

Word From The Pastor March 2020

Along with Autumn and Winter, Spring are my favorite seasons of the year. A few years ago, I shot the tulip on this page, and every time, I look at it, I'm reminded of Stevie Wonder's song, *"Isn't She Lovely?"* But, I digress. While I've got dozens of pictures of tulips. I chose this one because it is wide open, fully displaying its radiant beauty.



Lent, is something like this tulip. When we enter Lent, our hearts, minds, and souls should be wide open. We should be open to receiving instruction and inspiration about Jesus and his three year journey towards the Upper Room, the Mount of Olives, his conviction in the Sanhedrin trial, his appearance before Pilate, the court of Herod, the torture gallery of the Roman guards, Mount Calvary, and finally to a tomb that was found empty on the third day.

Lent is also an opportunity for us to totally unveil our sins. We can't hide them, we've all committed sins (whether accidentally, intentionally, or by failing to act on things that we should have done). Everyone who worships at First Church and every other church in the nation and the world has committed sins. And Lent is the time when we need to expose our closets that are chockfull of skeletons, confess our sins, repent, and ask the Lord for forgiveness.

Our commemoration of Lent should be different than what many non-Christians do. Non-Christians often participate in Lent, by giving up things like candy, alcohol, social networking, meat, coffee, etc., but that's not what Lent is for, Lent is a time for us to open ourselves up to the meaning and celebration of hope and assurance of the Lord's forgiveness, *"...if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing. If we claim that we've never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God—make a liar out of him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God."* John 1: 9-10 (The Message Translation). Lent's big purpose was pronounced by Jesus while hanging on that old rugged cross, when he prayed for us, *"Father, forgive them..."* Luke 23:34.

I, therefore, invite you to join me this Lent in fully revealing ourselves and our sins to the Lord, who already knows what we've done; he's just waiting for us to admit it, and ask for forgiveness. If you are at worship on Sunday, my sermon is titled, *"From Forgiveness to Joy,"* based on Psalm 32:1-5, 11, which teaches us that it'll be a joy to experience the forgiveness that the Lord has promised for all who have sinned.

I invite you to join me over the next six weeks as we prepare for Resurrection Sunday by praying and singing, *"Give Me A Clean Heart."*



MARCH 2020

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Article Submission:
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To request a copy sent
to your inbox send an
email to:
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Church News...

Mexico Mission...

The Mission Trip for 2020 has been approved and is planned for July 11-19. Fundraising will begin again at the March 14th Steam Vent Coffee House! If you are on Facebook, please share this event with your friends! Irish/Italian night in the café. See Ad page 3.

Property Maintenance Board News...

- Spring Clean-up April 4th with The Gilbert Girls Softball Team will help.
- Paint & Plaster – Looks great!! No cost for the church – we are providing 200 hours of community service. After that the costs will be reassessed. \$3,000 available in the budget.
- Health Inspection for the kitchen has been done and the certificate expires 1/31/20, new certificate has not yet been received.
- Hartford Steam Boiler called to inspect the boilers; Debby Kane paid the fee.
- Between 40 & 60 people are attending AA on Wednesday nights. There are some cleaning issues that need to be addressed. Coffee spills and coffee grounds in garbage with no bags. Some cleaning supplies including a Swifter, broom and dustpan will be made available for their use and Cheryl will be sure to put bags in the trash cans.
- Pathways Project Update – Salt pitted the top of the handicapped ramp, but it will be resurfaced and sealed in the spring along with the final finish coat on the driveway. The front sidewalks will also be completed in the spring. The light in the hallway will also be fixed.

Pastoral Search...

A note from the Pulpit Search Committee
Ashley Fontanez

Last week we had the pleasure of meeting with Rev. Tamara Moreland who delivered the results of our Holy Cow! Assessment. We are grateful for Tamara's time and training to interpret the data. We were immersed in a review of the assessment until about 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon. We are

grateful for the professionalism of Holy Cow! And most of all we are grateful for your participation, prayers and patience with our process.

I assure you; your voices were heard in so many ways! One of the biggest takeaways for me from the assessment, is how high our spiritual vitality is overall! Being that our faith is central in our lives. Adversely to that, throughout the results there was a repeated indication of our congregation's desire for participation outside of worship, primarily in adult education.

We are brainstorming ideas that the Cabinet, Deacons and BOCE can begin work on now. Such as, small groups and bible studies and we will ensure that is a strong focus of the next settled Pastor.

There were echoes of fellowship, family, love, peace, home, and comfort throughout your responses. The assessment indicated that we show significant strengths and that we appear to be a church that is motivated for change and ready for growth!

And I think I can speak for the group when I say that after receiving this data, we are even more invigorated and excited about moving forward with this information. Our next meeting is on March 1st.

Lenten Daily Devotion ☩ DAY 3

📖 MEDITATE: Psalm 118:25-26

🙏 PRAY: Lord, help me to dive into this season of Lent with intentionality and purpose! I want to know You better, love You more and accept Your grace. Draw me closer each day.

💡 REFLECT: What is most meaningful in the Lenten season to you?

Ashley will be sending daily devotionals throughout the Lenten season!





