

Winsted United Methodist Church

630 Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098

Mail: P.O. Box 380, Winsted, CT 06098-1515

860-379-6386

Pastor: Rev. Florence Eddins

March 2017

Secretary: Issy Skilton

Website: www.unitedmethodistwinsted.org

Church email: winstedumc@att.net

From The Pastor

As I write this, we are about to begin the season of Lent, which is the 40-days-plus-Sundays period Christians observe to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. When I was a child, my Catholic friends had to give up chocolate or milk shakes or something they really liked all during Lent. The Episcopal church I grew up in suggested that we put money in our "Mite Boxes" throughout Lent. On Easter Sunday, we were to find flowers and stick them in our mite boxes, then bring them to church with us and put our mite boxes in the cross that had been made to receive them. As we children brought in our flowery coin boxes and each put our box on the cross, the Mite-Box Cross became more and more beautiful, and was finally filled with flowers and with the small offerings of money, which were given to various missions each year.

For me, being able to tangibly participate in making that cross so amazing was a profound experience. It taught me very early in my life that even a few pennies given by a child can make a big difference. (See the story of the Widow's tiny offering (a mite) in Luke 21:1-4.)

It's helpful, I believe, to remember that in God's hands, whatever we are able to share and do can be made to be amazing. The image of little bits of colored glass used by a stained glass master to create an inspiring window comes to mind; God can use our little "bits" to do something BIG.

Which is sort of what Lent is about. How can we truly prepare ourselves to properly understand Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross and his resurrection from the dead after that? We cannot! But what we CAN do is remember, every day, that GOD is the one in charge of our lives and this world. GOD can use whatever we are willing to let God use of us. Everything we have and everything we are (our time, our abilities, our interests) have been given to us by God. Lent is a very good time to make a daily effort to offer to God our time, our abilities, and our interests for God to use, in big and small ways. That is turning

away from "my way" and turning towards "God's way," whatever that turns out to be.

Our world and nation are filled with conflicts and conflicting views right now. For this reason, Christians need (more than ever, I believe) to take Lent seriously.

Lenten questions: How much do I trust God? What part of my life do I NOT want to trust God about? If I say I believe in Jesus, how is my life showing others his love? What is my sharpest fear? Do I dare hand it over to God and trust that God really can handle it? (See Matthew 11:28, where Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.")

The Christian year starts with Advent, then Christmas, then Epiphany (how are we to respond to the Light of the world?). Now we begin Lent, during which we will accompany Jesus on his walk to the death he knew was coming on the Cross in Jerusalem. "No greater love," Jesus said, "can a person give than to lay down his life for someone else." (John 15:13) During Lent, through our worship, we are led, step by step, beside Jesus as he lived out his love for us. May this Lent be holy for us all as we dare to treat God and others differently, because of our walk with Jesus. Even our smallest efforts, in God's hands, can bring about great things.

Thank God!

AMEN.

Florence Eddins

+



To Richard and Jessica, for setting up Coffee Hour every Sunday morning. And Richard, for ringing our church bell.

To all who do extra cleaning around the church, and especially those who clean up after the coffee hours.

To Sandy and Patty, and also Darlene, for seasonal changes in décor around the church.

To Issy and Georgette, for regularly doing extra work to make things nicer.

To all the others who quietly give of yourselves to help others and our church.

Florence



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.)*

January Birthdays

March Birthdays

- 1 Raymond Fowler
- 2 James Hague
- 3 Michael Spring
- 6 Perry Green
- 8 Thelma Shaw
Darlene Bentley
- 10 Edward and Edwin Gouthier
- 13 Christina Brown
- 19 Pam Bazzano
Debbie Tabak
- 20 Jeanne Frink
- 26 Marion Taylor
- 29 Mark Loomis
- 30 Candace Williams
Catherine Gouthier
- 31 Emelia Zordan

+

Marilyn's Pantry

Once again, we got a huge donation from the Simsbury Methodist Church for the pantry. When Barbara Vasquenza comes in with food, she usually has bags of items for the Thrift Shop as well. Food came in as well from a lady named Pam Nichols who comes in just about every Sat. And drops off food for us. So, between Barbara's, Pam's, and members of the church, the shelves are still full. Many thanks to all who contribute and thanks to the Bible study group who helps carry it all into the Social Room.

+

Church Council -

So much accomplished this month and on top of actually getting things done, there was a lot of laughter going on. Issy reported that the organ has been tuned and Barbara Hawley is going to set up a time to get the piano tuned before Palm Sunday. The date for the Cabin Fever Fair (which we are now calling the Spring Fever Fair) has been changed to April 8th. When Norma Jones talked to the Tort Museum to get permission to park in their lot for the fair, they asked if they could have their annual reception here on April 1st. Thus the change in the date. Guide lines are going to be written up for the Thrift Shop so if someone new wants to work there, they have written instructions. It was also decided to take advantage of a program called Sower: Seeds of Faith and Finance. This is a program that is being offered free of charge and it is to help people of all ages to set up finances. Once we see if we can get in, there will be more information about it. The Avon Methodist Church Meatloaf dinner is set for March 4th and it was decided to get people from our church lined up to fill tables. So, don't be surprised if Issy comes up to you and asks if she can put you down for the dinner.

