



Winthrop United Methodist Church

M E S S E N G E R

December 2011

Dear Saints,

As I sit here this morning looking out the office window at the falling snow, I am reminded of a conversation I had many years ago with a young child. I am sorry to say I don't remember if it was with Sarah my daughter or some other child. I think it was Sarah and will have to ask her tomorrow at Thanksgiving dinner. It was almost Christmas and I said to her, 'It's almost Christmas, are you excited?' The reply I got was surprising, she looked at me and said, "It can't be Christmas we don't have any snow!"

As we enter into the Advent season I wonder if we truly understand what Advent means to our lives. "Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays that proclaims the comings of Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate."

I believe the important part of this explanation from our Book of Worship is that Christ comes to us continually. But all too often we are not ready, or we think that God is not or could not be there for us because we feel unworthy – it has not snowed yet – so how could God come to me in this unrighteous state?

I believe it is important to remember that our righteousness does not come from our perfection but rather from our willingness to take the time to open our hearts to God – our lives – who we are in all shortcomings and failures; all the bad and shameful thoughts as well as the good and joyful parts of our lives, brought to our Lord. As we sense God's leading; and walk in that way, we will grow righteous too – Jesus will lead us into people of integrity and honesty, abiding in God's spirit.

The adjective that most describes Jesus to me is compassionate. Jesus identifies with the marginalized and outcast, with women and children, with Gentiles and sinners. Over and over we read that Jesus has compassion on the crowds and on individuals.

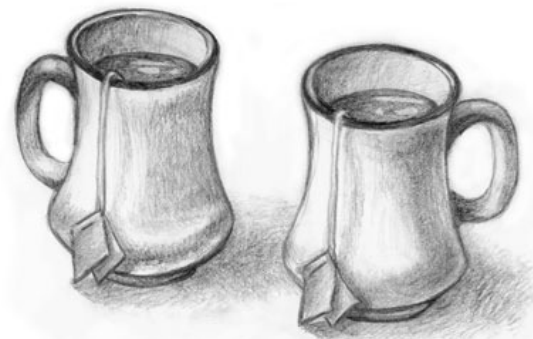
He stands with these people and ministers to them. No one is too unclean or too great a sinner for Jesus. He generously embraces and loves all. He offers himself freely to all people. John's Gospel is clearest in fleshing out what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves: it is – to love as Jesus loves (13:34).

In this season of Advent know that Jesus loves you. Allow him to come into your life and live as Lord and Savior!

It's snowing – Jesus is coming – are you ready?

Blessings,

Pastor Ned



KNOW YOUR TRUE IDENTITY

A DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Sponsored by Garments of Praise Ministries

Living Water Spiritual Center

January 7, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Design by Rhea Lynn Kennard

“Isaiah 62:2 reads: “You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow,” referring to Jerusalem. But we believe it applies to us as believers, as well.

When people label you, those labels can cause you to shrink instead of to stretch to your full potential. But the God who gave Jerusalem a new identity can give you one, too. Are you struggling with the old names people called you and the old images you have of yourself? Nothing will change in your life until it first changes in your mind.



Hear this: you are who God says you are, not who others say you are! If God didn't give you the name, it's not yours. Only believe what God says about you. Nobody understood better than Jacob the power of a name change. It was in God's presence that Jacob the trickster was renamed Israel, '...a prince... with God...' (Genesis 32:28). During this retreat, you will have the opportunity to examine the various names that have been given to you and to explore ways in which to find your true identity in Jesus Christ.

“Know Your True Identity” will be led by a team who will share their own stories, struggles and gifts along with small group sharing, whole group activities, stirring music and caring fellowship, as well as opportunities for prayer and worship. Come for spiritual renewal and a time apart with God. Through the support of listening and caring women, allow the Holy Spirit to help you find your true identity in the Lord.

The retreat will be held at Living Water Spiritual Center, Winslow, ME. We are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. Registration will begin at 8:30. Lunch and snacks are included.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: (Dietary, Accessibility, Other): _____

\$35 Registration Fee (includes materials, snacks and lunch) Paid _____

Send registration by 12/20/11 to:

Sharon J. Weston, Administrator
14 Melville Street, Apt. 1
Augusta, ME 04330
E-mail: sharon.weston3@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to Sharon Weston.
For more information, please contact Sharon Weston at the above e-mail address.

