

Winsted United Methodist Church

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Pastor: Rev. Florence Eddins

June, 2017

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THANK YOU!! *Special thanks to those of you who help out in unseen ways and who may not ever get mentioned. You make a huge difference in our church family!*

- Stephanie, Candy, Patty, Arlene, JoElin, Gail, Sue D, and all others who worked to make the May Roast Pork Dinner so delicious!

- Ron Bessette (Barb H assisted), for installing BRIGHT new LED lights in the Memorial-Meeting-Bible study room. No more flashlights needed!!

- John Lundy, for helping with the Thrift Shop, the Food Pantry (carting in food!), ushering, and greeting.

- Gail, Norma Jarvis, Barb Hawley, Sheri Benson, Georgette, and many others who have helped Issy through this very tough time.

- Patty Stark, for making a more current list of folks' birthdays!

- Sandy Taylor, for buying a birthday cake 5/21 to help folks celebrate May birthdays.

- Warren and Thelma, for bringing Bob Z to church all the way from Torrington.

- Darlene, for providing an arrangement of lovely altar flowers and for other projects.

- Mark T, for inspiring children's messages, ETC!

- Sandy and Patty, for seasonal behind-the-scenes decorating.

- Sandy, Richard, and Nancy, for our coffee hours.

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From the Pastor

It's been a busy month. The Financial Seminar with Ed Ruppman was held on Sunday, April 23 after worship. Several folks attended, and a couple have asked Ed to provide them a free Financial plan. So that went pretty well.

A lot of our concern over the past few weeks has been about Issy, who required surgery this past weekend and now faces a challenging recovery. We have also missed Mary Pat, our organist, who underwent hip surgery after Easter. We were blessed with the playing of Louise, Lin, and Mark T in her absence.

In the course of our concerns over folks with injuries and illnesses, several folks have said to me, "I feel so

powerless, for I don't know how to help." I concur! I also feel powerless and do not know how to really help, and it's NOT a pleasant feeling!

"All I can do is pray," one woman said. It's hard when we pray and don't see fast results or the results we want. You can pray and still end up feeling powerless. But I came across a passage the other day that challenged my sense of impotence in prayer: *Determined to make things go your way* (says our Lord) *you forget that I am in charge of your life. The only remedy is to switch your focus from the problem to my Presence. Stop all your striving, and watch to see what I will do. I am the Lord!* (*Jesus Calling*, S. Young, p. 148) *Each moment you can choose to practice my Presence or to practice the presence of problems.* (*Jesus Calling*, p. 104)

When we pray, even though we feel powerless, we are choosing to put ourselves and those for whom we pray in the Presence of God. God can see all the possibilities that we cannot; God has the power to heal, lift up, restore, and give new purpose.

Whoever would have thought that a miserable death on a Cross would end up offering life and hope? God. Perhaps that's why # 707 in our hymnal, "Hymn of Promise," can speak so well to us:

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

It's okay that we often feel powerless, but we are invited to remember that we are *forever* held, throughout our every darkness and uncertainty, in the Arms of God whose specialty is to bring form out of chaos and Light into the darkest times. May we all choose to focus on God's Presence instead of on those pesky, scary, and life-draining problems. May we all remember that God alone can see the way to blessing. All we have to do is pray, perhaps as in Psalm 69:

"Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me..." (Psalm 69:1-2) Not a bad prayer for times like these! Thank God!! - Florence Eddins

Happy Birthday!

(If YOUR birthday is not listed and you would like it to be, please call the church office. If some are listed that should **not** be, let us know.)

Missed May Birthdays:

Barb Hawley - May 20
Cliff Hoxie - May 21
April Abbott - May 28



June Birthdays:

5 Laura Tabak
Jennifer Gannon
8 Pastor Lin McGee
11 Barbara Osborn
12 George Vincent
13 Beverly Brentnall
16 Timothy Atwood
Victoria Coon
Siobhan Shea
18 Evelyn Burnham
Sue Bessette
19 Laura J. Smith
21 Elizabeth Ellsworth
25 Dennis Brown
Bob Zuchegna
29 Tucker Shaw
30 Connor Shea

May God bless you on your birthday and throughout the coming year!

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Barbeque Chicken, potato salad & slaw Dinner

Thursday, June 22nd 6:00 p.m.

Eat in or take out, or have it delivered in Winsted.

\$11/adult, \$6/under 12

Reservations needed. (860) 379-6386

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A Note of Thanks

Issy wants the church family to know how deeply she has appreciated the many ways you have reached out to her since her fall the day before Easter. The meals, the rides, the calls, the visits, the prayers, have all meant a lot. *Thank you.*

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New Member - Debbie Louise Eid Kerr

Well, she's not new around here; in fact, she lived in the Winsted UMC parsonage while her father was pastor here. But she has now officially become a member of Winsted UMC! The congregation welcomed Debbie into membership on May 14, 2017. We rejoice!

