

Word from the Pastor

The Secret of Being a Servant Leader

I am a firm believer in the reality of spiritual laws. And I also believe that these spiritual laws operate the same way that natural laws do. One of the spiritual laws I have been thinking a lot about lately is Servant-Leadership.

I am going to tell you something that you already know: Spiritual laws are **HARD TO FOLLOW!** And here is why: they are so contrary to anything our culture considers "natural" that without some bit of faith it's hard to put them into practice. Let's face it; Jesus' own disciples did not find it easy to understand what Jesus was trying to teach them

Think about the story related in Mark's gospel. As they were travelling one day they started to argue about who was the greatest disciple. The church hadn't even been organized yet and already there were power struggles. Oy! But they were human beings, right? A pretty normal argument to my way of thinking!

I love the answer that Jesus gives them: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9: 35 NRSV Put in modern speak: "You want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all."

The Kingdom of God is not concerned with how important or influential people are according to our human definitions. The Kingdom of God is concerned with welcoming the ones that human society considers weak and less important. We are to welcome in Christ's name those that society sees as insignificant. That's what servant-leadership is all about.

In the time of Jesus, he held up the leadership of his day as ones who had a title, authority, and they used those things to take advantage of the people under their authority. What does he tell those who are listening? "Forget everything you've ever heard about leadership. Look at the leaders in this world and then go and do the opposite." Jesus took the practices of leadership he saw around him and turned them upside-down. He is still turning things over!

No matter what office we hold or board or committee we serve on here At First Church, we are called to use the gifts and talents God has given to us.

We are called to witness to people, to minister to their hurts, serve them with the love God placed in our hearts. If we do this wherever we are (home, work place, school) we are going to be surprised to find people looking to us and this church for spiritual leadership.

The world would be such a nice place if nobody would act like they're in charge, but would instead serve people with the skills and talents that God has given them. God calls us to be servant-leaders, as Jesus not only taught, but also showed us. Jesus gave us a model of the perfect servant leader. He did the greatest service anybody could ever do; he gave his own life so that we could have an even closer relationship with God.

Here's the question I invite us to ponder: Do we want make a difference in our community and in the world? Then we have to be servant-leaders to the people around us.

Pastor Lisa



OCTOBER 2015

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Church News...



CDC News

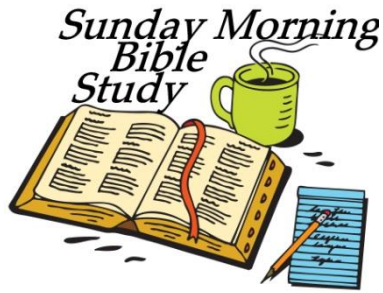
Melissa Lillie, Director

We are off to a wonderful start to a new preschool year! Children are adjusting well to their new friends and surroundings. We are looking forward to learning all about Fall as we move into the new season! We enjoyed some apples from our apple tree (picture below).



Check us out on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Childrens-Discovery-Center/112035955474363>

OR on the web:
<http://www.childrendiscoverywinsted.org>



Join us this fall as we delve into the Lectionary Scriptures!
We meet in the parlor at 9 a.m.
(Coffee provided!)

ABCONN News...

The Board of Directors of Interim Ministries officially expressed its long-term commitment to supporting Syrian refugee and IDP communities in the recent International Ministries Resolution on Syrian Refugees. The resolution paves the way for a focused mobilization of human and financial resources to pray for, meet the needs of and prepare to receive Syrian refugees.

As a first step in this next stage of response, IM has sent an additional \$10,000 in OGHS emergency funding to provide immediate relief for Syrian refugees and IDPs. Of this grant, IM partners Hungarian Baptist Aid and the Union of Baptist Churches of Serbia have each been given \$5,000. The aid will be used to supply food and water, clothing,

shelter and medical clinics. Future OGHS grants will support the efforts of all IM partners who are providing relief to Syrian IDPs and refugees.

