

Winsted United Methodist Church  
630 Main Street  
P.O. Box 380  
Winsted, Connecticut 06098

August Newsletter

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Birthdays

**Community Thank You Celebration**

The date: September 17<sup>th</sup>

The time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The food: macaroni salad, fruit salad, beans, hamburgers and hot dogs (both meat and veggie), ice cream and beverages.

Who is invited: Everyone

Why: To thank community with help raising money for our roof!

Spread the word, everyone and anyone from the community is invited to our thank you meal. People that sent in checks will be getting a postcard, there will be advertising in newspapers and posters, but word of mouth is always the best way to get any news around. Rain date is set for September 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Winsted United Methodist Church

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August , 2016

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### From the Pastor

Psalm 46 declares that God is our help and refuge in times of trouble, and our only lasting hope in the world. "Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake...The nations rage, the kingdoms totter... 'Be still, and know that I am God.' The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge." (portions of Psalm 46)

As the political conventions seem determined to stir up hatred and controversy and become particularly obsessed with condemning whoever is opponent, I find it disheartening. Our world is challenging, but as I listened to the "Christians" who tout their religious values so loudly, I found to hear much love and instead hear warning after warning about how terrible and dangerous our world is.

What about our hope in God? What about Jesus' call for us to pray for our enemies? (Matthew 5:43-45) What about the Bible's persistent declaration that God wants justice for the poor and those who are not powerfully connected in society? (*Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house...* - Isaiah 58:6-7) I could not hear much in terms of the Bible as I listened to all the scare tactics and putting down of others.

"The nations rage, the kingdoms totter." Think of how many "kingdoms" God has seen totter throughout the centuries! So many of them got trapped into thinking that they were the best, that they had made their own power, that they could dominate and own the world. However they knew God, they tended to forget about God and became satisfied with themselves. Smugness and self-satisfaction are dangerous, especially when it comes to the leaders of any nation.

The nations will rage, the politicians will hurl insults and names at each other, and kingdoms, even ours some day, will totter, but God is God, and God is our refuge, strength and help in any and all times.

We must not put our faith in any man or woman; all are fragile. We must ask God to help us discern our voting and then we must constantly hold our leaders (whoever they are!!) in prayer. Our hope is in God, for God will be here long after we are all but a memory. "Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,... for God is with us!" As we listen to the claims and chaos of the world and deal with our everyday challenges, burdens and joys, let us remember that God is in our midst. As it says in the Faith Statement # 883 in our hymnal: "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!" Amen. -

Florence Eddins

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### 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.)



#### August Birthdays:

1 Steve Palmer  
8 Norman Hawley  
11 Peg Palmer  
12 Tanya Hague  
14 Augusto Sogliuzzi  
14 Drew Jarvis  
21 Carol Hague  
21 Samantha Ostrander  
22 Yuri Niculescu  
23 Debra Morton  
25 William Meeker  
28 Cliff Hoxie  
28 Teri Hoxie  
29 Minna Passini

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

### August Anniversaries:

8 Norman & Linda Hawley  
10 Robert & Carol Langlois  
16 Charles & Judy Ackerman  
25 Dennis & Jacqueline Brown

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### Our Sympathy

To Norma Jarvis and her family for the loss of her Uncle and her cousin this month.

To Sarah Zordan and her family for the loss of her Grandmother.

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**Last month Bob Z's thoughts were put into the newsletter wrong the following is the correction.**

“The first law is love; the second law is loyalty;  
The third law is love.”  
Have an Attitude of gratitude.”

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### Marilyn's Pantry

The Simsbury United Methodist Church brought another huge load of food for Marilyn's Pantry. Many thanks to the folks in Simsbury plus a big thank you to Barbara Vasquenza who brought it all out to us. We also are getting a load of food in from the Avon Methodist Church. And we get \$100.00 every month from the Valley Thrift Shop, so for a change I'm not begging for food, just letting you know things are going great!

