



February can be the month to begin contemplating self awareness. January is considered a time of renewal but also hibernation on a cold winter's night. It's a time to slow down, take stock in things, and make intensions for what I am hopeful for as the new year unfolds.

I would like to invite you into my February practice--something I started in my 20's. I hope at the very least, this invitation invokes your curiosity. Please consider using this month to compose a letter to yourself. In this letter, write down what you are hopeful for as the year unfolds. Actions/intentions that will guide you as your engage in what life brings your way. For example: In my letter this year I have written, "I will reframe," "Why is this happening to me?" And I will say, "What is this teaching me?"

By the 28th your letter will be composed, and sealed and sent to self. YOU can open it a year later. These letters have become a guiding source, to support my resolutions becoming a reality rather than fading into non-existence, a couple of months into the New Year. This is for You, and invitation and a way of hope you capture and then reflect on the intensions you had for the year as well as seeing the

accomplishments you have achieved -- or the progress you have made toward them.

You are all amazing human beings with the capacity to hold a plethora of emotions, as you navigate your lives impacted by the challenges life brings with it. I am privileged to be able to spend time with you, learn from you and bear witness to your adaptability and flexibility as you artfully engage in your lives.

Blessings, Dennis

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LOOKING AHEAD!! EASTER IS LATER THIS YEAR



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

5:30 pm - Sanctuary

First Congregational Church

222 West Main Street, Waterbury

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Trustee Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 due to church closed on Monday for President's Day February 17th

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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](http://www.Firstchurch-wtby.org).



Applications must be postmarked by March 25th and must be received in the Church Office by April 1st, NO LATER."

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



Lois Liburdi 2/4
Jacob Polaski 2/5
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
April Cicchetti 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 9, 2025 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



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 fcchurch02@comcast.net

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

As we welcome February, we hope everyone is doing well after the holidays! There will be several events coming up this month which you will want to take note of; On Wednesday, February 12 at 6:30 pm, we will begin where we left off with *The Chosen*. Please bring a dish to share as the viewing is done potluck style. On Saturday, February 15, the Music Department is hosting a pasta dinner open mike night. The time is 6:30pm and the cost is \$15.00 per person, we have a wonderful evening of entertainment. If you would like to perform or help out please let us know.

Bell Choir we rehearse Sunday's following worship on the second floor. If you are interested in playing Bells please let Dana Sears or myself know!

Chancel Choir rehearsals will shift from Thursday nights to Monday evenings at 7:30 until May to help accommodate one of our section leaders

While it might be February, we aren't out of the woods yet when it comes to the weather, in the event of inclement weather please check the church Facebook page and local news stations for cancellations.

I will leave you all with this; While we are weeks away from Christmas, we should assume the attitude of Christmas each and everyday, each day is a gift. Friendship & Love are a gift and one that we should share a little more often. Not only to those you know but to those you have never met. As we move closer to Valentines Day, Lent and Easter, let us keep this in mind.

Stewart Crouse



A WINTER ADVISORY!

If and when there is a travel advisory for inclement weather, and it happens to fall on Sunday, please stay at home that day. We would rather you be safe at home, than to have you come to Worship and have an unfortunate accident due to the weather. Also, if a winter advisory should fall on a weekday, and there is a Waterbury school delay then the church office will open at 9:30 a.m. If there is a

Waterbury school closing, the Church Office will open later that day if the roads are safe. Call the office before leaving.

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A NOTE OF THANKS



The Stephenson and Magnano families wish to thank our church family for all their support and wishes during our time of

bereavement. We will never forget all your kindness.

God Bless you all,
Winston

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Calendar Updates

Dear members – the calendar with the newsletter was already printed when I received events happening in February and changes in some of our night programs times and days. Please update: Bell Choir will be on Sundays after Worship. Chancel Choir will be on Mondays at 7:30 pm instead of Thursdays till May. The Chosen will resume on Wednesday, February 12 at 630 pm please bring a dish to share. Finally, there will be a Pasta Dinner and Open mic on February 15th at 6:30 pm. \$15.00 per person.

On Saturday February 15, the Music Department is hosting a pasta dinner open mic night The time is 6:30 pm and the cost is \$15.00 per person, we have a wonderful evening of entertainment. If you would like to perform, attend or help out please let us know.

Contact Stewart before the 7th of February by calling 203-706-9824 or emailing Stew at stewartcrouse@comcast.net

Pasta Dinner & Open Mic Night



**Saturday
February 15
6:30 PM
\$15.00**

**First Congregational
Church
222 W. Main Street
Waterbury, CT**