

A Note From Our Associate Pastor



April always seems to be the month that we notice winter shrinking away. We turn the clocks forward a month prior, but somehow April

seems to be when we notice the nights being pushed out further from our day. April is a time for emergence, a time for growth and a time for change. It is a time for renewal. It reminds me of the story of creation we read in Genesis.

If we take a moment and look at the symbolism of creation, and we view it in the way the writers intended it, we see it for what it is: the story of God turning death into life. Every day of creation was one step further that our Father took something that was incapable of sustaining life, and brought forth life. Each day of creation ends with the words “And there was evening, and there was morning”, but what does this mean? If we look at examples throughout scripture, darkness has always been tied to death, to lifelessness, to chaos and fear. Light on the other hand is an easy one for us. The Gospel of John says right in the beginning: “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”. The light is life, the light is God, it is hope and joy.

Each day of creation therefore allows us to see that during creation, as to now, there are times where death and chaos are in charge. But just as faithfully, morning comes, and it vanquishes that death.

This is one of my favorite things to ponder in the mornings and the evenings, especially as the temperatures rise, and I can take a sunset stroll. The colors grow vibrant as twilight sets in, a reminder that God has not left us, and morning will come. The blessings of spring sunrises as well, as the fingers of light seem to grip the darkness and peel it away from our world show us that God is there, and He will always be victorious.

I hope these ponderings bring you a new moment of reflection and a modicum of appreciation for the goodness of our God, and how He is there through every moment of our lives, creating life in the darkness. Enjoy this gift of renewal we are given each year, and see it more clearly for what it is: new life for you, just as we celebrate Easter Jesus's triumph on the cross: new life for you in Christ, and hope for our inheritance.

See you in Church
Pastor Jason





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 **15th** of the month, to be put in the following month's news.

Thank you so much, Roxanne



A Request from Outreach

Our committee would like to continue with our hygiene kit Ministry, therefore we are asking the Congregation to help with donations of the following items:

Toothpaste/toothbrushes - Deodorant - Washcloths

Hand towels - Razors for (men & women)

Pocket combs - Hairbrushes (women)

VO5 shampoo- fits nicely in freezer bags gal size

Sanitary napkins - Socks

The Outreach Committee thanks you for your continued support.



**From the Director of
Music/Youth/
Building Superintendent**

As we enter the month of April, the signs of spring begin to surround us—longer days, budding trees, and a renewed sense of life. In the church year, this season carries an even deeper meaning as we journey together toward the joy and hope of Easter.

I am thankful for all the participation we had at our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28 and thank you for the abundant donations for the children. This has become an increasingly popular event over the past couple of years.

Christian Cinema which began with *The Chosen*, now includes *The House of David*. Season 6 of *The Chosen* has not yet been completed so rather than lose momentum we began viewing *The House of David*. Both programs are based on the Old & New Testament. For those that have not made it beyond season one of *The Chosen*, we have picked back up on season two. Christian Cinema begins at 6pm and ends around 8:30pm, we encourage everyone that attends to bring an entree or dessert to share.

Movie Night, we had a wonderful turnout of about 50 people for the showing of *David & Goliath (2025)* which had just been released 3 days prior.

Continued

Thank you to those helped & attended, thank you Rev. Dr. Maner Tyson of Waterbury Baptist Ministries and your youth group for your help.

Movie nights are a joint sponsored event by First Church & Waterbury Baptist Ministries.

So thankful for our choir & bell choirs for all their hard work over the past several months. While we work really hard the groups have a wonderful time making music together.

Note from the Historian: to all secretaries of committees. It is imperative that you get your minutes into the office as part of those minutes end up in my Annual Report!

Stewart Crouse
Director of Music



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



Blooming of the Cross

This Easter 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 4th) . Encourage others 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 symbolizes 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.





April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday
Maundy Thursday Communion Service
6:00 pm - Simple Meal Clinton Hall
7:00 PM Sanctuary - First Church

April 3, 2026
Good Friday - Church Closed

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday
Easter Sunday Sunrise, 7:00 AM
Waterbury Baptist Ministries & First Church
Will be in the Chapel
WBM Breakfast & Service 9:00 am CH
Easter Sunday Service, 10:00 AM
First Congregational Church (Sanctuary)



*Saturday, May 9, 2026
Clinton Hall
2:00 pm*

*Sponsored by the
Fellowship, Lunch & Laughs Group*

*Reservations required by May 2nd, 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*