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### History Of Our Church –

#### The New Church Building

The need of a new church edifice had long been felt by the Methodists of Winsted, and several attempts to secure suitable funds for the erection of such a building had been made. These attempts although unsuccessful, so far as their main purpose was concerned, were far from being fruitless. A fund of nearly \$2,500. Including \$1,000. Willed to the society by Philo Sheldon had been secured, while the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, which had pledged \$1,500. In 1892, had raised about \$1,400. Of the amount. Thus the society had the nucleus of a building fund amounting to nearly \$4,000. But it also had a bonded and floating debt of \$4,000., most of which it had been carrying for something more than twenty years, since the parsonage was built on High Street. When the present Pastor was appointed to the

charge in 1899, he felt that the indebtedness of \$4,000., was the first obstacle to be removed, preliminary to the building of a new church. About a year after this amount had been secured in the autumn of 1901, he made a proposition to the official board, which was accepted, that, providing the sum of \$30,000. Could be secured in good pledges before the first of January, 1902, the society should erect a new house of worship.

### Next month Getting a Building Committee and an Architect

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### THE BAT COLUMN

The bat is very tired - I am nocturnal by nature and yet everyone is here during the day and wakes me up. Issy and Georgette are here walking through the Sanctuary every morning, picking up old bulletins and items left by people. On Wednesday this place is hopping with people coming and going. One thing I have learned by living here in the church, is that you humans can not seem to function without food! Issy makes coffee, Patty brings in sandwiches, Jo Elin brings in soup or fruits and in between all the eating, they study the Bible. Thursday Arlene and Norma Jarvis come in and work in the office with Issy, while Georgette is downstairs in the Thrift Shop. During the week either Norma Jones or Gail Palmer come in with the mail and drop it off in the office. Then Saturday rolls around and in come Norma Jarvis and Jill Jacobs with bread and cakes, Sandy Taylor comes in as well as Issy and Georgette, the veggie man comes in with trays and trays full of veggies.

Barbara Hawley came in one day and swept up a bulb that had fallen and was all over the floor and the tables in the dining room. Weds, after Bible study, Stephanie, Patty, Gail, Arlene, and Theresa all went downstairs to set tables for the dinner. The day of the dinners is wonderful, all I can smell is the cooking. I sometimes swoop down to see what is going on - I just can't keep my nose out of anything! A lot of preparation goes into these dinners. Patty does the sign up sheets and bulletins to go out for advertising, Candy and Stephanie do the buying and lugging of the food, different people make desserts and bring them in, Gail, Arlene, Norma Jarvis, Patty, and Stephanie head downstairs to start setting up and preparing the food. Then, desserts are cut and dished, Arlene and Norma sell tickets, this month Theresa (Patty & Corky's daughter) waited on table. And let's not forget me, how tired am I flying up and down the stairs to check everything out? Wow, I'm tired just writing about it.

I think it is time for me to head back to the belfry and take a little nap. Tomorrow is Sunday and I know the place will be hopping again!

The Bat

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### **Trustees -**

The Trustees are looking for a mason to fix the chimney at the parsonage. If anyone knows of one, let Sue Bessette or Barbara Hawley know. The parsonage needs quite a bit of work. Ron Bessette is handling any electrical needs and will be fixing them in his "spare" time. No decision was made on an oil contract, it was asked of Issy to contact Superior Energy to see what they can offer. Then the Trustees will have a quick meeting to decide which oil company to go with and sign up for the year. The August meeting has been cancelled barring any emergency and will meet again in September.

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### **Writers Welcomed!**

Anyone that would like to submit anything to the newsletter is more than welcomed to. Just drop a copy of what you want to go to print in the office and as long as we have room it will go in. They should be submitted the beginning of the last week of the month.

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### **August Dinner**

The menu for the August Dinner which will be the 18<sup>th</sup> is Meatloaf, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert, and Beverages. Sheets will be in the Social Room for sign up for dinners eating in, taking out, or having delivered. There is also a sheet that is for helping ie: set up, food prep, waiting on table, selling tickets, clean up, calling ticket numbers. Don't be shy, sign up for whatever you can do.

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### **Church Council -**

This month was a very productive meeting. The date for the Celebration Dinner is set for September 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a rain date of September 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. More on this later in the newsletter. It was announced that the Avon Methodist Church wants to do a dinner here that will be opened to all in the community that need a hot meal. No date was set but will be in January, February or March. There will be an efficiency

inspection at the Parsonage the end of July. Issy Skilton stated that the Scrip Fund has \$3,237.38 in the bank. And Pastor Eddins announced that our Church Charge Conference will be held on December 4, 2015 and the District Superintendent will preach that Sunday morning.

