

Winsted United Methodist Church

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February, 2018

THANK YOU!!

- Corky and Stephanie Stark, for taking down the wonderful outdoor Nativity.
- John L., for packing up, picking up, checking and sanding the sidewalks, and being lots of help!
- Adeline, for continuing the Wednesday evening Bible studies, helping to open the Food Pantry one Saturday, and helping with the thrift shop as well as preaching on occasion.
- Candy and JoElin, for bringing the breads/cakes from Stop & Shop on Saturdays.
- JoElin and Norma Jarvis, and Issy for shopping for the Food Pantry.
- Ron, for fixing the broken vacuum cleaner!!
- Thank you, so many others who are not named here, who have given of yourselves to help others and this church!! May God bless you all!



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.)

February Birthdays

- 2 - Roger Jones
- 5 - Zachary Komons
- 6 - Mark Tacinelli
- 7 - Edward Nash, Jr.
- 9 - Sarah B. Skilton
- 12 - Al Carty
- 13 - Laura Wilkens
- 16 - Kelley J. Ellsworth
- 25 - Ariana Davis
- 28 - Ian Jarvis

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



Here's the Bat!

If you hear snoring from up above, it will probably be me. What a month December was - I don't know about you humans, but I am extremely tired. On Appreciation Sunday. Pastor Florence handed out a beautiful picture of the outside of the church (taken by Perry), with the years that people had been members. Minna won that contest hands down, with Beverly coming in right behind her! Soups were made by Adeline, Terry Stark, and Pastor Florence, the Bat's mind is a little fuzzy with everything that has been going on and I think there were sandwiches, but I'm not sure, I know there weren't any bugs for the bat. And Pastor Florence had mugs for everyone except you know who and they were displayed on the table in the Social Room. Then the Cookie Walk and Christmas Fair. What a lot of cookies and how good they smelled. Speaking of good smells, Jo Elin and Candy had some wonderful odors wafting up from the kitchen such as corn chowder and pulled pork - Yum. From what I heard, the fair was a success even though the weather was wintery. I have to admit the first real snow storm is so pretty. Every Sunday it seems there was a meeting squeezed in after services. This Sunday, Ron and John stayed to finish changing all the light bulbs in the Sanctuary. Thanks to Ron, John, Barbara H. And Sue B., the bat can read at night now. The first time they were all turned on, I had to put on my shades and I swear I'm getting a tan! Then on Wednesday the Bible study went out for lunch at the Log Cabin and from what I heard they had a wonderful time. Then on Thursday, John, Issy and Sue Dwyer came in and started packing up all the left over items from the Christmas Fair. I couldn't believe my eyes, but they got everything packed and stored away and moved all the tables and chairs back in place. Friday John and Issy came in and John swept and mopped the Social Room, and vacuumed the foray and the Sanctuary. On Saturday, the District Superintendent came for the churches annual church conference. Around thirty people

arrived and I watched on from the belfry. I really didn't understand what was going on, but the music was great. I was tapping my feet and waving my wings. Again, I could smell food cooking. Jo Elin and Candy had made soup and sandwiches and Pastor Florence brought in fresh fruit - oh boy, another party! Okay, so the charge conference is over, nominations have been made, a budget has been past and now time for my little body to crawl into my blanket, but no. In the middle of the week, John came in with boxes of sweet potatoes, cabbage and celery all from the soup kitchen. Sunday after church services, everyone put on pointy red hats had jingle bells in their hands, boxes of fruit and cans of cookies and off they went. A few stayed back at the church and they were keeping an eye on the hot chocolate cooking and getting ready for everyone to return. Seems they all went caroling and they visited and sang for 5 members and then returned to the church. While they were still out, Mark Hazzard left and came back with three huge pizzas, oh did they smell good. Finally, everyone came back, had pizza, hot chocolate, and deserts and everyone left full, happy, and feeling very festive. Ah, now I can go back to my belfry and have a long winter's nap - but no. Monday morning in came Issy and Barbara H. And Barbara cleaned out and straightened up Marilyn's Pantry. Then on Wednesday along with the Bible study, in came Corky and Patty with hundreds of poinsettias - well maybe not hundreds, but there were a lot. Issy supervised while many hands set up the flowers. Then, on Sunday was the regular service and Pastor Florence announced that the Christmas Eve service was at 7:00 p.m. and sure enough, a whole bunch of you came back. What a beautiful service. And now everyone has left and I am alone in my belfry with beautiful memories, songs going through my head, and filled with the peacefulness of the season. 2017 was a wonderful year, can't wait to see what 2018 brings! Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and here's wishing one and all a Happy New Year. It's 2018!!!! And now we are one month into 2018 - the time flies so fast. Ah, flies I am so ready for Spring! Compared to December, January has been a very quiet month. The men have been in the Sanctuary working, Issy is in the office every day, John has been here with the Thrift Shop, Sandy is here on Saturdays, Jo Elin and Candy bring in the goodies from Stop and Shop every Saturday, and Pastor Florence unexpectedly pops in from time to time. A couple of days there was snow, snow, snow and nobody came here. I don't blame you humans, better safe than sorry. That

is pretty much it, the place has been very quiet, well except for the hammering going on during the day! Until next month I wish you all snowless and iceless days! - The Bat

SCRIP ORDERS

I want to thank you all for the great orders I got for Scrip the month of December. We, really all of you, raised over \$200.00 profit in the month of December. A regular month is usually \$40.00 - \$50.00 a month. I thank you all for participating and I am begging you to please try and work a Scrip order in every month. Even a \$25.00 card brings in \$1.00 to \$4.00. Remember, if you are going to Stop and Shop or Walmart, I now have extra cards that you can buy off of me and then go shopping. I also have cards for Subway, Dunkin Dounuts, Applebees, and Walgreens. When I get lucky and sell some of the extras I then buy more to have on hand. File this information in your brain and let's keep making money with Scrip cards.

