

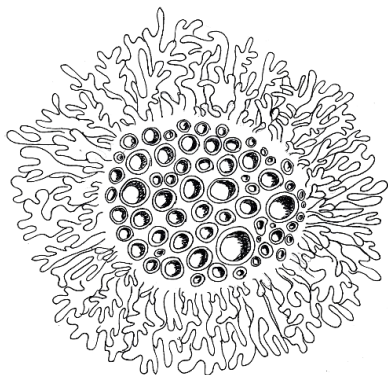
First Church of Winsted

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



At a recent meeting of ABCCONN folks, we were talking about the changing face of our churches and our associations. The ways we have related to one another have become outdated and we need to renew...refresh and revitalize our connections. It was a very lively discussion and lots of ideas were shared and dissected. I couldn't stop thinking about First Church and the hunger for renewal we all feel.

Then one of my colleagues shared something he had learned about lichen. Believe me, it got our attention. What does lichen have to do with relationships in the church?

First, I need to tell you a little about lichen that I learned last week. Lichen is an ancient life form. When you see a lichen growing on a rock or tree, it looks like a single organism. But it is actually a symbiotic relationship (a close and long-lasting association between two or more organisms). The basic two organisms are algae and fungus. The essential nature of each part remains intact. Each one must be fully themselves or the lichen won't last. For the whole to flourish, the individuals bring their unique characteristics.

So, in church life, think about how this translates. The words of Paul to the church at Corinth come immediately into my mind.

*<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.<sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.* 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13

Take a look around at our fellowship here in First Church. We are a very diverse group. We are officially UCC and American Baptist and come from many other denominations and religious affiliations. We are many generations, genders and political ideas. We come from different economic backgrounds and nationalities. And yet, with our many individual differences, here at First Church we are indeed one body in Christ. It is the common link that binds us together.



MAY 2018

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Winsted, CT 06098  
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Check us out online! [www.firstchurchofwinsted.org](http://www.firstchurchofwinsted.org)

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

## Church News...

### **Pastor's Note continued:**

And just like the lichen, as individual members, we bring our unique gifts, our diversity, and come together in one body.

We are about to enter a period of change and transition. It will be our unity as one body in Christ that will provide the strength and stability for us. It will be our individuality as members that will provide energy and ideas to keep the body going. It is a time for us to listen to one another as we renew and refresh and revitalize our church.

Keep the search committee and each other in your prayers in the days ahead.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lisa



Choir Schedule Thru June:

May 6 WC  
May 13 MB (Mother's Day)  
May 20 PJs (Children's Day and Pentecost)  
May 27 WC (Trinity Sunday and Memorial Sunday)

June 3 WC  
June 10 WC (per Dan's request)  
June 17 WC (Father's Day)  
June 24 WC (or MB)

***"Keep Love in your heart A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead."***

**-Oscar Wilde**

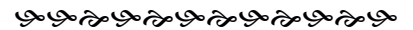
1 John 4: 7-21 (NRSV)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that t

e Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so

are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.



### **Inspiring quotes about LOVE!**

God is love. He didn't need us. But he wanted us. And that is the most amazing thing.

**-Rick Warren**

I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'— **Mother Teresa**

God gives miracles to those who believe, courage to those with faith, hope to those who dream, love to those who accept, and forgiveness to those who ask...—

**Abhishek Tiwari**

***"Hearts will never be practical until they are made unbreakable."*— Wizard of Oz**





**Christian Tee Shirt Day participants:** *Back Row Left to Right: Joan Eggering, Barbara Mazzei, John Eggering, Debbie Storrs, Dan Jones, Ashley Fontanez, Denise Jones, Kyles Jones. Front Row Left to Right: Peyton Storrs, Riley Storrs, Derek Storrs, Pastor Lisa Gustafson and Sarah Storrs.*



We hope to see you!!!

May 17th & 18th, 5pm-8pm

Sorting - Dining Room

May 19th

Table set up, unpacking items to table, Clean Up.

Time to Clean out those attics and Cellars!



