

Winsted United Methodist Church

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Pastor: Rev. Florence Eddins

June , 2016

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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!*

- Carol Hague, for providing carnations for ALL on Mother's Day with funds from the Isabel Skilton Penny Fund.

-- Todd Shaw, for rototilling and bringing plants for our church garden; Bob Z, for planting it!

- Stephanie S, for planting the extra Easter lilies in the garden, for tending the church signs, and for helping out in all sorts of other ways, including the dinners!

- Darlene G, for installing plants in all the outside church planters, and for taking the children out during worship one Sunday.

- Bill Perry, for cleaning up the mess made of the cigarette butt receptacle and finding a new top for it, then labeling it and providing another receptacle for trash. MUCH appreciated, Bill!!

- Gail Palmer, for vacuuming the Bible study/meeting room floor and numerous other things.

- Warren and Corky, for being willing to undertake lots of projects around the church.

- Sue, Ron, and Barb H, for conducting an extensive inspection of the parsonage so that the Trustees can work on some needed repairs.

- Jill Jacobs, for getting breads, etc, from Stop & Shop for the food pantry while Norma was away.

- Perry G, for thoughtful newsletter articles!

- Mark T, for fine children's messages.

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

- Patty, Barb, Warren and Corky, for doing a HUGE job of cleaning out the downstairs stage area!!!!

- Candy and Stephanie, and helpers, for the yummy roast pork dinner!

Congratulations, Mary Pat!!

We are proud of Mary Pat Fredericksen, our beloved organist, who graduated on 5/26 from Northwest CC with an Associates degree in Medical Assisting. When you congratulate Mary Pat, be sure to ask her about her daughters' achievements, too!

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

June Birthdays:

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



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

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CHICKEN, potato salad & slaw Dinner

Thursday, June 23rd 6:00 p.m.

Eat in or take out. \$11/adult, \$6/under 12

Reservations are needed.

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Prayers and Sympathy

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the Zordan family. Matt's grandmother died peacefully and surrounded by her family on May 22.

Sympathy to Darlene Grant and Debbie Kerr on the death of their uncle in May.

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Roof Work ought to start any day!! Watch for it!

Come to the Meadow - by Bob Zuchegna

Come to the meadow
there's no trees there.
Come to the meadow
there's fresh open air.

There's Indian paint brush
and tall grass, too.
Come to the meadow,
there'll be me and you.

ALSO: Listen with love, and let Love be your
Guide.

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From the Pastor

What does it mean to be Christian? I hear folks describe a person as “a good Christian,” or I hear somebody state that our country is supposed to be “a Christian nation,” and I cringe, physically and spiritually. Not long ago I spoke with a thirty-something person who asked me how I am able to *stand* being part of the Christian faith. His words stung, but I heard the truth in them: “I cannot fathom what Christians are about,” he said. “I see such smugness, and such condemnation of others, and in many cases stern eagerness to cut programs for the poor and the mentally ill while at the same time demanding more money for bombs and bullets, and I do not understand. I am not Christian and do not want to be, but I have read the teachings of Jesus in your New Testament, and it would seem to me that most ‘Christians’ live as though they are not familiar with his teaching.” Ouch!

When we speak to each other, when we walk the streets, when we drive, when we work, when we are having differences of opinion within our families, we are no less called to follow Jesus Christ than we are on Sunday mornings. The other six days matter, too!

Let us wake up each morning and thank God for the day. Let us live through each day asking ourselves not only, “What would Jesus do?” but “What would Jesus have *ME* do?” If our hearts are willing to do so, it may just be that our lives will make it possible for someone else to want to be a Christian. By the grace of God, may this be so! Amen. - Florence Eddins

Marilyn's Pantry

Norma Jarvis and Issy have been making huge trips to the grocery store to stock our food pantry. Many blessings make this possible!!

History Of Our Church – *Recently a package from the Litchfield Methodist Church arrived with a note saying that they had found this booklet and thought we would like to have it. It is a Historical Sketch from 1790 to 1903. I thought it would be nice to put a chapter or two in each newsletter so we can all read about our church. The booklet sold for 25 cents with the proceeds to go to the organ fund; it was printed in Winsted. - Issy*

“Early Days”

The story of Methodism in Winsted has been one of steady progress from unpromising beginnings. When the pioneer preachers first visited the town sometime prior to 1790, they were not received with wide open arms. The “orthodox” portion of the community regarded them as roving fanatics, and their teachings as nothing less than mischievous heresy. The only preaching places open to them was either the fields or some barn, or here and there a private house whose owner was hospitable. The young people who attended these services usually did so against the strong remonstrance of parents and friends. And when conversions occurred among them, it was thought to be a cause for indignation rather than rejoicing. As we refer back to those early days, from the standpoint of the mutual good will that so universally prevails at the present time among all denominations of Christians in our village, we cannot but exclaim, with gratitude and praise, “What hath God wrought!”