- Issy Skilton

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Marilyn's Pantry

The past months has been a real bonanza! In December we got a car load of groceries from Simsbury Church, a load of sweet potatoes, celery, and cabbage from the Soup Kitchen (picked up by John Lundy) and our donations from the congregation and friends. I applied for a grant back in October and in December we received a check for \$2,000.00 to buy food only. Every Saturday no matter what is going on, Candy and Jo Elin go to Stop and Shop and pick up bread and sweets. Whoever happens to be here helps bring it in and put out on the tables. Saturday mornings this place is hopping! 2017 certainly ended with a bang and now with the \$2,000.00 grant we have over \$3,000.00 to spend on food. Onward and Upward - looking forward to a lot of shopping trips, shelves full of good food, and happy clients. Thanks for all help, donations, and good thoughts from all of you.

- Issy Skilton

Coming This Month!!

Feb 3rd - Saturday Meatball Dinner by Avon UMC
1:00 p.m. *No charge! All are welcome!*

Feb 14th - ASH WEDNESDAY **7 p.m.**
(a service to begin Lent)

From the Pastor: What is Lent?

Lent is the church season of 40 days plus Sundays during which Christians are asked to take a self-searching, God-watching stance to prepare for the self-giving of Jesus as he started to head for Jerusalem, where he knew he would die, and as he did so to save us all from our own inability to save ourselves.

While Woody and I were looking at houses in Pennsylvania this week, we saw a deer hiding behind one of the houses. The yard was big, but we suddenly realized that this deer was hurt; its left hind leg was broken and hanging. The poor thing must have been hit by a car. We wanted to help it, at least to call 911 for someone to come, but it hobbled away from us and disappeared. We felt sad and powerless, and now we still think of it and ache.

God may look at us and all the bad decisions and self-destructive things we do, but God is not sitting up in heaven wringing God's hands! God has given us God's own power over hatred and sin and even death through the life and love and GOOD, self-sacrificing decisions of Jesus. Jesus shows us that love is stronger than hate, that forgiveness is more powerful than the worst evil, and that choosing LIFE in him (see Deuteronomy 30:15-20) will defeat the things that would rob us of life in this world.

So during Lent, assess what makes you anxious and what causes you to avoid helping others. Examine your own guilt and the angers you lug around. During Lent, look for ways to take a God-watching stance. To do so will give you unexpected and often powerful blessing.

This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. I know that's also Valentine's Day, but God started the love-thing first. Ash Wednesday is a time when we gather to affirm that even though we mess up, God still loves us and works for and with us. So as we look down the road before us, not knowing what will happen in our lives or in this world, let us commit ourselves to letting our Savior Jesus be our guide through everything ahead.

Lent extends from Feb. 14 through Holy Week (3/25 is Palm Sunday, 3/29 Maundy Thursday, 3/30 Good Friday, and 4/1 EASTER). May our Lent be more than a church season; may it help our lives find their REASON, through the love and grace of God. Amen. - Florence Eddins

SNOW? ICE? *Blizzard?!!*

In the event of inclement weather, WUMC closings or delays will be announced on WFSB, Channel 3. If in doubt, do not go out! Stay safe this winter!

Visitation Meeting - Sunday, February 25

The local church has as its main purpose the making of disciples of Jesus Christ. But often folks are not able to attend worship. They may be homebound, or in a hospital, or perhaps they have come to feel that nobody in the church cares about them, so they don't come.

On Sunday, February 25, after worship, we will have a meeting for anyone interested in visiting others as part of your commitment to following Jesus Christ. Several folks indicated interest when the Nominations sheets were filled out last fall.

We will have an informal, informative meeting during which we will discuss fears, follies, and basic ground-rules of visiting as an extension of the church family to members and non-members.

All are welcome to be part of this. No one will be pushed into visiting. It will be fun! - Florence E.

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The Process of Getting a New Pastor

In the United Methodist Church, the Bishop (Bishop Bickerton in our New York Annual Conference) and the District Superintendents (ours is Rev. Alpher Sylvester) prayerfully work together to determine which congregations need new pastors and which pastors need assignments. Each year, appointments (as the assignments are called) start for all churches on July 1 and run for ONE year. If things work out, the pastor is re-appointed to that same church, perhaps for years and years, as long as the people and the pastor are being renewed in their faith and their sense of mission as followers of Jesus Christ. Winsted UMC is a part-time appointment, one-quarter time, so our church will probably be assigned a pastor "late in the game." They usually start with the largest churches and work their way down, so it could be May before we know.

At some point, our D.S. will contact our Chair of Staff-Parish (Debbie Kerr) and tell her that they have chosen a pastor for Winsted UMC. A meeting will be set for the Staff-Parish folks to talk with the proposed pastor. In our case, this new pastor MAY be Adeline Hazzard, but we have no certainty of this. Please pray for the wisdom of all involved, so that the ministry and vitality of this congregation may continue to be a blessing! - F. Eddins