

## Word from the Pastor

Dear Members & Friends,

For the second year in a row, our lives were disrupted by a major storm. Last year it was snow; this year it was wind and rain. Different elements but the same result. While we were spared the devastating damage suffered by our neighbors in southern Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey, there were downed trees, power outages, and school closings.

Something I've learned from these two major storms is that the impact on our lives is not only physical, but also mental and emotional. Looking back on this past week, I now realize that I was hyper on Sunday. Before the rains arrived on Sunday evening, I not only ran down to Orange to prep my mother's house for the storm in the afternoon but that night went to the Church and the Children's Discovery Center just to check things one last time (even though I knew that the necessary preparations were completed by others). I was like a squirrel on crack (hyperactive) preparing for winter....

As the full impact of the storm was arriving on Monday morning, I was at my office in Farmington. And my mental and emotional state shifted to the opposite side of the spectrum. Instead of scurrying to prepare for the storm, I was in total denial. Security came to my office three times telling me to go home. I told them I had an 11:30am teleconference, would leave after the call ended, and easily beat the 1pm shutdown of the roads. The head of security finally came and told me that my physical safety was more important than a phone call and that I would be escorted to my car if I did not leave on my own. I did finally leave the office and go home, but pulled out my laptop and continued to work all afternoon and evening.

As I look back on Monday and Tuesday, I realize that I put in nearly 20 hours for my other job....and accomplished very little! My brain would not function as it normally does. And as I slowly come out of that storm induced fog, the following thoughts have come to mind:

1. God was truly with us through the storm. I am not aware of any member or friend of our Church family being injured or physically harmed by the winds or rain. And to date I have not received any reports of damage to or flooding of any our homes. Things could have been worse for us, and I thank God for keeping us safe.
2. It's sometimes easier to deal with problems when everyone else is in the same predicament. Unlike last year's storm, power outages are unevenly scattered throughout the State. It was somehow more bearable last year when no one had power. But with the knowledge that others around you have power, we get more irritable. While I understand that feeling, and also acknowledge that this is an election year and politicians want to show that they are advocating for their electorate, I get chills reading that some municipal leaders in lesser impacted areas state that their towns are not getting a fair share of crews to clear fallen trees and restore power when a few hours away 80 homes in Brooklyn burned to the ground, thousands of apartments and homes are still under water in coastal and low lying areas, and there are hundreds of trees blocking roads in other places across our state. We need to see the big picture and keep our situation in perspective. There are many millions of other people in worse situations than ourselves.
3. Our neighbors and friends in Southern Connecticut, New York and New Jersey need our help. Both of our denominations have special funds for disaster relief. The UCC has the



NOVEMBER 2012

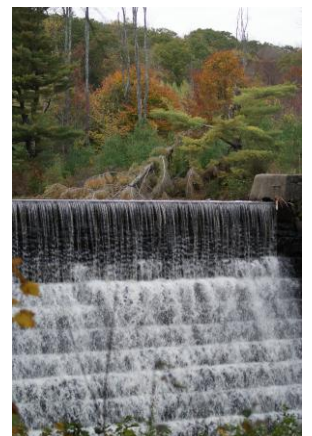
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Rugg Brook Rd Dam



It's coming...

# Church News...

## Pastor's Word continued...

Neighbors in Need fund. The American Baptists have the One Great Hour of Sharing fund. Not a penny given to those funds is kept to pay organizational overhead or personnel costs. Every single penny is given to people in need. For the first time in more than 30 years, the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut is requesting One Great Hour of Sharing monies to distribute to those in need through our sister churches in Southern Connecticut.

4. Once the immediate rescue and restoration efforts are complete, it will probably take years for some people and communities to rebuild. While many will have insurance to repair the damage, I am certain others will not. I will ask that the Church Cabinet actively investigate ways that our Church family can reach out and assist others in their rebuilding effort by donating our time and physical labor. Similar to our mission trips to Mexico, I am sure that there will be opportunities for us to help people rebuild.

For the time being, if you are so moved, please make a special donation to the Church for the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Neighbors in Need offerings on any of the next Sundays. Just mark on the check or envelope that it is for "Disaster Relief" and we will make sure that every penny of your special donation is used to assist those impacted by the recent storm.