+

Trustees

The Trustees didn't get a chance to meet last month due to Mother Nature. Barbara Hawley reported that she still has heard nothing from the town about the damage to the stairs on Hillside/High Street corner, nor about replacing

the handicap sign. She is going to follow up and try and get some answers. Barring no emergencies, the Trustees will meet again on March 12th.

+



The Spring Fever Fair has had it's date changed, it is no longer April 1st, but April 8th. Norma Jones is in the process of obtaining insurance coverage so we can use the museum's parking lot next to the church. Issy is in charge of the fair, but will gladly hand over the reins if someone else wants to head it up. What is really needed is someone to take care of advertising and if you are willing to do that, see Issy and she can give you all the places that are normally contacted. We are hoping to sell tables to vendors, if you know of any crafty person that would like a table, spread the word. The space will go for \$25.00, and that includes a table and two chairs. Since we will have use of the parking lot, they can unload their stuff there and bring it in the side door. As well as vendors, we will have a bake table, a white elephant table, book table, jewelry table, and tag sale items. On top of all this, there will be a luncheon put on by Jo Elin. More on that later. Please keep this date open and if you can help we will need people for donations of food and items you no longer want, advertising, set up and take down, manning tables the day of the fair and kitchen help. Let Issy know, or sign up on the papers in the Social Room;



Din

**Corn Beef
ner**

It is time for our monthly dinners to start up again. The first one will be Corn Beef or Ham with potatoes, carrots, cabbage and desserts. Candy and Stephanie are going to do the cooking and shopping with Jo Elin

driving to pick up the food. . Candy wants prayers for her to have to ride to Waterbury with Jo Elin! You have your choice of corn beef or ham and when you sign up for a reservation, be sure and pick which kind of meat you want. There are sign up sheets in

the Social Room for reservations and for helping out. Please volunteer where you can.

+



Prayers

Keep the whole congregation in your prayers for a while. There are so many of us that need help with health, money, relationships, chemo treatments, broken bones, broken hearts, it won't hurt to send up a little prayer for healing for so many that need it.

+



Bereavement Group

The Visiting Nurses Association is going to be holding a Bereavement Group for Adults on March 28th at 4:30 at Union Street. All are welcomed.

+



**Sammy is
Leaving!**

Samantha, our acolyte, is leaving Conn. Around the second week of April. She will be moving to Texas. We are going to miss you so much. You have been a joy to all of us Sammy, we have looked forward to you lighting the candles every Sunday. Be sure and keep in touch with us and good luck to you in your new home.

+



Meatloaf

The Avon

Church is putting on a meatloaf dinner here at our church on March 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. It is for the homeless in the area and we are hoping for a good turn out. But, if Issy comes up to you and asks you to come to the dinner, it is to fill tables. We don't want t

he people from Avon to put on a dinner and do all the work and then no one here for it. They will be prepared to feed 50 people, so keep that date open in case we need you to fill a chair!

Dinner

Methodist



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 1 Informal gatherings in sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to share the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be offered for those desiring them.

+

Lenten study

March 5, 26, and April 2 on FORGIVENESS, each session after worship. All are welcomed.

+



Bat Column

I have had a pretty quiet month this month. One Saturday I was in my belfry minding my own business when I heard some giggling. I flew down to investigate and it was Sammy and Nika. Nika was spending the weekend with Sammy and Grandma Georgette and while they were in the Sanctuary, they were playing "church". Sunday how cute were they with the two of them lighting the candles. What a wonderful job they did. Now, I hear that Sammy is going to Texas to be a cowgirl, I'm going to miss our little acolyte. And doesn't the Sanctuary come alive when Barbara O. Is playing the drums. Wow! Speaking of wonderful jobs, the bat wants to tip my hat to Mark Tacinelli for the great messages he gives to the children every Sunday. Even with all the snow one weekend Sandy made it to the church and took care of the Pantry and the Thrift Shop. From what I heard, Issy didn't want to try her driveway! Sunday after church when I was hanging around listening to all the conversations, Nika went to her Grandmother and said "Pastor Florence said God Bless You to me, but I didn't sneeze!" A couple of Sundays ago, everyone was happy to see Perry in church and Patty in her usual spot. I guess the snow

and the cold has kept people away, the bat is a little lonely. Wednesdays are getting lively there are now about 15 people that come to Bible Study every week. Don't think that they spend the whole time studying, a lot of laughter is heard and they eat! John missed a couple of days Thrift Shop and greeting Sunday morning, but now he is back. And Saturday a new face is here - Sue Bessette, I saw her busy in the office paying bills. I heard all this noise one day from downstairs and I flew down to see what was going on. Jo Elin was in the kitchen up to her elbows in hot water cleaning the kitchen. Two hours later, she was done and the kitchen looks wonderful. It seems there is a slight problem with mice in the kitchen, so traps have been set to rid the church of those pesky rodents! Just don't be putting any traps in my belfry! That's pretty much all that has been going on here, like I said, it has been a very quiet month. I think next month will be a bit more exciting, I have heard talking about a dinner and a fair. Until next month I will be listening and watching.

The Bat.

