



This summer is a special one for me, as well as most of America. I was born in 1978, so I missed our bicentennial. I remember seeing the stories and hearing about it from my

parents and grandparents, and they would talk about it for years to come when watching the NYC 4th of July Fireworks on TV as a child. Even the special quarters with the drummer on them felt extra special to me. I remember laying in bed thinking about how old I would be when the 250th hit, and wondering what the world would be like... and now we are here.

As I look on this country I see progress, and I see areas where we have gone backward as a nation. I see the fulfillment of a promise made long ago, where all men have the possibility of upward mobility based solely on their own ambition and determination. I see the chance that still exist toward the pursuit of happiness that transcends color or sex, but I also see where we have gone in the wrong direction. We have become a nation that is working to exist outside of a morality that we have been handed by God. Where the thought of deity exists outside of the halls of law, and that law becomes one where man is God. When man is God, morality becomes a shifting sand where utilitarian pursuits become perverted into acts of righteousness. While the human struggle toward power is something recognized throughout all of scripture, we are reminded in there time and again that the only law that can stand is the moral law. It is from there that all other laws must originate.

Continued

Growth from fertile soil of God's truth toward loving your neighbor. Love the Lord with all of your heart, all of your mind, and all of your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. These are the greatest and most important laws.

All that aside, let us celebrate this time, because God has put us here in it to thrive and tend His garden intentionally. Never before in the history of mankind has there been so much opportunity in this world to worship freely, to live as we are called, and to practice that love unashamed and unpersecuted by government, and that is a gift from God Himself. Pray for this nation, and the perpetuation of this historically unparalleled chance. As it says in Jeremiah 29:7 "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare". May our loving God continue to bless you all this month.

"We have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and true religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." — President John Adams

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Jay



August Word Scramble answers:

Fun, sunflower, summer, relaxation, hammock, bicycle, fruit, camping, vacation, barbecue, popsicle, humid, cicada, backyard, sandals, firefly, august, watermelon, lake, sailboat, playground, sunshine, adventure, hot.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



DON POWELL SCHOLARSHIP

Sebastian Creter

GEBHARDT SCHOLARSHIP

KIRK SCHOLARSHIP

ETHEL CARD SCHOLARSHIP

ALFRED MEYERHANS SCHOLARSHIP

JOHN BRADLEY SCHOLARSHIP

MARIE WELLS SCHOLARSHIP

JOHN IRVING WEST SCHOLARSHIP

YOUNG-GALLAUDET SCHOLARSHIP

DONALD/RUTH KAPLAN SCHOLARSHIP

JOHN BLAIR SCHOLARSHIP

HELEN SPERRY SCHOLARSHIP

C. RUSSELL SUMPF

DOROTHY CAVANAUGH SCHOLARSHIP

BARTON-CROUSE SCHOLARSHIP

ANN CASALY SUTHERLAND SCHOLARSHIP

EMILY DOWNS SCHOLARSHIP

CHASE KIMBALL SCHOLARSHIP

ALLEN STEEL SCHOLARSHIP

THOMAS DOWNIE SCHOLARSHIP

BETTY COUCH SCHOLARSHIP

MCKENNERNEY SCHOLARSHIP

CARTER LEGGETT SCHOLARSHIP

MARCIE GORDON SCHOLARSHIP

CHRISTIAN COTNER SCHOLARSHIP

FRANK & JEAN GENTILE SCHOLARSHIP

SCHLEGEL SCHOLARSHIP

SILVA-CAPOBIANCO SCHOLARSHIP

Eric Estes

Gary Kozikowski

*Boden Stanton

Ryan Iannone

Juliana Beloin

*Sarah Cooley

*Kaitlin Post

Colin Krayseske

Mia Vargas

*Madelyn Chalker

Molly Meyers

*Jason Polaski

John DeBisshop

Joshua Prashad

Nathan Oun

Jacob Harry

Serina Devine

Jason Canady

Kevin Guerra

Carter Effrence

Ava Sarasin

Will Dupree

Madelyn Meyers

Faith Lally

*Daniel Rek

Ava Muharem

Hailey Stasik

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CON'T

GENERAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Hannah Elwell	Darby O'Connell
Valerie Poulin	Aiden Dupree
Sarah Krayske	Kelly Shi
Gabrielle Jue	Matthew Holland
Makendra Mowad	Ray O'Connell
Christian Estes	Anthony Boggio
Andy Ozuni	Luke Pasquale
Drew Fowler	

KATHERINE PECK SCHOLARSHIP

*Camilla Bikbova	*Sophia Farias
Constance Larrandabure	Kiara Byrnes
Arielle Vargas	Jenna Tracey
Raeanna Byrnes	Tianna Bilodeau
Milani Giovacchio	Alexandra Grice
Leah Tracey	Caitlin Bellesheim
Kendall Croke	Lexanne Czyzycki
Katherine Jusino	Gariella Smith
Kylie Villa	Elysha DellaRosa
Marley Molcyk	Reese McGarrity

*Indicates First Church Member or relation



JULY "BIRTHDAY"

WISHES!

