

From the Pastor

Christian congregations are usually what can be called “a mixed bag,” with all kinds of people. One of the most challenging aspects of a church can be the “Love one another” (John 13:34) command that Jesus gave to his followers. He said this to disciples who kept misunderstanding him and also tried to seek the best seats in the coming kingdom. (Check out Matthew 20:20ff)

There’s a neat prayer in our Methodist hymnal, # 564. Here it is: *Help each of us, gracious God, to live in such magnanimity and restraint that the Head of the church may never have cause to say to any one of us, “This is my body, broken by you.”* (A Chinese prayer)

Thankfully, I am not speaking of this because of trouble here in our congregation! I mention it because in you, the people who make up the Winsted UMC, I have witnessed how serious you are about loving one another. As I write this, it has been almost two weeks since Issy fell and broke her arm while arranging Easter lilies in the sanctuary.

Issy’s accident provided a powerful illustration of how you pull together and help each other. One ran across the street to get the paramedics, one stayed by her side, one went with her to the hospital with her, two made sure her car got to her house, one took her home from the hospital and then went to get her prescription. One went home and made her soup and sandwiches and a bunch of other stuff. One took her a mountain of food for Easter dinner. Her phone rang constantly, providing community. One drove Issy and her dear friend (support for her) to the doctor and then got her new medication. One has picked her up to come to the church for work. ETC!! There has been a lot of love in action!!

Winsted UMC is not unique in this, for a lot of congregations show care to their members, but you are very strong in so doing. And you are also willing to reach out in love to folks you do not know so well, which is what I read Jesus telling his followers (us) to do. (Matthew 25:31-46).

If one turns to this passage in our pew Bibles, the heading for the reading is “The Judgment of the Nations.” As our nation makes hard decisions about all the needs around the world (and in our own neighborhoods), I wish *everybody* would read Jesus’ words written there, and pray for guidance. Even if wars and threats continue, our souls will be better off if we take Jesus’ teachings to heart and policy!

“Love one another,” Jesus said. “Love the Lord your God with all your mind, heart and strength, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.” When will we ever learn

that as we love our neighbors, near and far, we *are* loving ourselves by being obedient to our Lord and Savior?

Here is a Benediction from the book, *Worship and Song*:

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen. (Divine liturgy of Saint Chrysostom)

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.)

**May Birthdays**

- 1 Richard Coon (the youngster)
- 3 Joel Jarvis
- 5 Victoria Brown
Logan Tabak
- 7 Shirley Pixley
- 9 Nicholas Tabak
- 13 Tyler Grant
- 14 Bill Meeker
- 15 Pastor Al Miller
- 17 Susan Caufield
- 20 Barbara Hawley
- 21 Clifford E. Hoxie
- 22 Allyn Raydenbow
- 28 Brianna Tabak
- 29 Marion Ramsey Miller
Christina Sogliuzzi
- 30 Barbara Skilton
- 31 Samantha Jacobs

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

May Anniversary

- 8 Pastor Al & Marion Miller

Losses

- Sympathy is extended to John Lundy, whose nephew, William, died in a fire in PA in April.
- Our sympathy to Jerry Hamilton, whose sister, Janice, died on April 28.
- Sympathy to Bill Perry, whose nephew died the last week of April.

The Bat Column

To sleep - perhaps to dream. What sleep? I am so busy flying around checking out all the activities here I don't have time to sleep. Bill Dwyer and John Lundy have kept me really busy. Bill has been polishing brass, washing walls and pews, cleaning bathrooms, making repairs, and hauling junk. John has been fixing the women's bathroom downstairs, painting, hauling boxes down for the fair and then hauling them back up. Don't they know how tired I get flying back and forth? Come on boys, have some consideration for this bat! And on top of that Patty and Issy started setting up for the fair and Arlene, Gail and Sue all helped with that. Then the big day of the fair, people in, people out, Jo Elin and Candy cooking, people working, people buying - what a day! The next day was Palm Sunday and Issy was in the Sanctuary decorating with palm fronds. Raymond, Sammy's brother, was here one day and he helped Issy peel all the palm fronds apart. But, didn't the Sanctuary look pretty. That is a rhetorical question and the answer is yes! Then came Maundy Thursday and the church was busy with setting up for that and then the service was solemn but beautiful. Good Friday followed with the church open for people to come in and pray or meditate. In between time, Ron Bessette and Barbara Hawley came in and fixed the rope to the bell in my belfry. John and Billy worked outside, painting the sign out front and working. Joel Jarvis and crew were here doing a Spring cleaning outside. Then the flowers came and Billy helped carry the 35 plants in. Saturday found Georgette, Issy and Patty setting up for the lilies. Anyway, the church has been abuzz this month with cleaning and fairs and flowers and such.

The Bat

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The Dying Swan

Did you hear about the start and finish of my dancing career? I did the final act of the dying swan and had to be carried off stage!! Seriously, I want to thank everyone who came to my aid with the fall and the aftermath. I'm not going to try and name everyone, but I had people at the clinic with me, people sending over food, people getting prescriptions, dog food, running me to the doctor and of course to work. And the drama goes on with more rides to the doctor, different meds, more x-rays. - I promise you, my dancing days are over!! Thank you to all who helped me through this ordeal - and the real scary part is I have 5-6 more weeks to go! (Issy)

The office coverage may be less for a while. Call the pastor — 860-707-0183.

