First Church of Winsted FCCF First Church - Christ First

BELLRINGER

Christ First!
Everyone coming together
to do God's work.

APRIL

My Grandma Mary had the whitest hair I had ever seen, and her wide, rounded ears were pink seashells hugged by thick curls that wrapped beneath her clip-on earrings, cradling her lobes. I'd push my fingers up inside of the curls at the nape of her neck to make her laugh, amazed by the soft pipe of them. I have a magnolia tree in my front garden now and her name is Mary Magnolia. I have a habit of naming my trees and plantings, and I gave her my grandmother's name because her blooming, contrasting colors belonged to my Grandmother long before I ever had my own magnolia tree in my own garden. In late April, Mary Magnolia's buds fatten, their green pods ready to split wide and spill their petals, and I think of the awesome gift of their newness. Her splendor is short lived, the purest white sketched with seashell pink, her thin painted veins of magenta quickly rust, and wilted fall unceremoniously to the ground. I am grateful for the few days of her bloom each spring, and over years, I've realized that it is in this new life, this seemingly ordinary event, and so many others like it, that I can see the Face of God. Many seem to reserve the spiritual Face of God for the literal, seeing our Lord in His children. In the newly born infant's, precious, humid face only moments from his mother's womb, his blinking, unfocused eyes searching to find those who prayed for him to come. A child's face, her rosebud lips parted in sleep, innocent, calm, and treasured. In our elders, we find timelines of a life lived, moments that mounted to years of laughter and worry and pain and joy, now carved around mouths and eyes. It is here we see His face. The Face of God can be found in moments; a body's final breath, the peace witnessed as a brow smoothes and a soul is welcomed home. The gift of a familiar nose from generations past, only to appear after hiatus to the delight of those remembering and seeing their loved one again, "Oh, he has Uncle Michael's nose!" Our mouths, curved in a smile, a scarred lip, or a dimpled corner pursed in dismay. In teeth and lips clamped tight and jailed behind determined fingers in an attempt to stifle a giggle at an inappropriate moment or in recognition of a well-loved joke or story. In cheeks hallowed in sickness or flushed with life... we can see the Face of God. It is in the faces of those we love, in moments unexpected, in days remembered, that we hear, and share, the Face of God, and we see.

With our New England seasons, the ground seems to *turn* green in spring, often so suddenly it's confusing, and as I look from my window above the kitchen sink, I find in the hours since the night before, a new grass so vivid I'd forgotten it possible. After months and months of such cold and gray, I am surprised by its light. I've been so hungry for warmth and green I'd wondered if I'd recognize it at all. It is *new life*, not *turned*, nothing has magically changed from one thing to another, but it did *become*.... the new shoots, rising to stand between the brown mats of dried grass and fallen leaves; we witness *new life*, the *rebirth of a season*. The smallest buds and largest, roundest bulbs hold their blooms in orbit, wrapped in upon their tender shoots and elbows, the *Face of God*. The spongy earth in my yard gives way to tracks of dogs and chickens, a perfect reflection, an imprint of what they need to bring them to and fro, these vehicles of clawed toes and sure paws are God- given. He is the Creator, how could the rightness of it remain faceless? It is so good, to see the *Face of God*.

The seed started on my kitchen counter, such a meek beginning in a dinosaur Dixie Cup, given a popsicle stick burial in anticipation of *rebirth*, this seed needs only to drink, brave the newness and then, peeking into the light, will be given what she needs. She is transplanted into earth, and she is home. In time, we'll see her saucer face, beaded with shining seeds, shaded by golden fingers opening to the sun, turning toward warmth and finding purpose in her life as a sunflower.

To every season is given the *Face of God*; not only blinking eyes and the familiar curve of a loved one's jaw, but fox fur, caught in brambles that edge the path through the thicket, the coppery hairs billowed and waving in the breeze. I see the *Face of God* in a clutch of eggs my hen has hidden in hope of becoming a mother, feeling the pull and knowing only that she must, she lays and sits and waits atop her watercolor miracles. The night wind blows the leaves in the tallest tree, still sparse enough in early spring to only jokingly hide the glowing moon, like parted fingers in an infant game of peek-a-boo, and we see the *Face of God*. In His creation, in His image, the Mother-Father-Artist paints veined magnolia petals, molds seashell ears, buds and bulbs and roots of promise, sketches moonlight, and paw prints... The miracle of *new life*, of *rebirth*, of every moment gifted in His love is the *Face of God*, and in every season, His reflection found.