Blessings,

Mike

*Thanksgiving Offering will be split between Open Door Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army Food Bank & Capital Fund!*

## Nominating Committee News...

2013 is fast approaching and there are 2 vacancies on each board, if there is a church board you may be interesting in volunteering to serve on or finding more about what they do please sit in on a meeting in November or December. We have Property Maintenance, Board of Christian Education and the Diaconate.

Thanks to all who helped collect and donated coats during the month of October!

To date we have collected 181+ coats, calls are still coming in to drop more off.

## Birthday Party For Jesus

Sunday , December 23<sup>rd</sup> following the worship service.

If you have an idea or game that you'd like to share during the celebration, or if you would like to help in planning the Birthday Party please see Tanya Mongitore or call her at 860-738-2279, or send her an email [tmongitore2144@charter.net](mailto:tmongitore2144@charter.net)

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHURCH FAIR IS COMING!

Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Would you like to sign up for a basket of goodies to donate for the basket raffle? (See Barbara Mazzei)

Do you run a business or have a special craft to sell at the fair?

Be a part of the fun: help the kitchen chili cook off staff or help with set up/clean up.

See Laura McCaw/Lisa Nanni for vendor/volunteer info.



Messiah Community Sing-a-long  
sponsored by  
Second Congregational Church  
Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Call 860-379-4766 for more info

*Laurel City Singers*  
With Special Guest  
**JOHN MARSHALL**  
And the  
**SALISBURY HAND DRUMMERS**

**Goin' Tribal Concert**

**NOVEMBER 18 AT 2 PM**  
**FIRST CHURCH OF WINSTED**  
95 NORTH MAIN STREET

TICKETS: \$10 ADULT \$8 SENIOR \$20 FAMILY  
Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to:  
Susan B Anthony Project and Salvation Army Food Bank



Mark your calendars!

Saturday, November 3  
8 AM – Noon!

*Many hands make light work!*

**CHURCH  
CLEAN-UP  
DAY!**





## TAKE THE SON!

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing other soldiers. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands.

He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly... He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.'

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture.. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.'

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?'

There was silence...

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.'

But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?'

Another voice angrily, 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the Real bids!'

But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting...' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

'We have \$10, who will bid \$20?'

'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.'

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!'

A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!'

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.'

'What about the paintings?'

'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will... I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.'

The man who took the son gets everything!'

God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?' Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH, SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE!!



## BELLS OF HOPE 2012

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4** - CT statewide National Adoption Month initiative.

Sunday School families are invited to a pizza party at 5:15pm, followed at 6:00pm by ringing of our First Church bell one time for each CT child in need of a permanent home.



*Join us...give thanks!*

Our youth *will* be serving a Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. Join us for the annual celebration of Thanksgiving with a turkey dinner with all the fixins! Yum!

## The Boar's Head Festival



**January 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 & 7 PM**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM**



**Sign-up for the Boar's Head Festival!**

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room, or you can email Debbie Storrs at [dstorrs@snet.net](mailto:dstorrs@snet.net)

Please volunteer in whatever way you are able...so we can once again tell the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**COSTUME FITTINGS**  
**Dates to be announced!**

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9:15 am	Rehearsal~RS4J	November 3 8 am - noon	Church Clean-up
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	November 4	Bring a Friend Sunday
Monday - 6 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	November 11	Veterans Day
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	November 10	Steam Vent Coffee House
Thursday - 6:00 pm	Rehearsal~Laurel City Singers	November 18	Church Thanksgiving Dinner
		November 18	Goin' Tribal Concert 2 PM
		November 22	Thanksgiving
		December 1	Christmas Fair
		December 16	All Church Dinner after Service
		December 23	Christmas Pageant
		<i>Board Meetings...</i>	
		November 04 11:15 am	PM Board
		November 13 7:00 pm	Board of Christian Ed.
		November 20 7:00 pm	Deacons
		November 27 7:00 pm	Cabinet Meeting
			



### November BIRTHDAYS

03 - Gloria Lee  
 04 - Steve Roy  
 08 - Robert O'Connor  
 17 - Aaron Schames  
 18 - Ayriana Marie Jarboe  
 27 - Lisa Toomey  
 27 - Bob Miles  
 29 - Abilgail Beaulieu