Seis de Mayo May 6<sup>th</sup> in the Dining Room at 11am



**Win Prizes**

\$.25 cents a card or

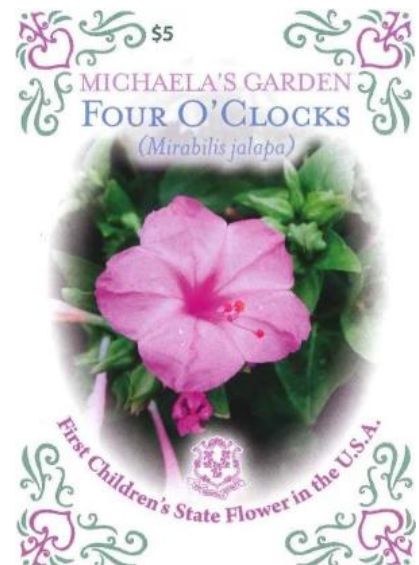
A book (25 cards)  
for \$5.00

## Tag & Plant Sale

Plants from Michaela's Garden

May 19th 8am - 4pm

First Church -- 95 North Main Street Winsted





CHRIS TOMLIN  
PRESENTS

# WORSHIP NIGHT

**MAY 5**

IN AMERICA



CHRIS TOMLIN  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

KIM WALKER-SMITH  
OF JESUS CULTURE

MATT MAHER

CHRISTINE D'CLARIO

LAUREN WELLS

PAT BARRETT

*Laurel City Singers*

*Slightly-Off*

**BROADWAY**

May 20th at 2 PM

First Church of Winsted

Tickets: Adult \$10/Senior \$8/Family \$20

May 5, 2018  
7:00 pm

For tickets, call  
**860-379-4766**

## HARMONY FOR HUNGER

Second Congregational Church of Winsted  
800 Main St.  
Winsted

Featuring a wide variety of music performed by your friends & neighbors

Refreshments following concert

All proceeds to be donated to the Open Door Soup Kitchen & Salvation Army Food Bank

Adults: \$10  
Children & Seniors: \$5  
Family: \$20

Non-perishable food items will also be collected

Sponsored by the Second Congregational Church of Winsted Music Committee

# STEAM VENT

**Coffee House**

May 12, 2018

Featured Performers

6:00 – Open Mic – Sign-up night of event  
6:30 – Twice Around – Frank & Louisa  
7:00 – Silk-n-Steel – Con & Patti  
7:30 – Eric Paradine  
8:00 – Melanie Michaud  
8:30 – Darlene Fullerton  
9:00 – Planet XOXO – Pamela Vitale  
9:30 – Juan DeGuzman

**Free Will Offering in support of Children's Mission**

**Make Your Own Grinder Night!**  
Pick a Roll...

Choice of meats, cheeses, lettuce, tomato, onion choice of condiments mustard, mayo, oil & vinegar ..... \$6.00  
or Dinner Salad ..... \$6.00  
Side Salad \$3 ~ Desserts \$2.00 ~ Beverages \$1.00

Steam Vent Coffee House – giving musicians a relaxed and friendly place to share their talents with friends and neighbors. Our extended mission is to promote and encourage local musicians and provide entertainment to the Northwest Corner while raising funds in support of our children's mission activities.

**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED** **95 NORTH MAIN STREET**

## Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking forward</i>	
Sunday - 9:00 am	Bible Study	May 4 - 6:00 pm	Patriotic Prayer & Song – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Church
Sunday - 10:00 am	Worship	May 17 & 18	Tag Sale Drop Off
Monday - 5:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	May 19	Tag Sale
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	May 20	Children's Day
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	May 20 – 2:00 pm	LCS Concert – Slightly Off Broadway
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers		
<p>“The whole world is a series of miracles, but we're so used to seeing them that we call them ordinary things.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">— Hans Christian Andersen —</p>	<i>Board Meetings</i>		<b>REMEMBERING OUR LOST</b>
	May 8	Board of Christian Ed.	<b>Memorial Day</b> is observed annually on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as <b>Decoration Day</b> , 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 6	PM Board	
	May 20	Deacons	
	May 22	Cabinet Meeting	