Submitted by: Emily King



MAY 2013

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

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Church News...

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%% HELP WANTED

Part time Secretary

Small Winchester Church seeks experienced secretary for a part time position. Responsibilities to include assisting Pastor in production of weekly Church Bulletin, maintaining Church calendar, email/telephone correspondences and general office duties. Ten hours a week--Computer skills a must! Qualified applicants may send resumes to:

P.O. Box 200

Winchester Center, CT 06094

৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯ Board of Christian Education

April 28thu directly following the worship service there will an informational meeting for 4th-6th graders and their parents for the New Middler's Youth Group

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Chronic Rhythm at Steam Vent Coffee House...



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

Tis' A Gift to Start With the End in Mind

Submitted by Tanya Mongitore

Stewardship is more than financial giving. It is a sense of Thanksgiving for all that God has given us, including caring for the world around us. I recently had an "Aha" moment with something my 10 year old taught me.

A few weeks ago, eleven Church leaders went away for a two day retreat to work on learning to accept ourselves in order to be better stewards and leaders. The premise was that by doing that, we would be able to help the church better do God's work. It was a time for sharing, learning, growing and hearing each person's perspectives in an environment removed from our norm when meeting to do GOD's work.

One of my assignments at the Retreat was to cover the topic of Blending Boundaries. In other words, we need to respect each person's and each board's area of responsibility, but at the same time take initiative and not stand around waiting for someone else to do the job. I was running out of time but still wanted to have a little give away for those attending to remind them of the steps involved in finding solutions to help in blending the boundaries ...which was basically based on moving from the "It's not my job" mentality to embracing the fact that we are all on the same team.

My presentation was based on the Oz principles, which has four steps: See It, Own It, Solve It and Do It. I was preparing the presentation at the end of a long day, and I needed to get it done. So I explained to my daughter that I needed her help to complete the project. I asked her to take an index card and divide it into four equal areas with a pencil. Then she should draw a picture of something in each square that identifies one of these four steps in this order: See It, Own It. Solve It, Do It. What she came back with was a magnifying glass, a lock, a girls head with think cloud over it and the Nike

Just Do it symbol.

This was all good, except she started the sequence in the upper right box and then went counterclockwise. I would have laid it out by starting in the upper left box, then move to the upper right box, the lower left box, and finally the lower right box.

I almost said, "you need to redo it, as it should be ...", but something stopped me and I suddenly realized that the end result was the same. She did do what I had defined as the end result and the message was actually better the way she did it, as it was symbolic of a circle and the steps in the process are a circular cycle. So in the end, asking her to help so I could get the presentation done made the presentation that much better, as it provided an fantastic real life example as to how we each can think differently and get the same end result, when we have the same goal in mind.

This is just one small example of how we need to realize that there is no wrong or right way to do something as long as we have a common goal in mind, and the task is done with love and from our hearts. Each of us holds treasures and talents within that we can share to help do God's work without even realizing it. And by realizing that we need to focus on the goal rather than the way we get to the goal, more of those treasures and talents can come out and be shared. I ask you to challenge yourself to figure out what tool, treasure or talent God has provided you with that you can share to help First Church to continue to put Christ First in all the ministries that we provide. And let us all focus on the common end result we want to achieve and allow each person's unique perspectives, creativity and talents to be used to get us to those

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"You gotta give up the life you planned in order to have the life that is waiting for you." JOSEPH CAMPBELL



IWANT TO HAVE FUN MAKE FRIENDS BE MYSELF FIND GOD

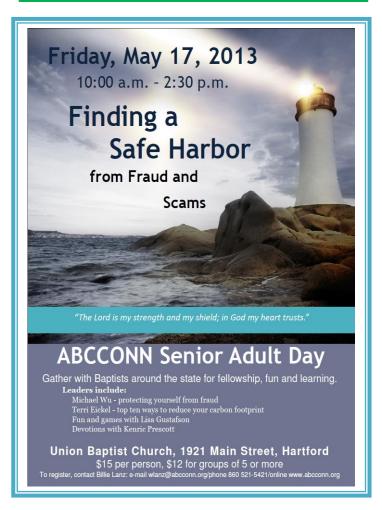
Sign up for a week of life-changing adventure in "God's Backyard"