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### **Thank God For Little Things**

Thank You, God, for little things  
that often come our way  
The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray.  
The unexpected courtesy,  
the thoughtful, kindly deed-  
A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need-  
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces  
That come to us with "Sweet surprise"  
from never - dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

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### **Community Thank You Celebration**

The Community Thank You Celebration is set for September 17<sup>th</sup> with the rain date of September 18<sup>th</sup>. The menu will be hot dogs and hamburgers (both meat and vegetarian), baked beans, fruit salad, and macaroni salad. Dessert will be ice cream and there will be a variety of beverages. Helpers will be needed to set up, cook, serve, and clean up the day of our picnic. The cooking will be done outside with the serving of the food inside in the Social Room. This will eliminate the need to climb stairs. See Patty Stark or sign up in the Social Room. Don't be shy come and work, eat, laugh and thank our community for their help in raising our roof!

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### **Thrift Store -**

There is a need for help at the Thrift Store especially on Saturday. We don't mean for you to go through bags, or hang clothing up, we need someone to be the cashier. A lot of the clothing is marked and there is a list of prices. Right now Georgette is having a \$1.00 sale - everything in the place is only a dollar except for jewelry which is (hold onto your hats) only .50 each.. One of the perks you get for working the Thrift Shop is you get to shop while you're there - who could ask for anything more. Issy will give you starter money and you go downstairs

and pull out a couple of racks and you are good to go. If you are willing to give up 3 hours on either Thursday or Saturday, there is a calendar in the Social Room that you can sign up on. If you have any questions, see Georgette.

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### Rule Of Three

Three Things to love: Courage, Gentleness, Thoughtfulness.

Three Things to hate: Cruelty, Hypocrisy, Pride.

Three Things to fight for: Principle, Home, Country

Three Things to control: Temper, Tongue, Appetite

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### Back To School

Parents for Education are asking for donations of school supplies for kids in need. If you can give anything, please drop it in the Food Bank Basket. They will be back to pick items up after August 15<sup>th</sup>. Items needed:

Pocket Folders	Colored Pencils
Crayons	Pencil Sharpeners
Erasers	Highlighters
Composition Books	Pencils
Blue Pens	Black Pens
Paper	Dividers
Sticky Notes	Pencil Pouches
Three Ring Binders	Backpacks

These items will go to Batcheller School, Pearson School and Gilbert School.

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### The Spirit Of Christ

There is a scene in a Marx Brothers movie where the camera shows a huge Chase Manhattan Bank, then the camera pans down the outside of the imposing structure until it focuses upon Harpo Marx leaning against the side of the bank building. A tough cop comes along and asks him, "What ya think you're doin', propping up the bank?" Harpo nods a quiet yes, "Go on with ye." the cop says motioning with his nightstick. Harpo pulls away from the bank and walks on and the huge bank building collapses behind him.

On a serious application, it is the spirit of Christ that upholds the church. When Christ is motioned away from

the church, it too begins to "collapse".

### "Summertime's Irregular Paycheck" (2 Cor 9:6-9)

"Summertime, and the living is easy." That's what the favorite old song says, from Porgy and Bess. The living may be easy, but often the church giving sometimes isn't very easy.

Our collection plates often drop in volume over the summer months. Like many of us on a regular income, be it a paycheck or pension, we depend on the regularity of income. So also does the Winsted United Methodist Church.

Vacation travel, sporting events and sometimes just plain hot and steamy weather keeps us from attending summer morning worship services. We need to insure that our summer activities don't hamper our church's obligations.

Having our offering envelopes, date labeled for weekly giving helps us. When absent on a Sunday, the dated envelope not used, reminds us that "an offering" ought to be placed in it for the benefit of our church; our church's "irregular paycheck"!

As we must know, stewardship is the privilege of responding to God's love with thanksgiving and gratitude. All that we are, all that we have, are gifts from God. We are stewards of these gifts - the time, talent and treasure that God has entrusted to our care. In thanksgiving, we joyously return a portion of these gifts to God, and God's creation.

Treasure, or money is only a part of our total gifts, yet money is so important to the general operation of the church, which does tend to see a short fall in the summer months. That said, and as the Apostle Paul states, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"

Keeping up a regular rate of our giving, is one way to cheerfully give. As the suggested reading also says, the more we do this, the more we may expect in return. It works, try it!

Soli Deo Gloria

Perry Green