For full story go to:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2015/09/17/10000-in-oghs-funds-sent-to-provide-relief-for-syrian-refugees/>

Board of Christian Education (BOCE) News:

The BOCE wishes to thank ALL who participated in the Annual Ziti Supper. That includes all who donated food; all who helped prepare the food and especially those who came to eat the food. Our event raised \$548.00 to add to our two scholarship funds at the church. Looking ahead: Last year at our Christmas Fair the BOCE hosted a shopping room for children to purchase Christmas family members. We will once again host a "Santa's Helper Shopping Room". We are looking for gently used and new items that we could sell for \$1.00. So... if you are cleaning out your attics and basements to donate to the Church Tag Sale, think about some items that would fit for us. Items that were hot sellers last year were; socks, gloves, candles, lotions, jewelry, Beanie Babies, games and toys. Gently used or new gift bags and tissue paper are items we could use too. You may contact Barbara

Check us out online! www.firstchurchofwinsted.org

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



The month of October is a time when our communion offerings go to World Missions. The American Baptist theme this year is "REACHING OUT." As you consider what your offering will be this year, pray the prayer below. Think about our neighbors around the globe and how we can support those who are on the ground, doing the work God has called them to do.

Gracious God,

Thank You that You moved into the neighborhood. Thank You that Your neighborhood stretches from North America to South Africa, from London to Taipei. Thank You that You are our neighbor with skin on and that You speak Swahili, Russian, and English.

Thank You that You invite us into a story so much bigger than just our own when You connect us to our sisters across the globe.

Thank You that no matter where we call home, we all call our kids in for dinner, have laundry to fold and put away, and days when we are overwhelmed by tomorrow.

Thank you for being the God who lays His life down as a bridge between us so that we can walk into each other's stories and recognize how much we have in common.

Jesus give us Your eyes to see our neighbors an ocean away as the living reflection of Your own creation—sharing our own hopes and dreams.

Give us hearts that beats with shared joy, hurt, sorrow, and celebration.

Give us feet willing to walk in their shoes, their footsteps, their needs, and their stories.

Give us hands eager to serve from right here where You've placed us.

Give us minds to remember that there's nothing ordinary about our stories, that we are vastly more capable of world change than we might realize and that often it starts with a simple willingness to say yes—right in between our work day and our to-do lists.

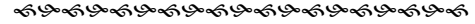
Thank You for saying yes and coming to live alongside us, Jesus, and being interested in our stories.

May we be willing to do the same for our neighbors.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Prayer written by Lisa-Jo Baker, author of Surprised by Motherhood



Strengthening the Beloved Community



**October 24, 2015
Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church
Hamden, CT**

Get registered now for this great educational event. Register by selecting your two workshops choices and then let the ABCCONN office know. You may register on line at www.abcconn.org or by sending in a registration form. Cost is \$12.00 which includes lunch. Child care will be provided.



WE NEED YOUR UN-WANTED ITEMS TO SELL...

WE NEED YOUR HELP TOO!

Volunteers are needed to sort on drop off days and during the day of the Tag Sale. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room during coffee hour, or see Lisa Nanni or Laura McCaw.

Drop off times:

Wed – Fri 9/30-10/2

We would really appreciate if you could donate an hour or two of your time. Many hands make light work! ☺

Do you want your cake to taste like it came from a bakery?



Follow these steps...

1. Read the directions on the cake mix
2. Add 1 more egg (or 2 for an even richer cake)
3. Replace the oil with melted butter and double the amount.
4. Replace the water with an equal amount of milk.
5. Mix and bake according to package directions