Online registration open now for children entering grades 4 through 12



www.silverlakect.org







Drop off items in the Gathering Room Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Nite! Volunteers Needed at 5:30 AM to set things up outside on the day of the sale...come one down...we'll have the coffee on and maybe some donuts!

Left over items-to be donated to the Salvation Army!

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Youth Car Wash 9:00 - 1:00 Church Parking Lot

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Youth "Grace Grille"
Hot Dog, Hamburg Sales
At the Tag Sale
With "master chefs"
Pastor Wu & Alison Hall
a-flippin' & a-grillin'

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Happy Mother's Day!

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!



April 21st Fire on Thibault Ave

Firefighters were called to a fire at a home on Thibault Avenue about 12:30 p.m. The top floor was fully engulfed in flames. Firefighters managed to keep the fire from damaging homes on either side, but the heat was so intense, some of the siding melted. The home is a total loss, according to fire officials.

The American Red Cross is assisting the family, which consisted of four adults and five children including two teenagers.

The family did have some pets, including four dogs, a cat and birds; however, they did lose two hamsters and a lizard.

STEAM VENT Coffee House Welcomes... MAY 11th 6-10 PM



Jim Moore: Lives in Winsted. He's been playing guitar for a couple of years...and it has been a blessing in his life. Music has always been a joy for Jim, and now he gets to play and sing all my favorites. Jim is a big fan of the 60's and 70's, and some top favorites include: Donovan, Beatles, Bread, America, The Eagles, Simon and Garfunkel to name a few. .And of course he's a huge Hank Williams Sr. fan! Singing and playing in front of an audience is still new to Jim, but he loves a good challenge....

STEAM VENT CAFÉ

> CHINESE **NIGHT!!**

Pot Stickers **Fried Rice**

Adult portion \$7.00 **Child portion** \$3.50 **Deserts \$1 - \$2 Beverages** \$1.00

STEAM VENT **Coffee House** Musicians

Showcase

6:00 ~ Open Mic

6:30 Jim Moore

7:00 Buzz Turner

7:30 Eric Jacklin

8:00 Don Lowe

8:30 Lisa Martin

9:00 Jeanne McMillan Duo

9:30 ~ Open Mic



Buzz Turner plays contemporary acoustic fingerstyle guitar. No words, just music. Buzz fuses traditional western European structure with American musical idioms. Blues, jazz and rock merge with Celtic. Latin and world influences to produce compositions that alternate between soft, delicate fingerstyle passages and up-tempo displays of virtuosity.

A self-taught guitarist schooled in garage bands, Buzz played colleges, clubs, coffeehouses and concerts for several years before hanging up music for a day job in broadcast engineering and audio for film/video production. Fast-forward to 1999 when a week at a workshop for fingerstyle guitarists invigorated and inspired Buzz to return to performing. Since then he has shared his original compositions and impressive technique with appreciative audiences throughout the United States. Along the way he's garnered strong press, a first place award from the International Acoustic Music Awards and syndicated national airplay.



Eric Jacklin Since he first heard rock & roll music and held a guitar at age 11, Eric Jacklin's obsession with all things musical has grown into an insatiable thirst and an endless desire to fill the world around him with something cool for people to listen to. He had several guitar instructors as a young boy, and was an astute classical guitar student, performing with the Orange Coast Guitar Ensemble while living in California from 1989-1991. Throughout the '90s, Eric paid his dues and cut his teeth in many popular CT rock and reggae bands. His current projects include a classic & modern rock cover band called 'ISH' that continually grows in popularity, and songs that he is writing for a tentative debut solo CD.



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 Sebastion 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. Steam Vent loves story time...with Don Lowe!