NOTE: Copies of Sharon Weston's new book, *Beauty for Ashes: Portraits of Faith*, published by Inspiring Voices, a service of Guideposts, will be available for purchase, if desired. Price: \$12.99. Payment by cash or check only.



We need volunteers to help put together a float for the Winthrop Christmas Parade for Saturday, December 3rd. The parade starts at 3:30 and we are lucky to have a flat bed trailer available to decorate thanks to Brad Kaherl. It is an opportunity to not only notify the parade attendees of our wonderful Tabitha's Closet mission but to also inform people of how active our church family is and how interested we are in providing and sharing our good fortune with our community.

What a great way to get the word out that Tabitha's Closet will be the following weekend and so many people will be made aware of our free for all give away of gently used clothing, toys and books. We will have the trailer available Sunday, November 27th and I would like to work on it that Sunday afternoon. I will check to see if the parsonage garage might be available to use it for putting it together and keeping it under cover until the parade. If not, we can put it together at my clinic garage but the area is very small to move around in with all the Tabitha's Closet clothes stored there. The trailer has very low sides so I am recommending that anyone be on the float for safety reasons but we can walk beside it. John Huard is providing the music for it. He did our cruise-in music last June. Does anyone have ideas of what we might pass out to remind people of our program.

If you want to help, contact Sue Phillips at 377-9400 (work) 462-9400 (cell).



tabitha's closet

Saturday, December 10th 8 - 1 pm

We will once again be providing free children's clothing, toys and books for anyone and everyone. Last year there were so many grateful people who had things to put under their Christmas tree for their families.

If you have not shared in this experience, you're in for the real meaning of the season of sharing and caring.

We need donations of gently used clothing and toys for Tabitha's Closet and will be needing help in sorting clothes.

We will be sorting and getting ready in Fellowship Hall Thurs and Fri. Dec. 8th and 9th We are in need of hangers as well as help getting the word out. Please help if you can as many hands will make the difference.

Donations can be brought to the church or to my clinic at 18A High Street. Call if any questions 377-9400 work and 268-9400 at home.

Thanks for helping with this very worthwhile project.

Sue Phillips

Poinsettias

Are you planning on providing a Poinsettia plant to help decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas celebration?

Yes, I plan on providing a poinsettia for our Christmas Worship Celebration _____

Please bring your plant to church by Saturday morning, December 17. Plan on picking it up after our Christmas Day Worship Service, December 25th.

Please provide the following information for the bulletin:

Given By:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Please leave this slip on the office desk or in the offering plate. Thank you!



Winthrop United Methodist Women

Annual Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 4th 2-4 PM.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED.

Please bring can goods for the Winthrop Food bank and a small gift - under \$10.00 - for our gift exchange.

**Be creative! Refreshments will be served.
Hope to see you all there!**



CODA Chorus Annual Christmas Concert Hope Baptist Church on Route 202 in Manchester Sunday, Dec 4th at 7:00pm.

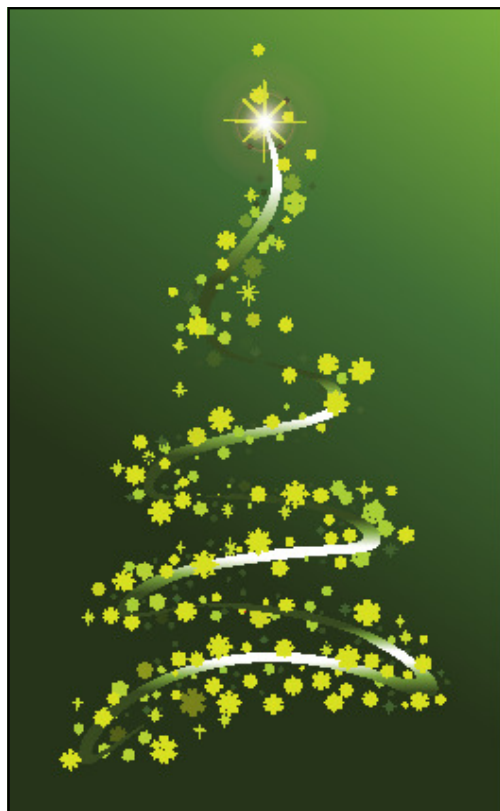
The program begins with a selection of beautiful sacred pieces, including Beethoven's "Hallelujah" from "Mount of Olives." CODA will then perform arrangements of traditional carols and an original Christmas spiritual with calypso rhythms.