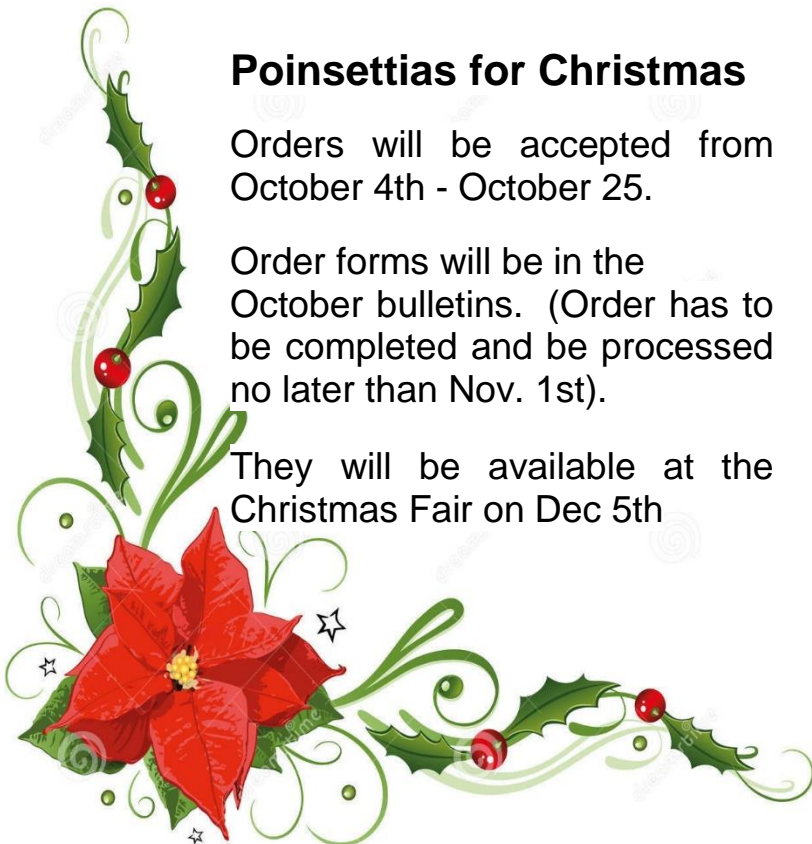


Poinsettias for Christmas

Orders will be accepted from October 4th - October 25.

Order forms will be in the October bulletins. (Order has to be completed and be processed no later than Nov. 1st).

They will be available at the Christmas Fair on Dec 5th



WHO ME?

148th Annual Meeting
Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ
October 23 & 24, 2015
Newington High School
www.ctucc.org
Nominee for UCC General Minister & President
The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer

“You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down.”

— Mary Pickford



September 26, Lunar Eclipse...the Full Blood Moon. Photo by Courtney Toomey



STEAM VENT 
Coffee House
First Church of Winsted

SATURDAY, OCT 3rd
6 – 10 PM

*Music is Free...!
Donations gladly accepted
to benefit Children's Missions!
Fully Tax Deductible*

SCHEDULED PERFORMERS

6:00 Open Mic
6:30 Gale B. Gardiner
7:00 Eric Paradine
7:30 Bill Benson
8:00 Abby Lappen
8:30 Blue Yonder
9:00 Tilted
9:30 Open Mic



Steam Vent Café

Pizza Night



Served with choice
of salads!

Adult & Children's
Portions Available

Serving 6-8 PM
during the show.



Upcoming Events

<i>Celebrate With Us...</i>		<i>Looking Forward</i>	
Sunday - 9 am	Bible Study in the Parlor	Oct 03	Steam Vent
Sunday - 10 am	Worship	Oct 04	World Wide Communion
Tuesday - 5:30 pm	Rehearsal~Worship Choir	Oct 04	New Members Meeting
Wednesday - 7:30 pm	AA / Alanon Meetings	Oct 10	Church Fall Tag-sale 8AM - 3 PM
Thursday - 6:00 – 9:00 pm	Rehearsal-Laurel City Singers	Nov 07	Great Jack-o-Lantern Blaze Trip
		Nov 14	Steam Vent – Final Event of Season
		Dec 05	Christmas Fair
		Jan 09 & 10	Boar's Head Festival
	<i>Board Meetings</i>		
	PM Board	Oct 4	
	Board of Christian Ed	Oct 13	
	Deacons	Oct 18 at 11:30	
	Cabinet Meeting	Oct 19	

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

01 - Jean Richards
11 - Steven Roberts
18 - Amy Bensle
18 - Richard Mazzei
19 - Michael Marsh
22 - Rebecca Allen
22 - Amanda McCaw
26 - Griffin Roberts
27 - Fred Storrs
29 - Lynda Roberts
31 - Natalie Roys