Lisa Martin Emotionally charged acoustic folk rock is Lisa Martin's hallmark sound. Drawing on diverse influences spanning the last three decades, Martin's music bridges the elements of folk and rock, with her pop sensibilities always highly evident in the mix. Whether performing solo or with a full band, she is always well received and captivates the audience with her powerful vocals, guitar prowess, heartfelt delivery and guick wit. Her live performances, which run the gamut from heartfelt songs of love and loss to her rollicking takes on life's lessons are steadily earning her a following of passionately loyal fans throughout the northeast.



Jeanne McMillan is from Ganby, CT and has been on the folk music scene since the 70's. She signed a recording contract with Motown in the 80's...but at that point, Motown didn't really know what to do with folk singers, because if they did, she may have been very famous today! These days singing, songwriting, arranging and playing continue to dominate her creative life. A Hawaiian flavor and ukulele have been added (influenced by a dozen annual trips to Maui), along with many other instruments, but her '67 Martin D-28 remains the guitar of choice. A profound love and influence is harmony - certainly in music, but also in life. Music has been a mainstay, tremendous joy, and continuing thread throughout the many changes that have come along over the years. Ken Sills, is a fine guitarist and singer in his own right. They have been playing together for over a year, perfecting originals and covers of songs they love from the wealth of wonderful music out there, with much attention to Ken's leads and the vocal harmonies

Music is free...Dinner'll cost ya...and donations go to Missions! Come on down...kick your shoes off ...set a spell, you'll be happy you did!! Benefit Missions ~ Donations are tax deductible!

Upcoming Events								
Gelebrate With Uls		Rooking Forward						
Sunday - 10 am Tuesday - 5:30 pm Wednesday - 6 pm Wednesday - 7:30 pm Thursday – 6:00 pm	Worship Rehearsal~Worship Choir Rehearsal~Cherub Choir AA / Alanon Meetings Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	May 4 May 11 May 18 5:45 - 7 PM May 20 May 26 May 27 June 8 June 15 June 16	Tag Sale Steam Vent Coffee House Pasta Supper with Silent Auction CDC Graduation Scholarship Applications due Memorial Day Steam Vent Coffee House LCS-Feel The Spirit Concert Walk-a-Thon for Mexico Mission					
	May 5 May 7 May 14 May 21	Meetings Board of Christian Ed. PM Board Deacons Cabinet Meeting	REMEMBERING OUR LOST 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

- 05 Lillian Hamilton
- 08 Joan Eggering
- 09 Christina Wu
- 11 Debby Kane
- 11 Lina Śmith
- 13 Philip Smith
- 14 Brianna Smyth
- 16 Skip Fredericksen
- 19 Michael Doyle
- 23 Peggy Hamilton-Rathbone
- 25 Butch Eggering
- 25 Chelsea Swanson
- 26 David LeKang
- 30 Emily Michelle Wu

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

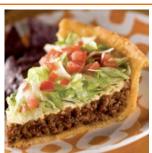
- ♥ 12 Bruce & Brenda Sherman
- **▼** 16 Lorraine & Joe Tatar
- ▼ 21 Kelvin & Christine Smith
- ♥ 24 Terry & Becky Smyth
- ♥ 26 Christina Wu & David Ryu

Silver Lake Summer Conference Registrations

Come to camp!
Registration is now open for Silver
Lake summer conferences and
there's lots of room left!
Registration Link:

http://www.silverlakect.org/register/.

Silver Lake Open House May 5
Come and check us out! RSVP
to jennc@ctucc.org.



TACO PIE

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 package Taco Bell seasoning mix
- 2 1/2 cups mashed potato flakes (you could also use left over mashed potatoes and omit the butter and milk)
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded Sour cream, optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium sauce pan, melt butter. Add milk and 2 tablespoon taco seasoning.

Remove from heat and add potato flakes until incorporated. Press mixture into the bottom of a 10-inch pan. Bake for 7-10 minutes until it just BARELY turns golden brown.

In a medium skillet, cook beef and onions until beef is browned and cooked through. Drain. Add Salsa and remaining taco seasoning. Cook until bubbly. Pour into crust. Bake for 15 minutes, or until crust is golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes.

Top with cheese, lettuce, and tomatoes. Cut and serve with sour cream.



