle Jumpers 9300 am Palm Sunday Brianna Sollito</p>	<p><b>26</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's</p>	<p><b>27</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet Meeting 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>28</b> AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Laura McCaw Brigitte Gilbert-Corey</p>	<p><b>29</b> Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm NO LCS</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Movie Night Risen 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Tamsin Pizinger</p>



Artist: Karen Delton

### **Pastor – The Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson**

Moderator - Frank Artruc Vice-Moderator - Dan Jones

Clerk - Laura McCaw

Board of Deacons - Kathy Garneau

Property Maintenance - Frank Artruc

Treasurer - Debby Kane / Associate Treasurer – Tanya Mongitore

Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering

Christian Education Chair/Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Muddy Boots - Dan Jones

Puddle Jumpers - Dan Jones

Webmaster - John Eggering Editor - 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](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. Harry L. Riggs, II

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Web-Site [www.abcconn.org](http://www.abcconn.org)

First Church of Winsted  
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# **BELLRINGER**

