



EASTER ---- A VIBRANT LIFE

**“JESUS THE CHRIST, IS THE
IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD,
THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION.” COLOSSIAN 1:15**

EASTER IS JOYOUS BECAUSE IT OCCURS IN SPRING WHEN FLOWERS BEGIN TO BLOOM. THE DREARY WINTER SKY PASSES. MANY FAMILIES COLOR EASTER EGGS AND GATHER AROUND AN EASTER HAM. I STILL ANTICIPATE THE ‘PEEPS’ THE EASTER BUNNY BRINGS!

BUT EASTER IS MORE THAN JUST A SEASON, AND MORE THAN EASTER EGG HUNTS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH FUN THOSE ARE FOR LITTLE ONES. EASTER FOLLOWS MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY TO JESUS’ RESURRECTION SO WE ARE ASSURED OF A FULL LIFE WITH HIM. EASTER FOLLOWS CHRIST LEAVING US WITH BREAD AND THE CUP AS A REMEBRANCE OF WHO JESUS IS. EASTER FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW COVENANT WITH GOD. EASTER IS AN EMPTY TOMB; EMPTY OF A PERSON WHO INTIMATELY LIVED AMONG US.

FOR CENTURIES AND MILLENNIA SO MANY GRASP THAT HIS PROFOUND RESURRECTION IS MEANINGFUL BECAUSE OF HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH. WE KNOW WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF SUFFERING. WE SEE IT IN OUR OWN AND OUR NEIGHBOR’S LIVES. OUR WORLD, THE WORLD JESUS LIVED IN, NEEDS SO MUCH LOVE.

BECAUSE THE CHRIST IS FULLY ALIVE WE HAVE REASON TO SERVE JESUS WITH ALL OUR HEART, MIND, AND SOUL AND WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH. SO, YES, LET US ENJOY THE FLOWERS AND THE GREENING OF TREES AS THEY LEAD US TO SPRING. ENJOY THE COLORFUL EASTER EGGS AND THE PEEPS. APPRECIATE FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS. BUT LET THE RESURRECTION BE THE ABSOLUTE INDICATION TO US THAT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO LIFE.

LET US PRAY, LORD, HOW WE VIEW THAT EMPTY TOMB, IS UP TO US. LET US SEE HOW JESUS'S VIBRANT AND JOYOUS LIFE ROSE FROM THAT PLACE SO WE MAY LIVE IN CHRIST'S RESURRECTION TO SHOW THE CONTINUAL LOVE AND COMPASSION OF OUR MERCIFUL GOD, AMEN.

BLESSINGS ON THIS EASTER SEASON,
REV. DENNIS



Attention Members:

I received the Council Minutes after I had printed the April newsletter cover so Rev. Dennis is still listed as Interim instead of Senior Minister. It has been changed for the May newsletter. Thank you Marge for letting us know it wasn't changed.

GWIM FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Meats, Cold Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pasta & Pasta Sauce, Juice, tuna, canned soups-stews-chili, canned fruits, canned vegetables, beans (canned or dried), rice pouches, etc.

Other donations will be welcomed, but these will be the main focus. The food basket will be available each week in the Narthex.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1st 11 am – 1 pm

First Congregational Church 222 West Main Street,
Waterbury

Rain or Shine! (games, crafts, snacks & giveaways)\$2.00
Adults – \$1.00 Children

Call 203-757-0331 for reservations!

Church Members: Donations of candy, plastic eggs (can be found at any dollar store) and snack items (juice, cookies, and chips) would be appreciated! Please drop off in the church office.



Christian Ed News!

**Childcare Room is now open Sundays
9:45-11:15 with qualified teachers.**

WISH LIST FOR SAFE HAVEN SHELTER

- ◆ Liquid Laundry detergent
- ◆ Canned Juice
- ◆ Dish Detergent
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Jars of Baby Food
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Women's socks (new)
- ◆ Videos
- ◆ Nintendo Games
- ◆ Women's Underwear (new)
- ◆ Wash Cloths
- ◆ Gift Certificates
- ◆ Pillow Cases - Pillows
- ◆ Hair Brushes
- ◆ Diapers (large & ex-large)
- ◆ Cleaning Supplies
- ◆ Baby Cereal
- ◆ Napkins
- ◆ School Supplies
- ◆ Children's Socks (new)
- ◆ Large Bath towels
- ◆ Fitted twin sheets
- ◆ Children's Underwear (new)

Safe Haven currently provides the following bilingual (English/Spanish) services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault: up to 60 days of shelter for women and their children; individual and peer group counseling; 24 hour crisis hotlines for domestic violence and sexual assault; legal advocacy information and referral; community education for adults and children; and court based family violence victim advocacy.

