



**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS BY S. V. #224736**

Life goes by so fast, such haste  
We have no time, no time to waste  
We never have time to thank the Lord,  
For all the blessings, He has bestowed.  
My health, my wellness, which means so much  
The flowers, the birds, the trees, and such  
My friends, my family, my baby's touch  
I thank you for a beautiful wife,  
I thank you Lord for a beautiful life  
I thank you for all you have given  
I thank you for now, I am truly living  
Now I don't take anything for granted  
So every morn when I awake,  
I thank the Lord, for all the goodness  
He has bestowed!

Now, I take the time, to stop, and count my blessings. This poem stems from a man living a 30 year bid in the state prison system. Yet he sees the light of Christ reflecting on his soul. Paying a price to be forgiven, for being human. May we find that light this Lenten season and always seek the positive each day we wake. Instead of saying, what I will give up: Let us say what actions we will take to improve our self, our community, our world. Activate our POSITIVE EMOTIONS. Prioritizing moments of regular heartfelt positivity- spending time in nature, finding a reason to laugh, taking a break, practicing mindfulness, to fuel your resilience. This is the first step to getting out of our own prisons. Life has a finite number of heartbeats, I intend to make each heartbeat matter!

Blessings,

Dennis



Birthdays  
of the Month

# March

## Happy Birthday to the following Church Members!

David Bruno 3/3  
Jean Barker 3/4  
John Gordon 3/5  
Stacy Brites 3/8  
Ralph Crouse 3/9  
Patricia Perillo 3/11  
Dana Silva 3/11  
Dennis McGuire 3/15

James Trenske 3/19  
Abigayle Trenske 3/20  
Maria Rosa Arias 3/21  
George Gardner 3/22  
Harold Elwell 3/24  
Kathryn St. George 3/24  
Adrian Stephenson 3/24  
Robert Mitchell 3/27  
Miller Kane 3/27



## 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



# **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 in March.





**Come join us!**

Wednesday March 1, 2023, we will begin viewing **The Chosen**, the story of Jesus through the eyes that of the people that followed him. The viewing will begin at 6:30 in the Hearth room, being that it is so close to dinner we will do it potluck

style, so bring a dish to share.



**Friday, March 3, 2023**

**First Congregational Church  
222 West Main St, Waterbury**

**Clinton Hall - 7 pm**

**Movie Title? –“It’s a Surprise”  
fun for the whole family!**



**Come & enjoy  
a night out!**



## **NOTES FROM OUR Director of Music**

With the first day of Spring just around the corner as well as Holy week and Easter Sunday there are several events coming up that you will want to take note of. Wednesday March 1, we will begin viewing *The Chosen*, the story of Jesus through the eyes that of the people that followed him. The viewing will begin at 6:30 in the Hearth room, being that it is so close to dinner we will do it potluck style, so bring a dish to share.

On Friday March 3, we will host a family movie night, there will be popcorn, candy and beverages, so come on down.

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 11-1 is our annual Easter egg; if you would like to volunteer your time or donate candy please let us know.

During our Maundy Thursday service year we will reenact the last supper scene from our Passion Play, the parts have been filled and we are really looking forward to using the segment during the service.

Down the road we plan on doing the play in its entirety. If you have any questions about any of the upcoming events don't hesitate to reach out, please watch the website and Facebook for any upcoming events or additional information.

Stewart Crouse  
Director of Music



**SPRING  
AHEAD**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME BEGINS!**

Daylight Savings Time will begin Sunday, March 12, 2023- at 2:00 a.m. Turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday evening March 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 11 am – 1 pm**

First Congregational Church 222 West Main Street,  
Waterbury

**Rain or Shine!** (games, crafts, snacks & giveaways)  
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.



## **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 a 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 8<sup>th</sup>). 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.**





# Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

## **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday Service

10 am – Sanctuary- First Congregational Church

## **April 6<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

6:00 pm – Simple Meal Clinton Hall

7:00 PM Sanctuary - First Church

## **April 9<sup>th</sup> 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)