### November Anniversaries

♥ None

## STEAM VENT Performers November 10th

### Performers

6:00 Breathless Charm  
 6:30 Jeanne Stokes Recchia  
 7:00 Bluebyrd  
 7:30 Lisa Martin  
 8:00 Jeanne McMillan Duo  
 8:30 Ron Blake  
 9:00 John Cooke  
 9:30 Don Lowe

### Final Show of 2012!!

Free Will Offering to Benefit Missions

### STEAM VENT CAFÉ

#### Hearty Soup & Salad Nite!

Beef Stew, Chicken Fajita Soup, Chili or Potato Soup

Served with Bread & Salad

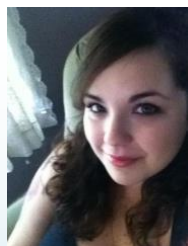
Adult portion . . . . . \$7.00

Child portion . . . . . \$3.50

**Deserts . . . . . \$1 - \$2**

**Beverages . . . . . \$1.00**

**Serving from 6 until 8 PM**



Ashley M. Lekang, 21, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012. She was born Jan. 15, 1991 in Torrington; the daughter of David and Ronda (Fiske) Lekang. Ashley graduated from Gilbert High School in 2009. Ashley was a free spirited gentle heart who loved music, art and animals. She especially enjoyed her family and friends.

In addition to her loving parents, she leaves her sister, Sarah Lekang of Winsted; like a sister Nicole of Winsted; maternal grandparents, Bob and Jean Fiske of Barkhamsted; paternal grandmother, Cari Nimro and step-grandfather, Richard of Tennessee; aunt, Shannon North and husband Glenn of Barkhamsted; uncle, Donald Lekang and wife Dawne of Virginia; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Oct. 19, at First Church of Winsted, 95 N Main Street, Winsted at 10 a.m. Burial followed at Forest View Cemetery, Winsted.

Memorial contributions may be made to:  
 ASPCA at <http://www.asPCA.org/Home/Donate>.



### SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

First Church is planning another Scholarship Raffle, with 3 cash prizes to replenish our scholarship funds.

1st Prize: \$3,000

2nd Prize: \$1,500

3rd Prize: \$500

200 tickets will be sold at \$50 each!

Drawing will be held January 6, 2013 during coffee hour at 11:15 AM...1<sup>st</sup> Church of Winsted!

*Message in fortune cookie:  
 Love is friendship set to music*



# November 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	<b>November Birthstone: Topaz</b> 	<b>November Flower: Chrysanthemum</b> 	<b>Astrological Signs</b>  <b>Scorpio:</b> Nov 23- Nov 21 <b>Sagittarius:</b> Nov 22 – Dec 21	<b>1</b>  Laurel City Singers 7:00  <b>All Saints Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>Set Your Clocks Back</b>  <b>Change the Batteries in you Smoke Detectors!</b>
<b>4</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 <b>Daylight Savings ENDS!</b> Bring a Friend Sunday	<b>5</b> Worship Choir 6:00 pm	<b>6</b> Chris Ed 7:00	<b>7</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> Laurel City Singers 6:00	<b>9</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> 	<b>10</b>  <b>STEAM VENT</b> Coffee House 6-10 PM <b>Hearty Soup &amp; Salad Nite!</b>
<b>11</b> Worship Service 10:00 am  Open Mic Sunday Veteran's Day	<b>12</b> Worship Choir 6:00 pm	<b>13</b> Deacons 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>15</b> Laurel City Singers 6:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:30 am Thanksgiving Dinner after service Goin' Tribal Concert 2PM	<b>19</b> Worship Choir 6:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> No Cherub Choir  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>22</b> Happy Thanksgiving 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Prayer Shall Ministry 9-Noon</b>
<b>25</b> Worship Service 10:00 am  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday-Advent</b>	<b>26</b> Worship Choir 6:00 pm	<b>27</b> Cabinet Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>28</b> Cherub Choir 6:00 pm  AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>29</b> Laurel City Singers 6:00	<b>30</b>	<b>Dec 1</b> <b>Christmas Fair 9 til 3</b>  <b>Discounted Boar's Head Fest Tickets</b>





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

Cherub 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](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. Judy G. Allbee

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

# BELLRINGER