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

04 - Jay Nanni  
 04 - Lia Nanni  
 05 - Frank Artruc  
 05 - Makenna Blische  
 05 - Jeff Whipple  
 08 - Joan Eggering  
 09 - Christina Wu  
 11 - Debby Kane  
 11 - Lina Smith  
 13 - Sarah Martin  
 13 - Philip Smith  
 14 - Brianna Smyth  
 16 - Skip Fredericksen  
 19 - Michael Doyle  
 22 - Tino Gaspar  
 22 - Peter Marchand  
 25 - Butch Eggering  
 25 - Rose Stover  
 25 - Russ Stover  
 25 - Chelsea Swanson  
 26 - David LeKang  
 26 - Eliana Gaspar-Wu  
 30 - Emily Michelle Wu

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 06 - Bonnie & Ryan Geddes  
 ♥ 12 - Brenda & Bruce Sherman  
 ♥ 12 - Korie & Gary Valickis  
 ♥ 13 - Natalie & Chaz McCaw  
 ♥ 16 - Lorraine & Joe Tatar  
 ♥ 17 - Samantha & Rick Rice  
 ♥ 21 - Christine & Kelvin Smith  
 ♥ 21 - Chris & Bob Steele  
 ♥ 25 - Kathy & Don Garneau  
 ♥ 26 - Christina Wu & David Ryu



**May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Help us Celebrate Children's Day!**  
**And join us birthday cake afterwards!**  
**First Church is 240 years old!**

## Stories for Mothers – by Mothers

### We Rock – by Emily King

I've stood in many college hallways in recent months.

Waiting.

Waiting for a tour guide.

Waiting for the unlocking of a dorm room, a lab, a classroom.

Waiting for my child's name to be called.

Waiting for an intended major or program to be shared.

Waiting for our turn to meet the dean, the advisor, the director.

Waiting with other parents, their teenagers often taller than they, but sharing noses, hair color, brow-lines, hall space...

There is something I've begun looking for on every tour in these waiting times and I've become simultaneously comforted, amused, and saddened by the surety with which I find it.

The fathers typically stand against the walls. Their upper backs leaning, their comfortable loafers or worn sneakers jutted just slightly forward. Sometimes they briefly check their cell phone before self- consciously and quickly tucking into a breast pocket. Their faces are mostly open and amused, but sometimes bored and distracted. Often their arms are crossed comfortably, heads tilted, just waiting.

But, the mothers...

The mothers. And this is what simultaneously makes me a little sad, makes me smile to myself, and comforts me beyond anything I expected.

The mothers.

The mothers, we rock.

We sway.

We bounce.

And we rock.

We hold packets and folders and binders of admissions and program information tightly to our chests, our arms folded securely around the stacks, sure to not lose a single paper or note. We switch from arm to arm, balancing the stack on our hip, swaying, rocking, bouncing while we wait. Sometimes the Wait is longer than expected and we alternate left arm-hip bounce to right-arm-hip sway and back again. And when we've been there a bit and have exchanged glances with the other bounce-sway-rockers- and then our children, where we try to hold their look the longest, but they inevitably look away too quickly- always so quickly!- we ALL pull our stacks back to our center, tightly against our chests. Sometimes we settle ourselves in those last minutes of the Wait by absentmindedly rubbing the smooth backs of the stacks, drawing circles with our thumbs, smoothing invisible creases with the lightest fingertip sweeps. We keep the rhythm of our swaying.

We eagerly enter the room once it is unlocked. Our stacks

held securely, mostly angling protectively away from the person holding the door as we pass. We smile, murmur thanks, and hold our stacks close.

I watch as we sit before tables. We gently place our stacks directly in front of us, I'm positive the paper is warm for just this instant, still warm from being held so tightly- some removing papers for notes jotted for later review but then always replaced neatly and gathered lovingly for our walk to our next Wait. I've yet to see a mother leave her stack behind.

At our next Wait we begin the Sway-Bounce-Rock-Glance Dance again.

I recognize this dance and that is what makes me smile.

