



## APRIL REFLECTION

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, WHAT DO  
MAYFLOWERS BRING?

YES PILGRIMS! AND YES, WE PILGRIMS GET TO WORK IN  
THE SPRING TILLING THE SOIL OF OUR SOULS. CLEARING THE  
CLUTTER OF WINTER AND STARTING ANEW REFRESHING OUR  
LIVES WE CAN BEGIN TO SEE A SHINING RAINBOW, IF WE  
LOOK BEYOND THE RAIN. I OFTEN HEAR IN SOCIAL  
CONVERSATIONS HOW LOWLY PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT THR  
RAIN. I SAY FIND STRENGTH TO FACE OUR LOSSES IF WE ARE  
THANKFUL FOR EACH GAIN.

WE CAN PICK THE LOVELY ROSES IF THE THORNS DON'T GET  
US DOWN AND SPEND SO MUCH TIME SMILING THAT WE WILL  
NEVER THINK TO FROWN.

WE CAN CLIMB THE STEEPEST MOUNTAIN IF OUR EYES TURN  
TOWARD THE SUN. IT'S REALLY UP TO US TO MAKE OUR  
WORLD A BETTER ONE!

GO ON TAKE THAT STEP AND SURPRISE YOURSELF HOW  
STRONG YOU REALLY ARE.  
GOD LOVES YOU

BLESSINGS  
REV DENNIS

# GWIM FOOD BANK DONATIONS



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

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.

## **GWIM IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING BELOW:**

- Mashed potatoes (Boxes)
- Elbow pasta
- Large jars of Mayonnaise
- Sauce for pasta
- Canned Fruit



## **Thank You Messages!**

The McDonald & Liseo families are so grateful to the First Church family for the outpouring of sympathy & support during this very difficult time. The sudden and unexpected loss of our dear

Trent was a shock and adjusting to life without his joyful vibrant personality seems impossible. Your cards and gifts and presence have touched our hearts, and we thank you.





**WISH LIST FOR  
SAFE HAVEN  
SHELTER**

- ◆ Shampoo
- ◆ Body Wash
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Women's socks (new)
- ◆ Women's Body lotion
- ◆ Women's Underwear (new)
- ◆ Hair Brushes/combs
- ◆ Diapers (large & ex-large)
- ◆ Sanitary Napkins/Tampons
- ◆ Children's Socks (new)
- ◆ Children's Underwear(new)
- ◆ Baby lotion/baby wash
- ◆ Wash Cloths/ loofah's
- ◆ Gift Certificates

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.





# From the Director of Music/Youth/ Building Superintendent

I hope everyone had a wonderful and Blessed Easter! As we get into April there are several activities coming up you might take note of.

For those that might like to join us for “The Chosen”, we will meet on the following days. We are currently on season 4.

Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00pm

Wednesday, April 17 at 6:00pm

Please bring a dish to share as we do the program pot-luck style and begin viewing at 6:30pm

Drum Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00pm. The group is led by our financial secretary Kristen Perham. Drums are provided and all are welcome.

Kindness 101 with Steve Hartmann began in March, we viewed two short episodes which lasted around 5 minutes a piece with discussion in-between and the correlation between themes and scripture. The group will meet at 6:30 pm on April 9th and 23rd. Please bring a dessert to share, coffee and tea will be provided.

Bell Choir has come a long way, we have already begun rehearsing for Christmas. This will be the first time in many years that the Bell Choir will be acknowledged on Music Sunday. We invite all who are interested to join us, the ability to read music is not a requirement.

**Continued**

The target date for the fair this year is Saturday, November 9th. We like to keep the time and weekend consistent. Vendor forms will be available in June.

While going through some archives I came across Devotions for Lent compiled in 1991.

While I realize we are through the season of Lent I feel that the contributions by members past & present lend themselves to any season.

“But be doers of His word and not hearers only.” James 1:22

“We faithfully go to church each Sunday and hear the message but are we doers of these words. It’s so easy for me to be lazy, but basically, I try and when I am a doer my rewards are beyond words. Dear God. Thank you for the many small ways in which we can give and experience your love.

Written by Dorothy Gardner

Blessings Stewart Crouse



## **APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members:

Karin Ducham 4/1

Melissa Chalker 4/10

Gary Rosengrant 4/5

Stuart Post 4/17

Lorraine Allan 4/5

Denise Irizarry 4/21

Stephen Gagnon 4/7

Kaitlyn Post 4/22

Todd Cicchetti 4/10

Helen Audibert 4/23

Oliver Centeno 4/27





THOSE WHO  
TOUCH OUR  
LIVES  
STAY IN OUR  
HEARTS  
FOREVER.

## Condolences

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Margaret (Margie) McDonald who joined the Church Eternal & Triumphant on Sunday, March

17, 2024. We will continue to keep her family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.



## Spring Tea

*Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Clinton Hall*

*3:00 pm*



*Sponsored by the  
Fellowship, Lunch &  
Laughs Group  
Reservations required  
by April 19<sup>th</sup>, please*

*note dietary needs at time of reservation.*

*All proceeds go towards the refurbishment of  
the kitchen - \$2.00 per person*

*Any questions call:*

*Cathy Crouse at 203-879-0408*

*June Christensen at 203-525-8399*





## LOOKING AHEAD!

Dear First Friends,

I served First Church as Director of Music and Organist from 1995-2010. I remember those 15 years of great things: the renovation

of the organ and both Steinways, the Fifth Grade Keyboard Introductory programs, which brought some 40,000 into the sanctuary, many visiting organ recitalists: William Albright, Peter Conte, Pamela Decker, Joyce Jones, Kimberly Marshall, Laura Ouimette, Brian Parks, Rossina Vrionides de Gomez, and others, as well as several concerts by our choir. And, of course, the summer series Terrific Tuesdays.

I am excited to be returning for a concert Sunday May 5 at 4 pm. The Waterbury chapter of the American Guild of Organists, of which I am Dean, has launched a scholarship fund to assist those wishing to learn to play the organ. We remember youth of Waterbury who have studied in the past – Stewart Crouse, Chris Dabbo, Michael Sherbo, Fred Teardo – and others and realize that some may have been discouraged by the cost of lessons, music and organ shoes.

The Outreach Committee of First Church has contributed \$1,000 in memory of long-time choir member Carol Hay, and with the chapter and music program of the church,

we are organizing my recital as a benefit recital. I am delighted to be returning to perform this program:  
*Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C Major, bww 564, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

A suite of 4 pieces by less well-known composers:

*Prélude Religieux* -- Edmund Thornton Jenkins (1894-1926)

*In Quiet Mood* – Florence Price (1887-1953)

*Scherzo* – Miguel Bernal Jimenez (1910-1956)

*Saint Louis Blues* – William Christopher ‘W. C.’ Handy (1873-1958)

transcribed for organ by Thomas Wright ‘Fats’ Waller (1904-1943)

*of architecture and accumulation*, for organ and 8 wine glass players, Paula Matthusen (born 1978) featuring members of the Guild and First Church

A collection will be taken for the scholarship fund

*Suite*, opus 5, Maurice Duruflé (1908-1986)

Prelude, Adagio, Toccata

A reception will follow in Clinton Hall. Mark your calendars and please invite your friends and neighbors for May 5 at 4 pm. It’s going to be a fun afternoon. I look forward to seeing people at the concert. It’s been a few years!

Best regards

Ron