March 14, 2020

Featured Performers:

6:00 Open Mic
 7:00 Breathless Charm/Danielle Emberley & Diane Davis
 7:30 Lisa Clarke
 8:00 Adelaide Punkin
 8:30 Michael Lovallo & Edie Mallick
 9:00 Lawrence Marks

*Free Will
 Offering
 to support
 Children's
 Mission*

Italian/Irish Night!

In the Café from 6-8 PM

*Pasta with Meatballs or Veggieballs and choice of Sauces
 served with salad and rolls, dessert & beverage ... \$10.00*
Desserts \$1.00-\$2.00 Beverages \$1.00

*Open Mic performers (2 song limit) may sign up in advance at:
info@firstchurchofwinsted.org*

FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED 95 N MAIN STREET

**DON'T
 GO
 TO CHURCH.
 BE THE CHURCH.**



**Choir
 Schedule**

For the month of March:

Worship Choir - Tricia Wu, Director
Rehearsals: Tuesdays, at 5:30pm
 Sundays, March 1 & 15 warm-ups @ 9:30 am

Muddy Boots - Dan Jones, Director
Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 6:00
 Sundays, March 8 & 29 warm-ups @ 9:00 am

Puddle Jumpers
Rehearsals: after Sunday services.
 Singing on March 22; warm-ups @ 9:30

**HUMBLE
 YOURSELVES
 UNDER
 THE MIGHTY
 HAND OF GOD,
 THAT HE MAY EXALT
 YOU IN DUE TIME.**

1 PETER 5 : 6

Thoughts on Church Attendance...

This past week Cindy Roys shared some thoughts on church attendance that was shared with her by a high school friend who was missionary for many years. Coincidentally, it came from crosswalk.com where our **Lenten Daily Devotional** comes from. It resonated with me and we read it at our monthly church cabinet meeting, and I wanted to share it with you.

– Debby Kane

Thought on church attendance: “Maybe...you’re just really busy...all “good things” but if they regularly take you away from church attendance, you would do well to realize you’re choosing the captivity of activity over what God says is more important. “Going to church is not about getting your attendance gold star, nor is it about gaining God’s favor for the week because you assembled together with His people. Church is not a place to go, rather it is a living body where God want you to become a part – for your good and His glory”.

This will be the first Sunday in **Lent**. As we move into the season of Lent it is a time to strengthen our relationship with God, a time to reflect on our lives and actions, a time to explore our path to God. If you are not receiving our Lenten Daily Devotional email each day and would like to please see Ashley Fontanez.



FAITH!



Fun Nite

Friday, March 27th
at 5:30!



Saturday, March 13th
at 5:30 PM

See Kim Janak or Lisa Nanni for details!



Resurrection Sunday Approaches!

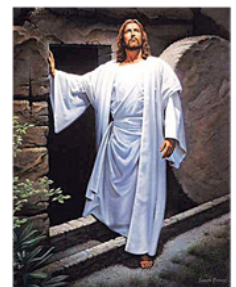
Palm Sunday - April 5 at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday - April 9 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday - April 10 at 7:00 pm (movie)

Sunrise Service - April 12 at 6:15 am Forest View

Resurrection Sunday Service - April 12 at 10:00 am



The Value of One Member

Ten little members standing in a line.
One disliked the minister, then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late.
One forgot her promise, then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven.
One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix.
They quarreled over projects, then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive.
One moved away, then there were five.

Five steadfast members wished there were more.
One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagree,
'til one complained of meetings, then there were three.

Three eager members! What did they do?
One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done.
One joined a sports team, then there was only one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue,
met with a neighbor, and then there were two.

Two earnest members each enrolled one more,
doubling their number, then there were four.

Four determined members just couldn't wait,
'til each one won another, then there were eight.

Eight excited members signed up eight more.
In another six verses, there'll be a thousand twenty-four.

Author unknown...

New Member Classes forming...



Pastor Kap, Bibi and Deborah

New member classes will be led by Pastor Kap and Bibi has decided to join! Others who have expressed their wishes to join are David Marks and Derek Storrs

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church of Winsted, please see him.



Confirmation Classes!



Confirmation Classes Forming!

Open to children 6th Grade and older!

For more information contact Ashley Fontanez or Pastor Kap.

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us... Weekly!</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 10:00 am	Worship	March 4	Super Saturday Registration ends
Sunday - after service	Rehearsal ~ Puddle Jumpers	March 7	Turn clocks ahead
Sunday - 6:00 pm	AA	March 13	Comfort Food and Bingo
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	March 14 – 6-10 PM	Steam Vent
Wednesday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Muddy Boots	March 16	UCC Super Saturday Workshop
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	March 17	Happy Birthday First Church
Thursday - 7:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	March 17	St. Patrick's Day
		March 19	Spring Begins
		March 27	Faith and Fun Night
		April 5	Palm Sunday
		April 9	Maundy Thursday
		April 10	Good Friday – Movie Night!
		April 12	Resurrection Sunday
		May 16	Tag Sale
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Happy Birthday First Church!</h3>	<i>Board Meetings...</i>		<h3 style="text-align: center;">Happy Birthday First Church!</h3>
	Meets as needed Meets with Deacons March 08 March 24	PM Board Board of Christian Ed. Deacons 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 - Terence O'Neil

17 - Keith Rellihan

17 - First Church of Winsted

22 - Brittany Smyth

23 - Kurt Timmeney

24 - Gretel Eddy

25 - Brianna Sollitto

26 - Justin Takeman

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



Community Meal Crew

*The Community Meal crew served
20 people at the February Dinner!*

*First Church cares
about our neighbors!*

Look online - see what we're up to!

www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

Like us on Facebook too!