All information obtained through counseling remains confidential. They do not subscribe to Caller I. D. Please bring all your donations for Safe Haven on the third Sunday of the month.





Blooming of the Cross

This Easter Sunday, The Waterbury Baptist Ministries and First Congregational Church

congregations will incorporate a folk ceremony called “the flowering of the Cross”. Members of both churches are encouraged to bring

fresh cut flowers and greenery to decorate a cross that has been raised in the church front yard. The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus’ death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus’ death, into an Easter symbol, covered with fresh, living flowers. The cross serves not only as an emblem of Jesus’ resurrection, but as a sign of hope for our community.

Instructions:

All are encouraged to bring flowers between 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Holy Saturday (April 8th). Encourage other in our community to bring flowers. Someone will be there if you need assistance. Later in the day, drive by to see the cross that symbolized the new life, hope, and beauty which Easter brings. Many of your families may want to get your picture made in front of the cross, Easter morning.



From the Director of Music/Youth/ Building Superintendent



Spring has finally arrived, I'm sure most of us are thankful for the mild winter! There are several things coming up in the month of April that you will want to take note of. On Saturday April 1st from 11-1 we will have our annual Easter egg Hunt; we can always use some help and donations of candy for the event. The Easter egg hunt always precedes Palm Sunday, April 2nd which we hope to see you all there for. Maundy Thursday, April 6 with a simple supper with service to follow, the second half of this years' service will include the Last Supper segment from our Passion Play, the cast has done a wonderful job with the small section of script, the choir has worked diligently on the music for Holy Week which will this year include the Randall Thompson Alleluia.

Friday April 21st we will host a Coffee House at 7:00pm in Clinton Hall, we are asking for a \$10 donation for admission. We have some wonderful talent lined up for the evening and we also encourage anyone that would like to participate to please do so. Coffee houses are not only intended for musicians but to also showcase so much more. So come on down we would love for you to share your talent with all of us. Thank you to Bill Cone for the poster design!

Continued

We will also continue “The Chosen” watch parties on Wednesday evenings, we gather at 6pm and begin watching at 6:30pm and usually watch two episodes and conclude around 8pm. The evening is Potluck style so bring a dish or dessert to share.

Coming soon! Chris Caserio, Joe Masulli and I have been working on The First Congregational Church School for the Arts. The program would be for all ages, from beginner on, encompassing basic note reading, and basic piano to advanced piano wanting to explore the vast tonal resources of the organ. The program would also include guitar, theory, acting, and audition preparation for individuals seeking to pursue in college and as a career. There will also be a digital aspect to the program for software as it pertains to music production, video, sound set up and operation, lighting set up and operation with a DMX board, the digital aspect will also explore newer ideas in relation to weekly worship and other programs at First Church. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Lastly, we are in the process of planning a pottery class at the end of September. The cost of the program will be based upon the cost of product and some other variables, but again stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Blessings to all
Stewart Crouse



APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members:

Karin Ducham 4/1

Stuart Post 4/17

Gary Rosengrant 4/5

Margaret McDonald 4/18

Lorraine Allan 4/5

Denise Irizarry 4/21

Stephen Gagnon 4/7

Kenneth Frazier 4/21

Todd Cicchetti 4/10

Kaitlyn Post 4/22

Melissa Chalker 4/10

Helen Audibert 4/23

Oliver Centeno 4/27



Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

April 2nd Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Service

10 am – Sanctuary- First Congregational Church

April 6th Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

6:00 pm – Simple Meal Clinton Hall

7:00 PM Sanctuary - First Church

April 9th Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Sunrise, 6:15 AM

Waterbury Baptist Ministries & First Church

Will be on the lawn weather permitting otherwise
in the Chapel

Easter Sunday Service, 10:00 AM

First Congregational Church (Sanctuary)

COFFEE HOUSE



Friday, April 21
7:00 PM

Admission: \$ 10.00
Come and perform or just enjoy.

**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

**222 W. MAIN STREET
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT
203-757-0331**