Special guests will be The Winthrop Area Handbell Ringers, performing solo and also accompanying the Chorus.

A free-will offering will be taken.

Ed Larson is CODA's music director, and CODA is very pleased to welcome guest accompanist Ray Cornils, Municipal Organist for the City of Portland. CODA would like to thank Kennebec Savings Bank for its continued generous support as our sponsor.

For more information about the Christmas concert, please call 623-9433.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas

In celebration of our 200 year anniversary, the bicentennial committee is planning a special event each month during 2011.



Jan 23 – Come and meet Frances Asbury, America’s first circuit-riding preacher who visited Winthrop by horseback in 1798. Our guest will be Mark Alan Leslie, impersonator and author of “Midnight Rider for the Morning Star,” a biography of Frances Asbury. In the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.



Feb 27 – Join us for worship at 9:30 to celebrate our birthday, with party in the fellowship hall following the service. Our bishop, Peter Weaver will be our guest. Everyone is welcome!



March 27 – Old Recipe Potluck Supper

We will use an old church recipe book left to Karen Richards Toothaker by her grandmother, Lillian Richards, for the potluck menu. Please call the office for reservations and to get a recipe. We will gather in the Fellowship

Hall at 5:30 p.m.



April 24 – Easter

Join us for worship “in your Easter bonnet.” All men, women and children are encouraged to wear a hat of any era!! A small selection of hats will be available to borrow this day; stop by Fellowship Hall. Bring your cameras!



May 22 – Walk to Church

To acknowledge other forms of transportation in years gone by and reduce our carbon foot print, we are inviting everyone to walk to church! Those living in town can walk from home; others are encouraged to boat or drive to Norcross Point or Town Hall and walk from there.



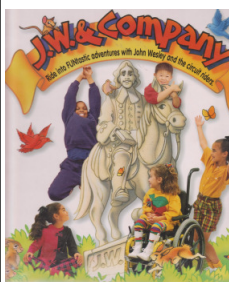
June 26 – Cruise In

We are hoping to organize a cruise-in for antique cars. Sunday afternoon from 12 to 4.



July 24 – Global Church and Us

Bishop Cliff Ives will lead our worship service with a special emphasis on the global church and changes over the years.



August - Vacation Bible School

“JW & Company”. Let your children experience life in the times of John Wesley and the circuit riders. Using crafts, games and music the children will have fun learning about the history of the Methodist Church and what it was like in the 1700’s.



September 25 – Old Home Day

All former pastors and parishioners are invited to join us for this special celebration of worship at 9:30, church school at 10:45 and lunch on the lawn at noon time.



October 23 – Old Time Variety Show

Come share your talents and join us for the show. Watch for details.



November 13 – Wesley Music History

Rev. John Neff uses his musical skills and his knowledge of history to lead us in morning worship based on hymns of Charles Wesley and others from our founding years.

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Our Bicentennial Anniversary year is coming to a close! Our final event is planned for Saturday, December 31st from 4—7p.m. We will have a pot luck supper, (bring your own utensils). There will be games, singing and conversation together; opportunities to share stories of the past we’ve heard or read about! We can also share hopes and dreams of what the future holds for our church.

All ages are welcome and you may come late and/or leave early if necessary. We are aware of it being New Year’s Eve. We hope you will join us for this special time of closure for this very special year on the history of our United Methodist Church in Winthrop.

Special thanks to Rev. John Neff for his educational, enjoyable and inspiring bicentennial service that he led for our 200TH November event.





The fall term/trimester is over, and we're beginning our second trimester with children's Sunday school and our advent study with the adults. Thanks to all who taught or participated in our fall studies. We especially enjoyed Mary Hill's visit with adults on November 20. Mary is a deaconess in the UMC whose recent service was a 27-month stint with Peace Corps in Botswana. She told about a country where people celebrate Christmas by worshipping God (not by giving gifts or having special meals) but also where HIV/AIDS has affected almost everyone either directly or indirectly. She gave us much to think about.