The Bat column



After last month, with Easter and all the beautiful flowers, this month has been a quiet one. Mary Pat was gone and I missed her playing, but Louise Hayes, Mark Tacinelli and Lin McGee kept us all singing. And how about Janet (Osborn) Davis and Barbara Osborn entertaining after church, and getting everyone's toes tapping! You just never know what's happening around here!

Georgette has come in every morning to take care of all that needs to be done. Where is Issy? Every Saturday in come Georgette and Sandy, followed by Edin, who helps Georgette around the church. He vacuums, dusts and mops. Also on Saturday Jill & Norma, pr Jill & Sarah, or Jill & Sam come in with all the bread and desserts. Sue B. comes in and pays the bills – it's a busy day. I know I get no rest on Saturday, but where is Issy? Sammy and Nika have been the cutest acolytes. Sammy has taught Nika well and now Nika is ready to take over the torch. It is so nice to hear giggling in the church once again! Then along comes the Pet Parade and Pastor Florence blessing animals. As she was blessing some, I flew by and got a quick blessing, too!

What am I thinking about this being a quiet month? We just had the Pork Dinner, and the joint was jumping with Patty and her crew setting the tables and Candy and Stephanie in and out cooking and making the church smell delicious. Meanwhile, I'm scraping up bugs to eat, but don't you worry about me. Ah-ha, I've found out where Issy is. Seems she's taking a mini vacation @ Hartford Hospital. Guess she did more than break a bone and sprain an ankle. Some people will do anything to get time off! When she comes back (which Georgette has been begging her to do), she will be well-rested, a little thinner, and a foot shorter. So ends our month.

The Bat wants to give thanks to all our veterans who have bravely defended our country. Their service has allowed you and bats like me to live free! Thank you to all our members who are veterans. - The Bat

Marilyn's Pantry

We continue to be blessed by a monthly contribution from the Valley Thrift Shop and by food donations from Barbara Vasquenza and the Simsbury UMC, among others. THANK YOU, all who help out!

A Word from Perry

Perry is alive, thank God! The prayers and care of this congregation and pastor, a blessed connection (“a serendipitous blessing,” in Perry’s words) that led to the right doctor taking charge of the treatments, and God’s remarkable attentiveness all came together to make new life possible. Wow! Perry thanks God and everybody, and promises to let us know more of his incredible journey when his fingers regain their typing ability.

New Picture in Fellowship Hall

A few weeks ago George Manchester brought in a framed picture of Jesus, and explained how it had been his uncle’s prize in Sunday School in our church! It is hanging in the social hall. George’s daughter, Kim, graciously wrote the following about Edward Manchester:

Edward Manchester won the picture of Jesus in his bible class in 1912. He was eight years old.

Edward was baptized and grew up in this church. After finishing Gilbert, he graduated with a BA from Wesleyan University and went on to earn his Master’s Degree from the University of Wisconsin. He spent two years teaching abroad at American University in Beirut, Lebanon, before returning back home to Connecticut to begin his career as an English Professor at the University of Connecticut. WW II interrupted his tenure there when he joined the Navy as a signalman on the aircraft carrier the USS Princeton. During his tour of duty, the Princeton was hit by an enemy dive bomber and sank; Edward found himself floating in the Pacific Ocean waiting for rescue. While attempting to swim out of harm’s way, he was hit by another destroyer and was miraculously knocked under water and flushed out to the side of the ship. He was eventually rescued by fellow sailors and flown to a hospital in Hawaii to recover. After the war he returned to his professorship at UConn, where he retired after a long and accomplished career. Edward lived to be 90 years old and never lost his affection for Winsted and this church.

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Graduation - Sarah Jacobs, daughter of Jill and Mike Jacobs, granddaughter of Norma Jarvis, graduated from St. Joseph’s College in Maine, with a Bachelors of Arts degree. Sarah has a job in Maine this summer. *We are proud!!*

Pentecost - June 4th - wear Red if you can

To learn more about Pentecost, read Acts 2:1-21. At Pentecost we remember how God's Spirit gave power to the early believers as they waited, uncertain what lay ahead. The Spirit enables folks to carry on the work of Jesus. The Spirit also helps us to pray. As Paul explained to the Christians in Rome: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints (this includes Christians today, even US) according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose." (Romans 8:26-28)

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A Recipe Rhubarb Custard Pie (Georgette cannot recall who handed this to her, but it was said to be for the newsletter...)

- 1 cup rhubarb, fresh, sliced finely
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tsp. Butter
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 TBSP all purpose flour
- 2 pie crusts, prepared

Bake at 425 degrees for 30 minutes. Enjoy!

If YOU want to share a recipe, please write it down and include your name. We will put a recipe in each month’s newsletter. Thank you.

A Poem - “Give Me Hope” by Ted Loder

O God, this is a hard time, a season of confusion,
a frantic rush to fill my closets, my schedule,
and my mind,
only to find myself empty.

Give me hope, Lord, and remind me
of your steady power and gracious purposes,
that I may live fully.

Renew my faith
that the earth is not destined for dust and darkness,
but for frolicking life and deep joy
that, being set free from my anxiety for the future,
I may take the risks of love today.
In Christ’s name. Amen. - *Guerillas of Grace*, adapted