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

♥ 01 - Butch & Joan Eggering
♥ 01 - Mike & Dawn Cry
♥ 20 - Perry & Margaret Green
♥ 21 - Devin & Hannah McCaw
♥ 26 - Brett & Susan McAllister

To add your birthdate or anniversary to the list, please email Deb Storrs at dstorrs@snet.net

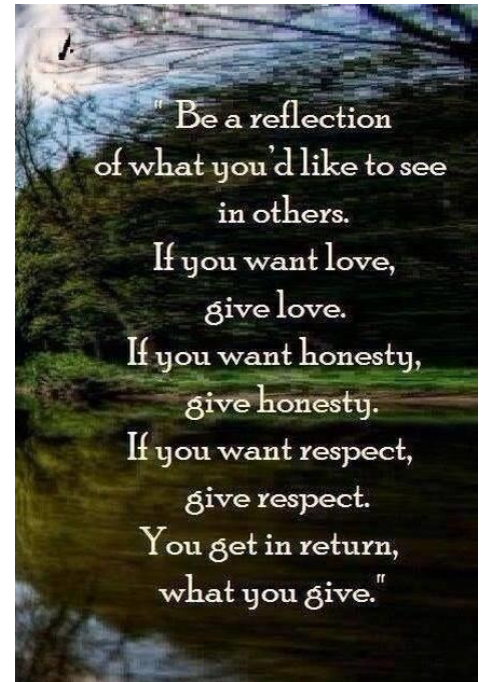
10/18/15 Baptisms

Wyatt Ryan Pfeffer

Parents: Cheryl Heins and Richard Pfeffer
Godparents: Brenda Dubrule, Scott Dubrule and Karen Toth.

Lucas Ryan Lezer

Parents: Rachael Cardillo and Eric Lezer
Godparents: Donald Cardillo and Ashley Soldan



THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in the beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



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



October 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Artist: Karen Delton	Oct Birthstone: Sapphire 	Oct Flower: Aster 	Astrological Signs Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 22 Scorpio: Oct 23 – Nov 21	1 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm Jean Richards ♥ Joan & Butch Eggering ♥ Mike & Dawn Cyr	2	3  STEAM VENT Coffee House 6-10 PM
4 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Worldwide Communion Day PM Board 11:30	5	6 Worship Choir 5:30	7 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	8 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	9	10 TAG SALE 8 AM - 3 PM
11 Worship Service 10:00 am Muddy Boots Steven Roberts	12 Columbus Day	13 Worship Choir 5:30 BOCE 6:45 PM	14 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	15 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm	16	17 
18 Worship Service 10:00 am Worship Choir 9:20 am Diaconate 11:30 Amy Bensle Richard Mazzei	19 Cabinet 7:00 pm Michael Marsh	20 Worship Choir 5:30 ♥ Perry & Margaret Green	21 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm ♥ Devin & Hannah McCaw	22 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm Rebecca Allen Amanda McCaw	23	24 Bellringer Article Deadline
25 Worship Service 10:00 am Open Mic Sunday	26 Griffin Roberts ♥ Brett & Susan McAllister	27 Worship Choir 5:30 Fred Storrs	28 AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	29 Laurel City Singers 7:00 pm Lynda Roberts	30	31 Halloween  Natalie Roys

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



Artist: Karen Delton

Pastor - Rev. Lisabeth Gustafson

Moderator - Dan Jones Vice-Moderator - Robert Adkins

Clerk - Allison Graboski

Board of Deacons - Co-chairs - Laura McCaw & Lisa Nanni

Property Maintenance - Frank Artruc

Treasurer - Debby Kane / Associate Treasurer - Joan Eggering

Financial Secretary - Tanya Mongitore

Christian Education Chair - Barbara Mazzei

Sunday School Director - Barbara Mazzei

Organist/Worship Choir Director - Tricia Wu

Praise Choir Director - Dan Jones

Webmaster - John Eggering

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 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

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

BELLRINGER