Our Advent Study, The Best Songs Come at Night, starts/started November 27. Barbara Hamblin, the study leader, suggested that people read the first chapter before class on the 27th. Chapter titles include "Miracles Begin as Babies," "The Best Songs Come at Night," "Wise Men Follow a Star," and "Christmas Lasts Longer Than You Think."

Kristin McLaren and the L.I.G.H.T. choir share the following about our upcoming Christmas pageant: On December 18th the youth will lead a service called "The Gifts of Christmas." All children and youth are invited to be involved. Practices are underway on Wednesday afternoons

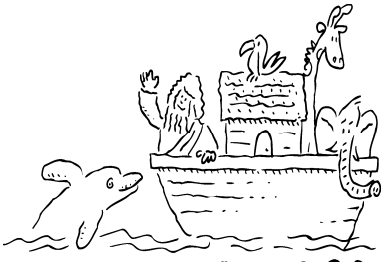
(3:30 in the sanctuary) for singing. We have a need for readers and youth to help usher and direct people during the interactive portions of the service. Please email or call Kristin Bryant McLaren if you are interested in helping out! kris_mcl@yahoo.com; 859-0729.

The pageant is a meaningful part of advent for many of us. We hope it will be a special service for everyone.

Youth group met on November 20 for pot luck, planning, and games. Apples to Apples, Blokus, and Bananagrams were fun for all of us. The Winthrop Youth Group has a Facebook page for communicating; check it out. It lists several opportunities for the youth to perform community service as well as plans for a "Parents Afternoon Out" on December 18. Youth and their advisers will be at Winthrop UMC from 1-5 p.m. to offer child care and activities for children through grade 5 while their parents use that time for holiday projects. Please let us know (through the church office) if you plan to bring your kids to us for the afternoon to help us plan.

See the bulletin board in FH for minutes of our CE meetings for further info.

Sookie Weymouth



What a great new Board of Directors! They have willingly stepped forward to accomplish all that must be done to ensure that a delightful holiday fair will be presented in our Fellowship Hall on December 3rd from 9:00 to 1:00. One huge task was contacting the over 100 businesses in the area who, even in these hard times, are donating items or services for the Silent Auction. WANS teachers, parents, and church family also donate and for all of this support we are VERY THANKFUL. Come and see what treasures you will find! Two craft nights and a wreath decorating night were fun and added to our items for sale. With all that, and the delicacies at the Baked Table, which Laura Greenier is chairing, you can see, it will be a great time to do some Christmas Shopping!

We want to remind you of the wonderful bargains in Jill and Pris' Second-Time-Around room. If you or young families in your life wish to donate gently used toys, sports equipment, baby or children's furniture, books, games, puzzles etc, they may be dropped off in the Chapel anytime from Wed. A.M. Nov. 30 to Fri. evening, Dec. 2. You'll want to come EARLY if you need to Christmas shop for children. Repeat customers wait for the doors to open, the buys are so terrific. Any kids items not sold, including clothing will be donated to Tabitha's Closet for Saturday, December 10th 8am-12noon.

COME BROWSE, ENJOY and STAY FOR LUNCH

News from WANS Board meeting:

- Great turnout at Family Potluck Supper
- 5 children receiving scholarship aid, a 6th pending
- A WUMC gentleman made a kind donation to WANS which was recognized gratefully

How proud we are to play a small part in helping with this, our church's long-running mission to our Winthrop area.

Church liaisons: Cindy Hinkley, Jill Howes, Launa Greenier, Pris Small

WINTHROP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COUNCIL: Nov. 9, 2011

12 MEMBERS & PASTOR NED CROCKETT
PRESENT

October Minutes were accepted with the first sentence in the Christian Ed report deleted. "Planning on having a float in Winthrop's Holiday Parade" because this was not being planned by CE.

October Fiscal Report presented, to be filed. We are applying for Missions Relief again in 2012.

Sue Philips presented a plan for the church to have a float in the Winthrop Holiday Parade on December 3. Opportunity to advertise Tabitha's Closet scheduled for December 10th. She will be chairperson. Motion made, seconded, passed.

