



January Meditation 2025

Gracious God, we long for a greater sensitivity to the spiritual seekers in our midst, those who long for religious experience and expressions are not limited in anyway by the typical patterns of what they see and what they have seen in this congregation. We realize that it's impossible for us to be a faith community connected to the way Jesus lived out his religion as long as we are compelled to categorize and pigeonhole people. Indeed, the wind blows where it will. The spirit blows where it will. And those who are following the leadership of the spirit will also blow where they will. If all we have the courage for and all we have the patience with are status quo types, then we will not be close to how Jesus lived and ministered. From that, Good Lord, deliver us. Amen.

Happy New Year and a safe and loving year!

Dennis

JANUARY "BIRTHDAY" WISHES!



Happy Birthday to the following Church Members

Terri Alessio 1/3

George Chaivanik 1/22

Mario Liburdi 1/16

Elizabeth Manners 1/25

William Cone 1/17

Marissa (Liburdi) Venturo 1/26

Grace Sweeney 1/20

Zachary Corcoran 1/26



Scholarship Information 2024

"Scholarship New Applications and Scholarship Renewal Applications will be available in the Church Office. You can pick them up between the

hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or you can call us and we will mail one to you. They are also available on line at

<http://firstchurch-wtby.org>." All new and renewal applications have a deadline of March 25th – no exceptions.



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Meats, Cold Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pasta & Pasta Sauce, Juice, & Tuna

Other donations will be welcomed, but these will be the main focus. The food basket will be available each week in the Narthex. Although we ask everyone to bring in items the first Sunday of every month, you can still bring them in on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sunday. We will be collecting donations this month on the first Sunday in January. **The Food Pantry is serving more people than ever, so our generous support is needed more than ever.**





2024 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All Board and Committee Annual Reports are due in the Church Office no later than **January 20, 2025**.

This date allows time for them to be typed, printed and available to members prior to our Annual Meeting. If you wish you can email the report to me at rox252@comcast.net. Or you can drop it off to the church office. **The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2025.**



Stewardship 2025

Just a note to all Church Members who have not submitted their pledge for 2025: Please mail it to the church office or leave it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. We pray God's guidance and await your faithful response. **AND PLEASE PICK UP YOUR ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX!**



Thank You

To all who helped serve, contribute and donate their time for the Joy of Christmas "Dinner". A special thank you to Karen Cotner and the

Committee for volunteering their time to organize and make this happen. Also, to our new Chef, Will, his wife and Mom, Debbie.





CALL TO THE 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 9, 2024 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 2024

Stuart Post, Corporate Secretary

***Snow Date February 16, 2025**



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.



NOTES FROM OUR Director of Music

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone, we sincerely wish you all a prosperous and healthy New Year. Coming up in the New Year we will be revisiting the Spring and Fall Concerts as well as a variety of other music programs over the course of the year. There is the potential for a Valentines Dinner/Coffee House coming up, so more details will be forthcoming.

Kindness 101 will be returning, days and times will be posted soon as well as continuing with The Chosen. Stay Tuned!

Bell Choir will resume its Thursday evening rehearsal schedule. If you have an interest in playing bells please see me after worship or contact me through the church office.

We can never be sure what winter has in store for us, so in the event of a winter storm and planned activities at First Church please check our FaceBook page or cancellations may be posted on channel 8.

Best Wishes for the New Year!
Director of Music/ Building Super