At one of those early meetings, Jonathan Coe, Jr., was happily converted. His mother was greatly offended. But that she and the other members of the household might become acquainted with the exact character of the new doctrine, permission was given for the pioneer preacher to come to their house and preach. Jonathan's grandfather, who was old and blind, was present. At the close of the sermon he rose and said: “This is a man of God.” The effect of the meeting on the mind of the mother was such that she was soon converted. Then followed the conversion of other members of the family, and the house became a home for the itinerant preachers. From that time the Coe family, in its various branches, became the loyal supporters of Methodism in Winsted. Their service to the cause of Christ and the Methodist church would of itself fill a volume.

"To Care and Dare" by Perry Green

Suggested Reading: Nehemiah 1 - 13

It's Hillary or “the Donald,” and perhaps Bernie or an unknown GOP hopeful that may “pop” up – when we least expect it! These people seem to be the top contenders in the presidential race to put America on

the right track. Each has their own economic plan. But who is right? If it were not for the fact that he was not born in the US, nor is he alive today, I would write in Nehemiah!

Hillary is a wealthy former First Lady and Secretary of State. The Donald is a wealthy mogul in real estate construction and a myriad of other projects. Bernie is a US senator from VT, and is said to be worth about \$500,000. Nehemiah was also wealthy, and he was a cupbearer. My candidate of choice Nehemiah was also a great example of a steward, by giving of himself in terms of the three "T"'s of stewardship - time, talent and treasure.

A cupbearer was a high-ranking officer in royal courts. As a cupbearer, Nehemiah played a very critical role in the Kingdom of Persia, since it was he who taste-tested all the food and wine for poison before the King of Persia ate it. The king, therefore, trusted his cupbearer with his life. And the cupbearer also hoped that his King was popular. His confidential relations with the King often gave him a position of great influence. Nehemiah was in essence much like a special advisor to our President in the United States.

Could you imagine a special advisor to our president asking if he could leave the White House, and all of its benefits, to lead folk like the Syrian refugees to a new land? Additionally, once there, he would help them to work to establish their village? Right! However; that is exactly what Nehemiah did. Having heard of the Jews' ability to be released from exile (their third and final time) and to be able to return to Jerusalem, Nehemiah, in distress, prayed for his people. Upon receiving his answer from God, he immediately acted upon it. No armchair quarter-backing for him. No complaining or wallowing in self-pity. A call to action was the answer!

Nehemiah didn't even voice the familiar "Why me?" as did so many of the Old Testament leaders and prophets when called by God for a task. He knew that God could use his time and talents to get the job done. He had it "made in the shade," yet he gave up his comfortable position as cupbearer to the King in order to respond to God's call for him to serve. How many of us would obtain a message from God to give up our jobs, or other areas of value - simply to do God's will? We have to believe that God's answer was also applied into the heart of the Persian King, to allow his trusted friend and confidant, Nehemiah, to leave his royal court for this risky "reconstruction effort" as we might call it today.

The suggested reading for this article is the whole historical book of Nehemiah, chapters one to thirteen. They are short chapters, and easily relate to his organization, management, encouragement. He also met with intense opposition and injustice - yet he prevailed. The surrounding lands of Judah were experiencing a great famine. In contrast to the situation, Nehemiah offered an example of generosity in his role as leader, by personally paying for over a hundred fifty persons to eat at his table on a daily basis.

At Chapter 3, you will note that Nehemiah had arrived at Jerusalem, and everyone knew who the boss was! He organized the people into groups, and gave them specific sections of the wall to re-build. Ever been to a work party where the first hour or so is spent blinking at one another? By Chapter 4, we discover his defense against the insults, threats and sabotage of people against the wall building! Then in Chapter 5, another problem happened within their wall; rich Jews were profiteering off of the diligent wall-workers. How would we handle that today? Read the account: Nehemiah confronts the extortionists face-to-face! This is not the usual way we handle conflicts, in national politics, or in our own personal lives. At the end of Chapter 6, we see that the wall was completed in a mere 52 days. The ending chapters show Nehemiah continuing to support the people of Jerusalem, organizing gate-keepers and the mundane of "town management." He then enlists the help of Ezra to read God's law, and to help to reaffirm their faith. Nehemiah strengthens the new city's physical walled security; Ezra helps to strengthen Jerusalem's spiritual security! There is a lesson of missionary work there - you take care of the basic needs first; then work on the faith and spiritual issues! Truly, Nehemiah was a man of many missions, many gifts, all for the Glory of God.

In the presidential election of 2016, it will be important to vote for the candidate of our choice. Those of us who have the right to vote for the leaders of our country need to do just exactly that. To vote for Nehemiah would be a wasted write-in vote, just as much as would one for Alfred E. Neuman, Mickey Mouse and Morris the Cat, who usually get their share of the elections. Yet, as we may try to seek in our leaders the gifts of time, talent and treasure; we need to remember that we also can subscribe to those same principles. May we seek God's direction through prayer, then care and dare . . . to do the right thing! Soli Deo Gloria. Amen. - Perry Green