Christian Education, Sookie Weymouth--Christmas pageant planned for December 18th worship service. Plans are being made to try Vacation Bible School during February and April school vacations. Youth from Winthrop UCC and our church met on November 6 with 8 youth attending. They will meet first and third Sundays.

WANS (Wonder Awhile Nursery School)—Priscilla Small reports that "all is well." WANS Christmas Fair will be December 3.

Caring Team—Priscilla Small reported that sometimes they are providing meals for two or three families at a time, but people are very willing to help with this.

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)—Janet Cowperthwaite reported that custodian, Andrea Dubois, is no longer employed by the church. Ads seeking a new custodian will be in The Advertiser next week.

Safe Sanctuary—Pastor St. Pierre from Orrs Island will be here on January 15 (snow date January 22) from 2-4:00 for a presentation on the Safe Sanctuary policy. Priscilla Small and Janet Cowperthwaite have attended one of these meetings and highly recommended that our church have one. Pastor Ned will invite area UMC's to attend.

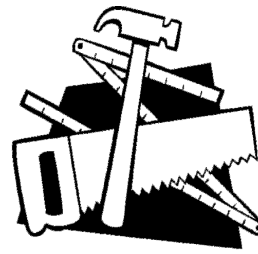
Finance/Budget—Marty Allen asked committees to submit budget requests for 2012 by the end of November.

Trustees—Sue Thomas reported that the yearly inspections on the church and parsonage, as required by the Conference, have been completed. The Autism Society has just signed a two-year lease for their space at 72 Main St. Their rent will go up \$75 as of December 1, 2011.

UMW (United Methodist Women)—Ida Ward reported that their Christmas party will be Sunday, December 4 from 2-4:00.

Pastor's Report—Ned reported that all is going well. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next Council meeting will be Wed. Dec. 14th @ 7pm



Ah ha, oh really!

'Tis the season to be jolly, be generous, be loving, and be grateful for a year of minor adjustments and repairs as the past year has moved along. Outside, inside (of the church), the parsonage, and 72 Main St. have each demanded their own share of cleaning, repairs, and maintenance. The on-the-ball Pastor with great ideas, his individual efforts (skip the job description) has made this year end for your Trustees on a solid note. Our wonderful group of folks (trustees) have each taken on a share of responsibility, a turn, and made an effort to complete jobs as they appear. While we patted ourselves on the back by correcting the difficult locking situation at the front door and looked to cutting off the draft between the doors, the quiet furnace decided to cough and sputter a bit but thanks to Carl and Lois service was secured and we are steady as she goes right now.

Fifty-one bags of leaves were collected and placed around the ell at 72 Main. If you feel left out, just get on the list for next year. We recycle now, and then recycle to Mechuwana composter in the spring.

With our budget submitted to the Finance Com. and arrangements made for shoveling, snow plowing, sanding, Christmas outside lights and Nativity, we wish to thank the kind folks who have helped us along the way in 2011 to make great comfort strides on a very low budget.

We can't say this often...God is good - all the time..

So we need to stay flexible and not become bent out of shape.

(The last borrowed from a well viewed sign in Manchester and one worth remembering.)



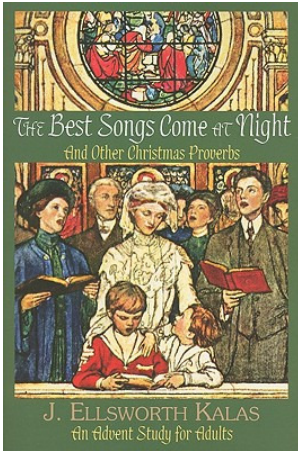


December 2011



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 1-2p.m. WANS setup 7:00p.m. Trustees	2 6a.m. Dawn Patrol 1-2p.m. WANS Setup	3 8—5p.m. WANS Fair
4 2-4p.m. Winthrop UMW Christmas Party	5 6p.m. Finance Mtg. 7p.m. WANS Board	6	7 9a.m. Lectionary 6:30p.m. SPRC	8 Tabitha's Closet setup	9 6a.m. Dawn Patrol Tabitha's Closet setup	10 8-1p.m. Tabitha's Closet
11	12	13	14 9a.m. Lectionary 7p.m. Church Council	15 Tabitha's Closet setup	16 6a.m. Dawn Patrol	17
18 Christmas Pageant @ worship service 1-5p.m. Parents Day Out ! 6:30p.m. Make a Joy- ful Noise!	19	20	21 9a.m. Lectionary	22	23 6a.m. Dawn Patrol	24 Christmas Eve 7p.m. Traditional Svc. 11p.m. Candlelight Communion
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 9a.m. Lectionary	29	30 6a.m. Dawn Patrol	31 New Year's Eve