Youth News

Confirmation Classes April 21, 28, May 5

Confirmation Sunday May 12 Classes for students grade 7 and up See Allison Graboski <u>athall37@yahoo.com</u> 860-238-7484

Scholarship Applications available now!

Due Date: May 26th

See Allison Graboski – Forms in Fellowship Hall

CAR WASH SUNDAYS starting Sunday April 21

Weather permitting!

Youth will be available to wash cars after church Benefit: Youth Trip to Lancaster, PA

Youth Trip to Lancaster, PA for grades 7-12+

June 7-9

Amish Country, Hershey Park, and beyond! See Ashley Jones

Ziti Supper and Silent Auction

Saturday May 18th 5pm-7pm To benefit Scholarship Fund Items needed: Food donations, Auction donations,

Food donations, Auction donations, Workers to help AND hungry folks to eat!

Please contact Allison Graboski athall37@yahoo.com or 860-238-7484.

Lancaster, PA Youth Trip Have you noticed the Mosquitos are already out! Here is a homemade trap to help keep you and the kiddos from being a blood donor!!!

HOMEMADE MOSQUITO TRAP:

Items needed:

- 1 cup of water
- 1/4 cup of brown sugar
- 1 gram of yeast
- 1 2-liter bottle

HOW:

- 1. Cut the plastic bottle in half.
- 2. Mix brown sugar with hot water. Let cool. When cold, pour in the bottom half of the bottle.
- 3. Add the yeast. No need to mix. It creates carbon dioxide, which attracts mosquitoes.
- 4. Place the funnel part, upside down, into the other half of the bottle, taping them together if desired.
- 5. Wrap the bottle with something black, leaving the top uncovered, and place it outside in an area away from your normal gathering area. (Mosquitoes are also drawn to the color black.)

Change the solution every 2 weeks for continuous control.





Owen Lovejoy as Prince Dauntless...in the Northwestern Regional #7 production of "Once upon a Mattress"

PASTA SUPPER MAY 18th 4:45-7PM \$10 Adult ~ \$8 Senior ~ \$5 Child Benefit: Scholarships SILENT AUCTION TOO!



VNA NORTHWEST-

On Thursday evening, May 16th, VNA Northwest will present a community awareness program at The Litchfield Inn featuring Linda Campanella, an author, speaker, and advocate for compassionate end-of-life care.

Ms. Campanella is the author of *When All That's Left of Me Is Love*. She will offer her perspective on terminal illness, death of a loved one, and her family's experience with hospice care.

The program is open to the public, and is sponsored in part by Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, Inc., with additional funding from Junior Women's Club of the Litchfield Hills. Pre-registration is required. Please call VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 by May 7th to make a reservation.



May 2013



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	Remembering Their Sacrifice		
			AA/Alanon 7:30 pm May Day	Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm	3	TAG SALE Grace Gill Car Wash
5 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am RS4J 9:15 am Property Maint After Service Lillian Hamilton	6	7 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Christian Ed 7:00 pm National Teacher Day	8 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm Joan Eggering	Jaurel City Singers 6:00 pm Ascension Christina Wu	10	STEAM VENT Coffee House Chinese Night in the Café Serving 6-8 PM Debby Kane Lina Smith
12 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Sunday RS4J 9:15 am Mother's Day ♥ Bruce & Brenda Sherman	13 Philip Smith	14 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Deacons 7:00 pm	15 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm Skip Fredericksen ▼ Lorraine & Joe Tatar	17	18 Armed Forces Day Pet Parade 2 PM PASTA SUPPER SILENT AUCTION 4:45-7 PM
Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am RS4J 9:15 am Pentecost Michael Doyle	20	21 Worship Choir 5:30 pm Cabinet 7:00 pm ▼ Kelvin & Christine Smith	AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	Laurel City Singers 6:00 pm	24	Prayer Shall Ministry 10 am - noon Butch Eggering Chelsea Swanson
Worship Service 10:00 am RS4J 9:15 am Trinity Sunday Dave LeKang ◆ Christina Wu & David Ryu	27 Memorial Day	28 Worship Choir 5:30 pm	29 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	30 Emily Michelle Wu	31	June 1



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 Youth 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 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

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

BELLRINGER