Silverlake

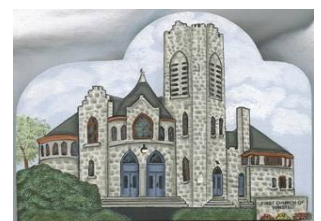
<http://silverlakefamily.com/youth-programs/silverlake-academy/summer-camp/>

Camp Wightman

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



OF WINSTED



242 Years Old!

March 17
1778 - 2020

Still in His Service!



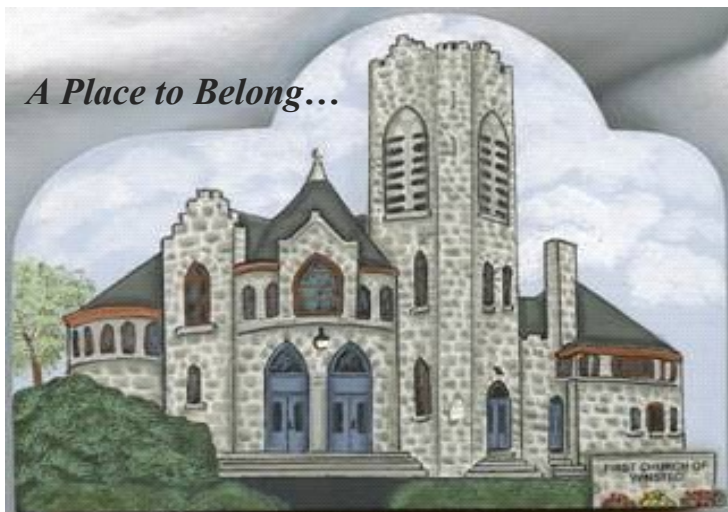


March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	March Birthstone: Aquamarine 	March Flower: Daffodil 	Astrological Signs Feb 19-Mar 20 Pisces Mar 21-Apr 19 Aries			March Birthdays No Date Listed: Erik Janak Elisabeth Streeter
1 Worship Service 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm Pastoral Search Katherine Timmeney Stephen Vaill Pat Wood	2	3 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	4 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Super Saturday Registration Ends Aedan McAllister	5 LCS 7:00 pm Perry Green	6 Steve Cassaday Roger Hurlbut	7 Turn Clocks Ahead! Morgan Blische
8 Worship Service 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm Daylight Savings Diaconate 11:15 am	9	10 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	11 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	12 LCS 7:00 pm	13 Comfort Food & Bingo 5:30	14 UCC Super Saturday  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 PM Italian Night! Brandy Blischi
15 Worship Service 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm	16	17 Worship Choir 5:30 pm St Patrick's Day Terence O'Neil Keith Rellihan 1st Church of Winsted	18 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	19 LCS 7:00 pm Spring Begins	20 Brittany Smyth	21
22 Worship Service 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm Kurt Timmeney	23	24 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet Meeting 7:00 PM Gretel Eddy	25 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Brianna Sollitto	26 LCS 7:00 pm	27 Faith & Fun Night 5:30 pm	28 Laura McCaw Brigitte Gilbert-Corey
29 Worship Service 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm	30	31 Tamsin Pizinger		Worship Choir Rehearses Tues at 5:30 1 st & 3 rd Sundays	Muddy Boots Rehearses Wed at 5:30 2 nd & 5 th Sundays	Puddle Jumpers Rehearses Sun at 11:30 4 th Sunday

A Place to Belong...



Artist: Karen Delton

Interim Pastor - Elder Kenric Austin Prescott, M.S.W., M.Div.

Moderator - Frank Artruc

Clerk - Debbie Storrs

Board of Deacons - Kim Janak & Cheryl Jones

Property Maintenance - Dan Jones

Treasurer - Debby Kane

Financial Secretary - Joan Eggering

Christian Education/Sunday School Director - Ashley Fontanez

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Muddy Boots - Dan Jones

Puddle Jumpers - Debbie Storrs

Webmaster/AV Tech - 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

Telephone (860) 379-1778

Church Website www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

The CT Conference of the UCC

Telephone (866) 367-2822 Toll Free

Still Speaking Site www.stillspeaking.com

UCC Website: www.ucc.org or ctucc.org

**American Baptist Churches of Connecticut -
ABCCONN**

Executive Minister: The Rev. Dr. Harry L. Riggs, II

Telephone (860) 521-5421

ABCCONN Website: www.abcconn.org

First Church of Winsted

95 North Main Street

Winsted, CT 06098

BELLRINGER