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be gathering on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from **12:30p.m.—2:00p.m. At WUMC in the Chapel.** Feel free to pass by and do some knitting! If you don't know how to knit and are interested in learning attend a gathering!

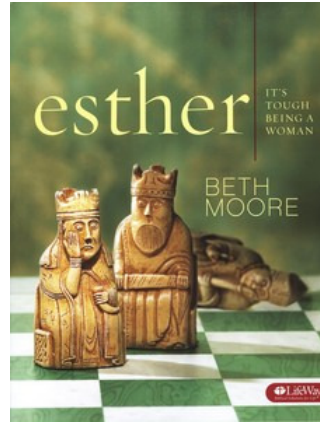


Adult Advent Study

The Adult Sunday School and the Dawn Patrol will study "The Best Songs Come at Night and Other Christmas Proverbs" a four-part Advent Study by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Rev. Kalas is a professor of preaching at Asbury Theological Seminary. He previously served thirty-eight years as a United Methodist pastor. "The Best Songs Come at

Night..." examines some of the simple but profound truths revealed through the telling of the biblical Christmas story. Each lesson includes a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, questions for discussion, and a closing prayer. Books are currently available in the church office and are only \$1.50. Barbara Hamblin will be leading the Sunday morning group, which has started as of November 27th. However, there's still time to join!

Please join us!



Dates For Esther Bible Study: Thurs. Jan. 5- March 8, 1:00 PM.

Sign-up sheet in the office. Book \$16. "Esther: It's Tough Being A Woman": An in-depth and very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened or pushed into situations that seemed overpowering, this is the study for you.

Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. Learn how very contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to our lives and how this book contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried and pressured lives. This 10 week study will be led by Bev Dow, who will take you through a DVD lesson by Beth Moore, and discussion of the material in the accompanying study guide.

Homework is an important part of this study.

ADDRESS & PHONE UPDATES:

Betty Tilton's new address is 444 Route 133 and phone is: 207-395-8113. Please make the correction in your directories. Thank You!

Thank You!!!

This Christmas...

*Let's Give a Little Jesus,
A thoughtful word or deed.
An act of generosity
For someone who's in need.*

*Let's Give a Little Jesus
That's what really counts—
Not what's spent or bought,
For whom, in what amounts.*

*Let's Give a Little Jesus
To everyone, large or small...
For Jesus, the Messiah,
Is the Greatest Gift of All!*

-Lisa O. Engelhardt



"MAKE A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS NOISE!"

Sunday, December 18th at 6:30 PM
Winthrop United Methodist Church

Special Music
Winthrop Area Hand Bell Ringers
Ed Larson—organ Mark Johnston—piano

Come and sing your favorite Christmas carols!



LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS.



Church Office Hours:

Tuesday—Friday
9 a.m.—2 p.m
(207) 377-8620

Ned S. Crockett Pastor (207) 242-0113
Bev. Dow Lay Leader (207) 215-6155
Tricia Day Office Manager

P.O. Box 136 ~ 58 Main Street
Winthrop, ME 04364
Email: office@winthropumc.org
Pastor Ned: pastor@winthropumc.org

Sunday Worship service
9:30 a.m.
Sunday School
10:45a.m.

www.winthropumc.org www.wonderawhile.com

Lectionary Readings for December

Below are the scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary

Week of Dec 4

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2,8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Week of Dec 11

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8,19-28

Week of Dec 18

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 31

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

The mission of the Winthrop United Methodist Church is to be a Christian community that invites all people to participate in God's love. Our purpose is to live out the mission through nurture, outreach and witness.



Winthrop United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 136
Winthrop, ME 04364

