



A FEW YEARS AGO, I HAD THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM IN STOCKBRIDGE, MASS. AS POWERFUL AS ROCKWELL'S REPRINTED IMAGES ARE, TO SEE THE ORIGINALS IS EVEN MORE MOVING. ONE OF HIS MOST FAMOUS POSTERS SHOWS A

FAMILY SEATED AROUND A TABLE. THE GRANDPARENTS ARE POISED TO SET DOWN A ROASTED TURKEY, JUST OUT OF THE OVEN. THE IMAGE REPRESENTS ROCKWELL'S VISION OF 'FREEDOM FROM WANT', PART OF HIS FAMOUS DEPRESSION-ERA SERIES FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST KNOWN AS THE FOUR FREEDOMS.

IN ROCKWELL'S RENDERING , THE FAMILY APPEARS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF RECITING A BLESSING. THE SCENE SEEMS TO SPRING OUT OF LONG-AGO PAST. WITH AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS EVENING MEETINGS, AND BOTH PARENTS WORKING LONG HOURS, FEW FAMILIES ARE ABLE TO SIT DOWN TO DINNER AT THE SAME TIME, LET ALONE OFFER A BLESSING TOGETHER.

THE SIMPLE ACT OF GIVING AND RECEIVING BLESSING IS BECOMING A LOST ART. IT'S UP TO US CHRISTIANS TO FIND THE COURAGE TO RESET THE EXAMPLE IN DAY TO DAY LIFE EXPERIENCES.

Continued

I MAKE IT A POINT MYSELF WHEN I COME UPON A CELEBRATION OF SOME KIND IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO ASK PERMISSION TO BLESS THE SITUATION AT HAND. THE EXAMPLE OF A BIRTHDAY PARTY IN A RESTAURANT GIVES ADDED MEANING TO THE EVENT- IT HAS NEVER FAILED YET.

I THOUGHT OF HOW EVEN SEEMINGLY MUNDANE ACTS LIKE PLANTING A GARDEN ARE CELEBRATED AND RECITING THE SIMPLE PRASE “ THANKS BE TO GOD” IS ENHANCING OUR WELLBEING IN LIFE. AS WENDELL BERRY SAYS IN HIS POEM” HOW TO BE A POET”, THERE ARE NO UNSACRED PLACES, ‘ ONLY SACRED AND DESECRATED PLACES.’

WHEN WE OFFER BLESSINGS, IT IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING BOTH AWE AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORLD WE LIVE IN. LET US FOCUS THIS THANKSGIVING AND TAKE A CUE FROM WENDELL BERRY, AND WRITE BLESSINGS FOR THREE THINGS WE CONSIDER GIFTS IN OUR LIFE RIGHT NOW. MAYBE WRITE BLESSINGS FOR THREE THINGS THAT CHALLENGE US. AN EXAMPLE WOULD BE, A BLESSING FOR A FAILURE, OR LONELINESS, OR FOR A FAMILY IN NEED.

YOUR BLESSING, PLEASE
DENNIS



GWIM FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Canned chicken, mayo, 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.



NOVEMBER "BIRTHDAY" WISHES!

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members

Jill Ducham 11/3
Cathryn Phillips 11/3
Leslie Johnson 11/11
Meghan Casey 11/12
Rebecca Casey 11/13
Virginia Auchmoody 11/14

Jaclyn Alessio 11/15
Christy Elwell 11/17
Judy Martin 11/17
Christopher Cicchetti 11/17
Elizabeth Trenske 11/23
Madisyn Bianchini 11/29



TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings time ends Sunday, November 3rd, at 2:00 a.m. Please set your clocks back one hour before going to sleep on Saturday evening, November 2nd.



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.

Please bring all your donations for Safe Haven on the third Sunday.





**Our Annual Holiday Fair
is November 9th
(see poster insert)**



**Decorating for Christmas & Hanging of the
Greens!**

**Friday, December 6, 2024 - 11 am.
Volunteers Needed!**



**Hanging of the Greens
December 8, 2024 4 pm
First Congregational Church
222 West Main Street, Waterbury
(See Flyer)**





From the Director of Music/Youth

With the above average temperatures, it's hard to believe we are coming to the end of October and moving into November. I would like to thank all the people who helped set up our Haunted House and Halloween party this year. What made this year a little more interesting is that we were well ahead in our setup but, rather than buying pizza or fast food we chose to make our own meals. I mean, how much pizza can one eat? Meals were prepared as a group effort and at the end of the night, we all sat down and discussed our day and week and what was coming next. I can't stress enough how important Fellowship is, especially in this day and age we have considered carrying this idea throughout the year whether it's once a month or twice a month we will see. Thank you all who donated all the candy for the goody bags!

Choir & Bell Choir will rehearse every Monday night up until the Hanging of the Greens at which point we will return to Thursday night. Bell Choir will be 6:30pm to 7:30pm & Chancel Choir will be 7:30pm - 8:30pm Monday nights!

November 3rd Waterbury American Guild of Organists Members Concert. The concert will be at 3:00pm, we are asking for a non-perishable food item at the door for admission that will go to the local food bank. A basket will be passed during the concert, those donations benefit The Waterbury AGO Scholarship Fund, the Waterbury AGO is a 501-c3 non profit. Organists include Ronald Ebrecht, Robert Havery from ST Johns, Bill Deagen, myself and several others. November 9th, fair at the moment we have about 10 vendors for the event, if you would like to help set up or help on the day please let me know.

Continued

Joy of Christmas Dinner, if you would like to help with The Joy of Christmas Dinner, please see Roxanne Anthony, Karen Cotner or myself.

December 8th Hanging of the Greens is at 4:00 pm, with a couple new selections of music, including our Bell Choir, it is shaping up to be a wonderful program.

While we are in the season of being Thankful I leave you with this: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

**Thanksgiving Blessings to All
Stewart W. Crouse**



ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS

Waterbury Baptist Ministries have reached their capacity for their turkey signups. We would like to support 10 families that were not able to get on the list.

We need your help and here are a list of items you can donate:

- 10 Turkeys 15 – 20 lbs
- 10 Boxes of Stuffing
- 10 Packages of Mashed Potatoes (big package)
- 10 cans of gravy
- 10 cans of cranberry sauce
- 10 cans of green beans
- 10 cans of corn

All you can do will be greatly appreciated. Please bring donations to the office.

Thank you

Put in signed sheet by Stuart



**CALL TO A SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHURCH BY-LAWS, A SPECIAL 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, December 1, 2024. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- (1) Adopting the Preliminary Budget for 2024**
- (2) Election of Officers and Members of the Boards and Committees**
- (3) Such other business as may properly come before the
Special 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

October 27,2024

**Stuart Post
Corporate Secretary**