



FEBRUARY REFLECTION 2026

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ to do good works , which God prepared in advance for us to do” .
Ephesians 2: 10

When looking at the state of the world, I barely know how to phrase a prayer any more. I’ve often wished God would just snap his heavenly fingers and make things right. I mean how long do we have to wait? Then the verse from Ephesians comes to mind. We are created to do good works! To bring together in peace all humanity with heaven and earth is God’s desire, and our job, our work to accomplish. How often we forget. Or more likely, think, that the job is too big for just me, or even just my church. ... and so we might not even try.

Yes, the problems seem overwhelming, but they are not insurmountable. Even helping one or two people, can make a difference. There is a ripple effect when we do good for God!

I recently was in conversation with two young police officers here, and mentioned our church. One officer stated, “ I know how much you and your church do for the city, I’ve been to a couple of your events!” I was surprised , and so grateful. We never know how far our outreach may actually reach!

So we can keep plugging away, doing our part, even when it seems to make no difference.

Continued

And when the words for a prayer are hard to come by, let's pray as did the Psalmist:

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands---- O prosper the work of our hands! Psalm 90: 17

Good food for thought for the 40 days of Lent. Reach out and touch a new heart each day.

Blessings Rev. Dennis

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Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

6:00 pm - Sanctuary

First Congregational Church

222 West Main Street, Waterbury

Ashes will be given out from 9 am – 3 pm

For those who can't make the Service.

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Trustee Meetings will be held on Tuesday mornings beginning on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at

9:30 am. The newsletter calendar was already printed before this change was made.



**MARK
THIS
DATE**

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."

**FEBRUARY“BIRTHDAY”
WISHES
Happy Birthday to the
following Church members!**



Lois Liburdi 2/4
Kevin Post 2/8
Graham Cotner 2/8
Scott Chaivanik 2/9
Roxanne Anthony 2/9
Curt J. Audibert 2/10
Carolyn Flaherty 2/11

Dylan Rodriguez 2/12
Hannah Elwell 2/15
Dennis McGavran 2/20
Matthew Elwell 2/23
Owen George Kane 2/23
Elizabeth Cooley 2/24
Leslie Weiss-Gordon 2/26



**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 8, 2026 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 2025

Stuart Post, Corporate Secretary

*Snow Date February 15, 2026



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 fcchurchwtby@gmail.com

Update information for Church Office

Name	
Address City, State Zip	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone #	
Email	



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.

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

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.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

February is a month that often feels quieter on the surface, yet carries a deep sense of reflection, devotion, and love. As the days slowly lengthen and winter continues its gentle hold, our music ministry invites us to listen more closely to God, to one another, and to the stillness that this season offers. As we speak, the choir & bell choirs have begun working on music appropriate for the Lent & Easter Season and we encourage anyone that would like to sing or play bells to let us know. Bell choir meets on Thursday nights at 6:30pm & Chancel Choir at 7:30pm.

Christian Cinema will continue its viewing of *The Chosen* on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30pm in the Hearth Room. Rather than run the program every other week we will do a viewing every Wednesday with the potential of a new program coming up. We are also considering showing "The Greatest Story Ever Told", 1965 starring Charlton Heston, Martin Landau & Angela Lansbury, just to name a couple.

Easter eggs are not far away, we ask that before purchasing anything for this event please check to see what items are needed. As always, we appreciate any donations or help in advance!

Building, as we are still in that time of year, please check facebook or the local news stations regarding possible cancellations!

Stewart Crouse
Director of Music & Building Operations