



Newsletter JUNE 2025

Jesus taught many things to his disciples-- wisdom, courage, faithfulness, and more, but he most certainly wanted them to be happy. "I have come that you may have life, ... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Buddha taught his disciples to "live in joy". The King of Kosala once remarked that the Buddha's disciples seemed exceptionally jubilant, unencumbered by the seriousness of the more ascetic practitioners. Buddha replied that happiness was the spiritual life. He frequently offered this blessing of loving kindness : "May you be happy".

In more secular realms, philosophers from Aristotle to Jefferson have assumed "The pursuit of happiness" was a noble aspiration of civilized life. In our own age, while we accept there may be different approaches to achieving happiness, we agree that happiness and joy are precious fruits of a life well lived. Finding happiness in life is universally perceived as an essential human endeavor. Spiritual teachers and philosophers seem to agree on this point: Life should not just make us tired, life should make us happy.

Happiness only grows in the sweet soil of time. As our time is eaten away by speed and overwork, we are less available to be surprised by joy, a sunset, a kind word, a warm loaf of bread from the oven.

So we pursue happiness on the run, trying to make our lives more and more efficient, squeezing every task into tighter increments, hoping to somehow “get” our happiness when we are able to fit it in.

Jesus taught that there are many types of suffering. He said our thirst for what we desire actually causes us great sorrow. If we are always seeking for what we do not have, he said, we will always be disappointed.

Buddha taught, that there are many kinds of suffering. We can all recognize the obvious suffering of physical pain, grief, illness, and death. But he said we may be slower to identify the subtle sufferings that plague us daily: anxiety, frustration, restlessness, lack of fulfillment, not getting what we want, and having what we like taken away. I say plant a garden this growing season Start now!

Blessings
Dennis



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 27th through August 29th
the Church Office will be closing at noon
on Fridays.



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.



Scholarship Sunday News!



On Sunday, **June 8, 2025** following the Worship service, the Scholarship Committee will be hosting a reception for Scholarship Recipients, their families, and members of the church.

It would be greatly appreciated if members could help the committee by bringing cookies or finger sandwiches. You may drop them off in the kitchen before the service.

Thanking you in Advance!





JUNE "BIRTHDAY" WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members

Mike Sugrue 6/1
Preston Larrabee 6/3
Liliya Bikbova 6/7
Sarah Hughes 6/10
Jill Rodriguez 6/12
Alan Walker 6/15
Melanie Gagnon 6/16
Bonnie Gagnon 6/17

Richard Casey 6/19
Sandra Post 6/24
Cindy Merrick 6/24
Christine Phelan 6/26
Phillip Read Mason, Jr. 6/26
Leanne Elwell 6/26
Joseph Trenske 6/28



From the Director of Music/Youth/ Building Superintendent

With summer quickly approaching, there are several activities coming up with some slight changes.

Production time for season 5 of The Chosen has been taking a little longer than anticipated so in place of The Chosen for the moment is A.D. The Bible Continues. Coming out in 2015, the story line begins at the trial of Jesus, through and the crucifixion. Both programs offer a different perspective for the characters, we may decide to watch both. In any case, the program will continue every other Wednesday as a potluck with the viewing beginning at 6:30.

CONTINUED

Choir rehearsals will end June 9th and Music Sunday will be on June 15, one of the newer selections for that day will be the Awakening & As the Deer. We look forward to performing these two pieces for the congregation. The Bell Choir will also perform that Sunday, the group will decide in the next week or so whether we will continue to work sporadically over the summer or not. Terrific Tuesdays are coming up please watch Facebook & the website for dates, times and any possible changes!

Waterbury Chapter of The American Guild of Organists, at our last board meeting I was nominated by current Dean, Ronald Ebrecht to become his sub-Dean for the chapter. Over the past year, the Waterbury Chapter has instituted a scholarship program for continued education for current organists and scholarships for young students eager to pursue a career in organ. Many of First Church's Directors of Music were members if not board members of the WAGO going back as far as Larry Jamison. It was also mentioned by Ron that a member of First Church helped start the American Guild of Organists which is a national organization for church and concert organists. I will have to do some research to find out who that might have been.

Father's Day Men's Club Breakfast. Sunday June 15 at 8:30am. More information will be forthcoming.

Summer building work, schedules will be posted as to work on and in the building over the summer will be posted as they become available.

Stewart Crouse

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.





**First Congregational Church & Waterbury
Baptist Ministries present:
Terrific Tuesdays in July 2025**

*Sponsored in part by
First Church Outreach & Waterbury Baptist*

July 8th	ROCKIN Heartbeats
July 15th	Mattatuck Fife & Drum
July 22nd	Mateo Macias
July 29th	Naugatuck Community Band

Volunteers needed for: Set-up, serving and clean-up from 5 pm to 7 pm Serving hot dogs, chips & beverage. Come, bring a friend, a lawn chair enjoy the evenings! We know that these are popular concerts and hope that you will use the opportunity for introducing your friends and neighbors to our lively and spirited church.

We need beef hotdog donations!!





ATTENTION MEMBERS: WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!!

Patrons' Page in the Terrific Tuesday Program booklet!
A DONATION FROM OUR MEMBERS AND WATERBURY BAPTIST MINISTRIES MEMBERS. **A PATRON DONATION WILL BE \$25.00.** IF ANYONE IS ABLE AND WANTS TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00 IN THE MEMO PLEASE PUT TERRIFIC TUESDAYS.

WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS WILL ALL COME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN AS IT DID IN YEAR'S PAST!! **PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS BY JUNE 20TH. WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU CAN DO!!**

