



Let us begin a new season full of life and anticipation of learning the Good News of Jesus the Christ. Starting up new programs and bible study, as we create new space for learning. We welcome all new ideas to gather God's people in covenant with His son. One way to begin this journey is to first count the blessings that have formed our identity as Christians.

I share with you a reflection of an inmate.

#224786

"LIFE GOES BY SO FAST, SUCH HASTE
WE HAVE NO TIME TO STOP AND THINK
NEVER TIME, TO STOP AND THINK SO NOW I
TAKE THE TIME TO THANK THE LORD. FOR ALL
THE BLESSINGS, HE HAS BESTOWED. MY
HEALTH, MY WELLBEING, WHICH MEANS SO
MUCH.

THE FLOWERS, TREES AND BIRDS, AND
SUCH MY FRIENDS, FAMILY, MY BABY'S TOUCH
I THANK YOU, FOR A BEAUTIFUL WIFE.
I THANK YOU LORD, FOR A BEAUTIFUL LIFE.

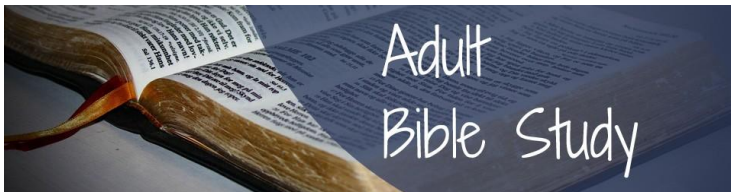
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I THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN.
I THANK YOU FOR NOW, I AM TRULY LIVING.
NOW, I DON'T TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED.
SO EVERY MORN WHILE I WAKE, NOW I TAKE
THE TIME, TO STOP, AND COUNT MY
BLESSINGS.”

We can all be prisoners of mind, body, and spirit.
I ask you to find the time to stop and feel God
everyday and ask yourself: “what would God ask
of us this day.”

Blessings

Rev. Dennis



**Adult Bible Study will resume on Tuesday,
September 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm - They will be
held on the second floor. All are welcome!**

COME JOIN US!

**Also, Grace Gathering will resume on
Thursday September 11, 2025 at 2:30 pm.**



GWIM FOOD BANK DONATIONS GWIM IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

Food Pantry
Donations Needed Barbara Dublin contacted us. The Food Pantry needs currently are: barbecue sauce, tuna fish, garlic powder, garlic salt, canned chicken, canned beans. They do not need cereal.

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Cold Cereal, Mac & Cheese, 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.



SEPTEMBER "BIRTHDAY" WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members!

Averie Sharma 9/1
Parker Elwell 9/3
Pearlette Stephenson 9/5
Nicholas DeLauri 9/5
Patricia McGuire 9/7
Noah Santoro 9/7

Menisha Martinez 9/13
Richard DeLauri 9/15
Eli Hirbour 9/17
Walker Fitzgerald 9/18
Elaine Maynard 9/25
Bill Gemske 9/26
Diane Currier 9/27

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.



Attention Members: Due to Labor Day and Ice Cream Social, Trustee and Council Meetings will be one week later in September. Outreach meeting will be one week earlier.



NOTES FROM OUR Director of Music

Happy September, hard to believe that summer is winding down! We have several important programs coming up in the month of September to make note of.

Choir & Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday September 4th. Bell choir will be 6:30 pm and Chancel choir will begin at 7:30pm.

On Friday September 5, we have a joint fellowship program with Waterbury Baptist Ministries. We will be showing the Goonies, along with popcorn and hotdogs, the activity will take place in the recently renovated garden. Please bring your own chairs and it is a rain or shine event. In the event of rain the activity will be held in Clinton Hall. Set up will be at 5:00pm with the activity beginning at 6:00pm. This is a free event!!

On Wednesday September 10th at 6:00pm, Christian Cinema continues with the Chosen. Potluck style, please bring an entree or a dessert to share!