TD Bank Fund Raiser

The TD Bank Fund Raiser is an on going money maker for the church. Just to jog all of you, you can still join in. For all new accounts the church gets \$25.00 and for an old account \$10.00. Plus, when you open a new account and put in \$100.00 the bank gives you \$25.00. And the most important thing is it doesn't cost us anything and there is no work involved. Save your pennies and when you get to \$100.00, go down and open an account and tell the teller that you are joining the fund raiser for the Winsted Methodist Church.

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TURKEY DINNER

The turkey dinner was a success thanks to Stephanie, Jo Elin and Candy, and of course all the behind the scenes players that were here. Suggestion was made that it would be appreciated if the dinner committee could find out ahead of time who is bringing what for desserts. A sheet will be put out so that you can sign up. This will eliminate one guessing game. "Hmm, wonder what is coming for dessert?", "Wow it's 4 o'clock and we have no desserts to get ready!" Also, if you could bring the desserts in the *morning* the day of the dinner it would be appreciated and make things a lot easier. Thank you!

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Days for Girls

Connecticut District Mission Project Days for Girls International is a grassroots non-profit creating a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls through advocacy, reproductive health awareness, education and sustainable feminine hygiene, because no girl should go without.

The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school, which is a huge challenge in some countries. Not having sanitary supplies means Days without school and isolation. Days for Girls gives Days back to girls, Days that can change their lives.

The CT district is joining the New York Annual Conference this year to support the Days for Girls program. For \$20, one Kit will provide sustainable feminine hygiene for one girl for 3 years! Please give as you are able!

Please make checks payable to the CT District and mail to: CT District Office, Attention: Dorothy, 20 Broadfield Road, Hamden, CT 06517 Please note on memo line of the check: Days for Girls Thank you!

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Bishop Bickerton - On Our District - May 16th
 Waterbury UMC , 250 Country Club Road
 6:00 p.m. **Dinner** – reservations required
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Q & A with Bishop for Laity
Call the District Office - 203-288-0286

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Winsted Pet Parade - Saturday, May 20th
2:00 p.m.

Winsted UMC will offer Blessing of the Animals before and during the parade. *Come and enjoy the Winsted celebration!*

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New Member Joining! On May 7, Winsted UMC will officially welcome Debbie Louise Eid Kerr as an official member. Debbie grew up in this congregation, and has been back with us, serving as Trustee for several years. Now she is renewing her membership, and it is a joy to welcome her.

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Recipe of the Month Pizza Fondue
makes 20-25 appetizer servings
Prep time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 3 to 4 hours

½ pound bulk Italian sausage
 1 cup chopped onion
 2 jars (26 ounces each) meatless pasta sauce
 4 ounces thinly sliced ham, finely chopped
 1 package (3 ounces) sliced pepperoni, finely chopped
 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
 1 pound mozzarella cheese, cut into 3/4 inch cubes
 1 loaf Italian or French bread, cut into 1 inch cubes

Cook and stir sausage and onion in large skillet over medium-high heat until sausage is browned. Drain and discard fat. Transfer sausage to Crock-pot slow cooker. Stir in pasta sauce, ham, pepperoni and pepper flakes. Cover. Cook on LOW 3 to 4 hours.

Serve warm fondue with cheese and bread cubes.
ENJOY! (Issy says this recipe sounds good...)

Church Membership - an invitation

There are several folks who attend worship regularly and even serve on some of our committees who have not officially become members of this congregation. If you are interested in becoming a member, please know that Winsted UMC will delight in receiving you. Please speak to the pastor if you would like to discuss church membership.

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Roast Pork Dinner - Thursday, May 18 6:00 p.m. Roast pork and all the fixings! Home-made desserts.

Adults - \$11 Under 12 - \$6. Reservations *needed!*
 Call the church office (860) 379-6386 and be sure to say your name, how many dinners, and whether you want to eat in, take out, or have the meal/s delivered (Winsted only). Delivery orders, leave your phone number, too.

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More words of appreciation:

- to Darlene, for a Lenten plant for the altar and then wonderful forsythia to brighten our Easter entryway;
- to Sandy and Patty, for wonderful Lenten and Easter decor for our entry and social hall;
- to Candy, Stephanie, and their families, plus Sue Dwyer, Gail, Arlene, and all others who helped out, for a delicious Turkey Dinner in April;
- to those who helped deliver Easter lilies, including Christina, Barb, and Adeline;
- to Bill Dwyer and John Lundy, for a LOT of fixing, painting, shining and scrubbing around the church over the past few weeks;
- to Raymond (Georgette's grandson), for several times of vacuuming the sanctuary and narthex;
- to Samantha (sometimes with help from cousin, Nika), for being our acolyte;
- to Warren and Thelma, for helping out in so many ways and for bringing Bob Z to church on Easter, etc.;
- to all who read on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday;
- to those who helped out with food for John Lundy's remembrance event for his brother, George;
- to Barbara O, for being our drummer;
- to Mark T, for offering inspiring messages for our children (and all the adults, too!);
- to all of you who are not named but who have shared yourself in so many ways here in this church.

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Financial Seminar - The "Sower" seminar offered here by Ed Ruppman on 4/23 was well-attended. Those who want Ed to provide a financial plan for them will soon be offered a day when Ed will return and work with you. Thank you.