Every mother that ever was, knows this dance.

I am comforted by the universal love that is a Mother's. It is their children that may become my child's new people.

These mothers hold close their baby's dreams and hopes on University letterhead. Just as I do, again and again.

We mothers dance alone in line at the DMV or the bank, alone in line at the ladies' room at a craft fair, alone in our kitchens heating water for tea, alone in ballot boxes, holding pens and hoping and praying for the coming days and countless intentions that are ours, our babies often mile and miles of earth or heaven away. We never stop the dance.

Never ever. No matter the Wait.

Babe in arms or out.

Stack of dreams in arms or out.

We rock our babies.



### Once a Mother - by Nancy Johnson

My eldest son came to visit and apparently, literally, THE FIRST THING HE DID when he walked in the house was make a beeline for the cookie jar ~which was empty. You can't imagine how terrible I felt when he told me that!

Needless to say, as soon as I had the opportunity, I made a batch of Coconut Chocolate Chip cookies. He was gone when I filled the jar and sadly, not knowing it was full, he walked right past it when he came back, so I grabbed him by the arm and dragged him back to the cookie jar and opened the lid for him.

I should know better. And no matter how old my boys ~who are strapping young men, they will ALWAYS be my babies!

Once a mother, always a mother...











# May 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	<b>May Birthstone:</b> <b>Emerald</b> 	<b>1</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm <b>May Day</b>	<b>2</b> AA/Alanon 8:00 pm	<b>3</b> Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Prayer Service 2 <sup>nd</sup> Church 6 pm	<b>4</b> Jay Nanni Lia Nanni	<b>5</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> Harmony for Hunger Concert 2 <sup>nd</sup> Church at 7pm Frank Artruc MaKenna Blische Jeff Whipple
<b>6</b> Bible Study 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Puddle Jumpers 11:15 am <b>Property Maint.</b> <b>11:15 am</b> <b>Taco Dinner</b>	<b>7</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's	<b>8</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm <b>Christian Ed</b> <b>6:45 pm</b> Joan Eggering	<b>9</b> AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Christina Wu	<b>10</b> Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am Girl Scouts 6:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm	<b>11</b> Debby Kane Lina Smith	<b>12</b>  <b>STEAM VENT</b> Coffee House 6-10 PM ♥ Bruce & Brenda Sherman ♥ Gary & Korie Valickis
<b>13</b> Bible Study 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots 9:30 am Puddle Jumpers 11:15 am <b>Mother's Day</b> ♥ Chaz & Natalie McCaw	<b>14</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's Brianna Smyth	<b>15</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm	<b>16</b> AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Skip Fredericksen ♥ Joe & Lorraine Tatar	<b>17</b> Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am Girl Scouts 6:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm ♥ Rick & Samantha Rice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>TAG SALE</b> <b>Armed Forces Day</b> Michael Doyle
<b>20</b> Bible Study 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Puddle Jumpers 9:30 am <b>Children's Day</b> <b>LCS CONCERT</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> <b>Diaconate 11:30</b>	<b>21</b> Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm At Pastor Lisa's	<b>22</b> Worship Choir 5:30 pm <b>Cabinet</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Tino Gaspar Peter Marchand	<b>23</b> AA/Alanon 8:00 pm	<b>24</b> Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am Girl Scouts 6:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> <b>Bellringer            Deadline</b> Butch Eggering Rose Stover Russ Stover Chelsea Swanson ♥ Don & Kathy Garneau	<b>26</b> David LeKang ♥ David Ryu & Christina Wu
<b>27</b> Bible Study 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Puddle Jumpers 11:15 am	<b>28</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> AA/Alanon 8:00 pm Emily Michelle Wu	<b>31</b> Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am Girl Scouts 6:00 pm LCS 7:00 pm	<b>May Flower:</b> <b>Lily of the            Valley</b> 	<b>Astrological            Signs</b> <b>Taurus:</b> <b>April 19 - May 20</b> <b>Gemini:</b> <b>May 20 - Jun 20</b>

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



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  
95 North Main Street  
Winsted, CT 06098

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