

## APRIL REFLECTION

Imagine a church on a breezy spring day, it's doors and windows opened to let the wind flow through. So, it is when we come together as God's people with the doors of our hearts and minds open our eyes as windows raised to see what God will show us, our ears open to hear what God may say. It is then, that the wind of the spirit can sweep into our midst to make Easter and Pentecost a reality in our life together.

God knows our deepest potential. He sees the hidden complexities of our circumstances. He comprehends our situation in relation to the large picture, and grasps the broader implications of our plans.

Discernment means distinguishing God's spirit from other spirits that are present in a given time and place; such as the spirit of a nation, or the spirit of the times. To put it another way. Discernment is distinguishing the voice of God from other voices that speak to us. The voice of our parents echoing from years past, the voice of friends, voice of urgency or fear. These voices are neither bad nor good in of themselves. God often speaks to us through them. Discernment is a prayerful, informed, and intentional attempt to sort through these voices.

We thank you God, that you never forsake us nor leave us without hope and the potential for new beginnings. Because of Jesus' obedience in our lives and the world can be different. Continue to come to us in suffering love, showing us your power to save. Happy easter and May God Bless you.

Blessings, Rev Dennis



## APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members

Karin Ducham 4/1  
Gary Rosengrant 4/5  
Lorraine Allan 4/5  
Stephen Gagnon 4/7  
Todd Cicchetti 4/10  
Melissa Chalker 4/10

David Rodriguez 4/15  
Stuart Post 4/17  
Denise Irizarry 4/21  
Kaitlyn Post 4/22  
Helen Audibert 4/23  
Oliver Centeno 4/27



### Attention Members:

If you need to have anything put into the bulletin please make sure that I receive that information before Wednesday of

that given week. If you need to put something in the newsletter, please make sure that I receive it by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, to be put in the following month's news.

**Thank you so much, Roxanne**

**Please note that there are some programs that Stewart has listed in his newsletter article that are not in the calendar section. I always print the calendar around the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and if I don't receive the information then it's not posted.**



**WISH LIST FOR  
SAFE HAVEN  
SHELTER**



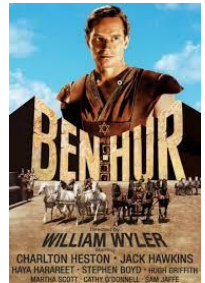
- ◆ Shampoo
  - ◆ Hair Brushes/combs
- ◆ Body Wash
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Women's socks (new)
- ◆ Women's Body lotion
- ◆ Women's Underwear (new)
- ◆ Diapers (large & ex-large)
- ◆ Sanitary Napkins/Tampons
- ◆ Children's Socks (new)
- ◆ Children's Underwear(new)
- ◆ Baby 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.



**Friday April 25 at 6 pm  
we will have a movie  
night featuring the  
cinema classic,  
Ben-Hur (1959).**



**Again, potluck style bring an entrée dish or dessert to share! Dinner begins at 6 pm we will begin viewing at 7pm.**

# From the Director of Music/Youth/ Building Superintendent



Happy April! With Winter behind us, we can focus on the warmer days ahead and the many different activities that will be coming up.

On Saturday, **April 12 from 11am- 1pm** we will hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We can use plastic eggs, candy and of course your help during the event.

**Maundy Thursday** will host at least one new piece of music *Shadow Garden* by Joseph M. Martin, this choral piece depicts Jesus' time in the moonlit garden of Gethsemane amongst the Olive trees. Our Bell Choir continues to work diligently on new music, the group will perform on Easter Sunday, we always encourage new players to join us, right now we meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm on the second floor.

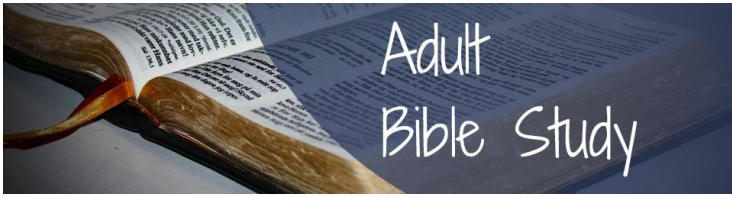
**Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30pm** we will continue watching *The Chosen*, if you haven't attended before, the watch party is potluck, please bring a dish or dessert to share!

On **Friday, April 25** we will have another Movie night featuring the 1959 classic *Ben-Hur*. The evening will be potluck, bring an **entrée or dessert to share! Dinner begins at 6:00pm and we will begin viewing at 7pm.**

**In closing, for donations of Easter Egg Hunt items, the office has requested that they be left in the office hallway just inside the hallway door. Thank you in advance!**

Blessings Stewart Crouse





**Adult Bible Study will be every Tuesday Evening at 6 pm beginning Tuesday, April 8, 2025. They will be held on the second floor in the newly renovated classroom. All are welcome! COME JOIN US!**



*Annual Easter Egg Hunt*  
*Saturday, April 12, 2025*  
*11 AM - 1 PM*



First Congregational  
Church 222 West Main  
Street, Waterbury  
**Rain or Shine!** (games,  
crafts, snacks & giveaways)

Donations Welcomed!

Call 203-757-0331 for reservations!

**Church Members:** Donations of candy, plastic eggs (can be found at any dollar store) and snack items (juice, cookies, and chips) would be appreciated!  
Please drop off in the church office



**Blooming of the  
This Easter**

**Cross  
Sunday, The**

Waterbury Baptist Ministries and First Congregational Church congregations will incorporate a folk ceremony called “the flowering of the Cross”. Members of both churches are encouraged to bring fresh cut flowers and greenery to decorate a cross that has been raised in the church front yard. The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus’ death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus’ death, into an Easter symbol, covered with fresh, living flowers. The cross serves not only as a emblem of Jesus’ resurrection, but as a sign of hope for our community.

**Instructions:**

All are encouraged to bring flowers between 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Holy Saturday (April 19<sup>th</sup> . Encourage other in our community to bring flowers. Someone will be there if you need assistance. Later in the day, drive by to see the cross that symbolized the new life, hope, and beauty which Easter brings. Many of your families may want to get your picture made in front of the cross, Easter morning.



# Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

*April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday*

*Palm Sunday Service*

*10 am - Sanctuary- First Congregational Church*

*April 17, 2025 Maundy Thursday*

*Maundy Thursday Communion Service*

*6:00 pm - Simple Meal Clinton Hall*

*7:00 PM Sanctuary - First Church*

*April 18, 2025*

*Good Friday - Church Closed*

*April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday*

*Easter Sunday Sunrise, 7:00 AM*

*Waterbury Baptist Ministries & First Church*

*Will be in the Chapel*

*Easter Sunday Service, 10:00 AM*

*First Congregational Church (Sanctuary)*

# *Looking Ahead!*



*Spring Tea  
Saturday, May  
17, 2025  
Clinton Hall  
2:00 pm*

*Sponsored by the  
Fellowship, Lunch & Laughs Group*

*Reservations required by May 9<sup>th</sup>, please note  
dietary needs at time of reservation.  
All proceeds go towards the refurbishment of  
the kitchen - Cost per person TBA*

*Any questions call:  
Cathy Crouse at 203-879-0408  
Karen Cotner at 203-528-7086*

