



AS WE APPROACH THE LENTEN SEASON LET US QUIZ OURSELVES ON THE MEANING OF WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY.

THE WORDS COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATE SHARE THE SAME LATIN ROOT. THEY ARE RELATED BY ROOT TO ANOTHER WORD, COMPASSION, WHICH MEANS TO SUFFER WITH, OR MORE LOOSELY, TO WALK BESIDE. ASK YOURSELF, HOW DO I DEFINE COMMUNITY?

WHEN DID I LAST FEEL LONELY OR ISOLATED? PERHAPS IT WAS DURING AN ILLNESS, AFTER THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE, OR EXPERIENCING A DIVORCE. WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO STEPPED IN TO BE COMMUNITY? WRITE A PARAGRAPH ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE AND HOW THEY HELPED.

THE PEOPLE OF ST. CLOUD, MD STRUGGLED WITH HOW TO ACCEPT A RAPID INFLUX OF SOMALI MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS INTO THEIR COMMUNITY. WHO ARE THE STRANGERS IN MY OWN COMMUNITY? ARE THERE SOME SMALL DECENCIES I CAN EXTEND TO THEM, TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF BELONGING?

Continued

CAN I SHARE A MEAL WITH SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW WELL OR WHO IS A STRANGER IN MY COMMUNITY, THEREBY ADDING MY LIGHT TO THE SUM OF LIGHT?

IN WHAT WAYS DO FACEBOOK, TWITTER(X) AND OTHER FORMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA HELP CREATE TIES FOR ME? HOW DO THEY HINDER ME FROM FORGING REAL COMMUNITY? HOW MIGHT I USE THEM MORE WISELY?

LENT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO REFLECT ON WHO I AM AND WHERE I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD.

Blessings, Dennis



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

5:30 pm - Sanctuary

First Congregational Church

222 West Main Street, Waterbury

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Trustee Meeting will be on
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
due to closed on Monday for
President's Day

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SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Reminder – Applications are available at the Church Office. You can pick them up between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 pm or go online at the church's website: www.Firstchurch-wtby.org.



Applications must be postmarked by March 25th and must be received in the Church Office by April 1st, NO LATER."

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ANNUAL MEETING

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHURCH BY-LAWS, THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WATERBURY, INC. WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE PREMISES OF THIS CHURCH AT 222 WEST MAIN STREET, WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- (1) To accept all Annual Reports from the Officers and various Committees and Boards,
- (2) Such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting

ALL ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS SHALL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF VOICE AND VOTE AT THIS MEETING. HOWEVER, NO PROXY VOTES SHALL BE COUNTED.

DATED AT WATERBURY, CT
December 2023

Stuart Post, Corporate Secretary

*Snow Date February 18, 2024



FEBRUARY "BIRTHDAY" WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following Church members!



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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Lois Liburdi 2/4 | Dylan Rodriguez 2/12 |
| Jacob Polaski 2/5 | April Cicchetti 2/12 |
| Kevin Post 2/8 | Hannah Elwell 2/15 |
| Graham Cotner 2/8 | Dennis McGavran 2/20 |
| Scott Chaivanik 2/9 | Matthew Elwell 2/23 |
| Roxanne Anthony 2/9 | Owen George Kane 2/23 |
| Curt J. Audibert 2/10 | Elizabeth Cooley 2/24 |
| Carolyn Flaherty 2/11 | Leslie Weiss-Gordon 2/26 |



It's time again for any new updates! Please fill out this sheet and leave in the collection plate. You can also mail it to the Church Office or email Roxanne at fcchurch02@comcast.net

Update information for Church Office	
Name	
Address City, State Zip	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone #	
Email	



**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 February.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christmas has come and gone, time goes by quickly and here we are looking at February already. As we observe Black History month, there will be a concert on Sunday, February 25th at 4:00pm. "Glory & Honor " will celebrate some of histories great Black composers, Fela Sowande, Samual Coolridge-Taylor and others. This program will set off the reboot of our concert programming here at First Church, former organist/choir director and world renowned organist Ronald Ebrecht will return to First Church on Sunday, May 5th for a concert in which donations will go to support the new scholarship fund for the Waterbury Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Students from children to adults will be able to apply for the scholarship to help offset the cost involved with taking organ lessons, more information will be forthcoming.

Bell Choir and Music of the Light will continue on alternating weeks' both will be on Thursday night and at 6:00pm. For information please contact me through the church office, after Sunday worship or via email.

Ash Wednesday, February 14. Service details coming soon. Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 24, we don't need decorations but donations of candy, snacks and your time are greatly appreciated. More information is coming soon!

This new year I hope we remember to be humble above all thankful. For something to grow it requires work, sacrifice, it needs to be nurtured. If we keep in mind that we and those around us are like plants that need to be fed and nurtured, that is how we grow. People come to worship because they are looking for peace and have a need to be nurtured. The world around us is in constant turmoil, this is where we come for an hour or so every week to seek refuge.

Continued

As aforementioned, there are two other opportunities to seek shelter from the chaos, Drum Circle and Music of the Light which again was born from the chaos of the pandemic. Let us know how we can help you!

Stewart Crouse

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GWIM FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned chicken, Cold Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pasta & Pasta Sauce, Juice, tuna, canned soups-stews-chili, canned fruits, canned vegetables, pork and beans, rice pouches, etc.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

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

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A WINTER ADVISORY!

If and when there is a travel advisory for inclement weather, and it happens to fall on Sunday, please stay at home that day. We would rather you be safe at home, than to have you come to Worship and have an unfortunate accident due to the weather. Also, if a winter advisory should fall on a weekday, and there is a Waterbury school delay then the church office will open at 9:30 a.m. If there is a

Waterbury school closing, the Church Office will open later that day if the roads are safe. Call the office before leaving.

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S O P S A L E

Soup will be for sale (\$5.00 per container) after Worship on the 1st Sunday of each month. The first soup sale will be Sunday, February 4, 2024.

There will be a sign up sheet on the Narthex table for members to sign up to volunteer making a soup for each month. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call Karen Cotner at 203-528-7076.

Don't forget to bring extra money on the first Sunday of the month so you won't be left out of enjoying our homemade soup prepared by our own members.



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Arts & Crafts (Laughs)

New time! -Wednesdays at 11 am – 1 pm
Fellowship – Lunch – Laughs



Everyone is welcome!
Bring your lunch!