Sunday September 14, Internationally acclaimed organist and author Ronald Ebrecht returns to the First Church organ in a fall concert with a free offering to benefit Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury with reception to follow. For reception details please contact Karen Cotner or Cathy Crouse.

Continued

Looking Ahead!!

The Church Fair will be Saturday, November 15th!

There will also be a Haunted House planning meeting, day and time will be announced.

For more information about September's events please contact me through the church office or email me at stewartcrouse@comcast.net.

Blessings,
Stewart Crouse
Director of Music & Youth



The Lion's Club is the world's largest service club. We collect eyeglasses, repair and recycle them throughout the world. We help all people who have eye problems including Waterbury with a Low Vision Center here at our church.

Waterbury Lion's Club Ziti Dinner Fundraiser

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

First Congregational Church

222 West Main Street, Waterbury CT

Tickets: Gary Rosengrant, or any member!



Festive Fall Recital Notes from Ron!

Dear First Friends,

I remember seeing
many of you a year ago
May when I returned to

First Church to present a benefit recital for the Waterbury Chapter, American Guild of Organists and your generous warmth and lovely hospitality. That concert led some to reminisce about the annual Fall Recital that First Church hosted for many years and to ask that it be resumed. I am honored and pleased to be returning on September 14 @ 4 to present the Festive Fall Recital.

Over the course of this year and a half, Stewart and others have helped build the program. The first three pieces are intended to highlight the history of the First Church organ, featuring three works included in the inaugural series for the organ in 1964 when the building was new. The César Franck *Choral in E Major* and the Widor *Andante Sostenuto* were played by Antone Godding, Director of Music of the church, on the first concert. Next, the Bach masterwork *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor* was played by guest Viennese artist Anton Heiller on the subsequent recital. His performance inspired Krista Rakich of Waterbury to study the organ. She is presently professor at Oberlin College.

Continued

This year the Waterbury chapter's concerts will benefit women's charities and highlight women composers.

Next on the concert are three pieces by lesser-known composers; the first, a set of pedal variations by Joyce Jones on the lively hymn *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*. Dr. Jones performed twice at First Church. Next, a piece by Shirley Scott, the African-American Philadelphia jazz great, her *Samba Felicidad*. Closing this group of three, another work arranged by an African-American Jelani Eddington's variations on the *Teddy Bear Picnic*.

The final work on the program is *Fantasy* for organ and percussion by Cindy McTee. I will be joined in this work by the fabulous percussionist Anthony DeQuattro playing a far-flung battery of more than 20 percussion instruments. Some of you may remember when we played this piece about 20 years ago.

The program will benefit the Waterbury 'Safe Haven' Women's shelter, a cause regularly supported by the church. A collection will be made during the concert for those who wish to contribute to this worthy cause. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow. Best regards, and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Ron Ebrecht





First Church & Waterbury Baptist Ministries

Present

**The showing of the “Goonies”
Movie in the newly renovated
Garden**

**(if it rains it will be in Clinton Hall)
Friday September 5, 2025**

5 pm set-up – 6 pm begins

Popcorn and hotdogs will be served!

Please bring your own chair for the event.

All are welcome!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



**FOLLOWING
IN CLINTON**



**WORSHIP
HALL.**



Dear members, we need your help!

October 24th and 25th will be our annual Haunted House/Halloween Party and once again I am calling upon the generosity of the congregation to donate candy and decorations for the cause. We will begin collecting donations on October 12th and right up until the 22ND. Furthermore, if you are interested in volunteering for setup, operation, or take down, please contact me (Stewart Crouse at 706-9824). There is a little something for everyone to do.



LOOKING AHEAD!!!

Haunted House Halloween Party

Friday, October 24th & Saturday, October 25th

At First Congregational Church
222 West Main Street Waterbury!
games – crafts – trick or treating –
snacks

Come and enjoy! Wear your costumes!

Time of event: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Reservations a must!

Call 203-757-0331 by the 20th

Cost: \$2.00 Adults - \$1.00 per Child