**Happy Birthday to the following
Church Members**

Brandon Cooley 7/2	Kristen Perham 7/16
Claire Hughes 7/10	Layla Post 7/17
Brandon Brites 7/11	Leah Dabbo 7/19
Beth Bartholomew 7/13	David Crouse 7/29
Steve Chaivanik 7/14	Paco Medina 7/30
Jason Polaski 7/16	Virginia Kazimer 7/30



AUGUST "BIRTHDAY" WISHES!

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members

Christa Casey 8/2
Linda Walters 8/5
Kadi DeLauri 8/5
Joseph Grzybowski 8/7
Rodrique Cooley 8/13
June Christensen 8/14
Alex Rodriguez 8/17
Heather Elwell Hirbour 8/18
Elizabeth F. Sweeney 8/19
Carol Martinez 8/20

Jana Feeney 8/21
Eric Cotner 8/24
Lois McClain 8/25
Dana Sears 8/25
Laura Munger 8/25
Mary Doner 8/25
Michelle Comier 8/26
Brittany Currier 8/27
Allan Lindsay 8/30



**Worship will be celebrated here at
First Church on Sundays at 9:00
am both July and August.**



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
June 26th through August 28th the
Church Office will be closing at
noon on Fridays.



NOTES FROM OUR Director of Music

As we head into the summer months, I know that in years past many of our programs have wound down for the season. This year, however, that will not be the case!

If you missed Music Sunday, I would once again like to thank our dedicated Choir and Bell Choir members for their time, talent, and hard work. While both groups work incredibly hard, we also enjoy wonderful fellowship together, which is an important part of what keeps these ministries thriving.

We are saddened by the retirement of longtime section leader and friend John Farias. After moving back to his hometown of Danbury, CT, while continuing to teach in the Monroe area, John found that even on a good day his commute was approximately 40 minutes each way. We are grateful for his many years of service and countless contributions to our church and music programs. While we will miss him dearly, the show must go on! Choir and Bell Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 10.

Bach to Basics, a program under the TLC umbrella at First Church, has had a wonderful start. Participants have enjoyed learning the foundations of music as well as exploring a new musical language. I encourage anyone who is interested to attend a session and see what it's all about. Upcoming dates will be announced soon.

Christian Cinema, currently featuring *House of David* and *The Chosen*, will continue throughout the summer. Additional dates will be announced in the near future.

Summer Sunday worship will feature guest soloists each week, and we look forward to sharing their talents with the congregation.

Continued

Terrific Tuesdays will be here before we know it. Please remember that this is a shared ministry between Waterbury Baptist Ministries and First Church. Each congregation is responsible for covering two weeks of service. For information regarding donations and volunteer opportunities, please refer to the newsletter.

“Movie Night” on Friday, August 28th at 7 pm will be the showing of King of Kings in Clinton Hall. More to come in the bulletins, please keep the date open.

Looking ahead: On Sunday, September 13, 2026 there will be an Organ Concert at 4pm in the Sanctuary featuring Ron Ebrecht. More to come in the bulletins and in September News. If you want to donate please make checks payable to First Church and in the memo put Organ Concert.

On the Building Operations front, several projects are scheduled throughout the summer months. This season provides the best opportunity to complete necessary improvements and maintenance. Please watch for updates regarding project locations and any potential impacts on church programs and activities.

I would like to thank the congregation and the Music Committee for their continued support. I would also like to express my appreciation to Pastor Jay for his encouragement and support of our music ministry.

Wishing each and every one of you a happy, safe, and blessed summer.

I leave you with this quote from Johannes Brahms:

“In my study I can lay my hand on my Bible even in the dark.”

Stewart Crouse



First Congregational Church & Waterbury Baptist

Ministries present: Terrific Tuesdays in July

*Sponsored in part by: Waterbury Baptist Ministries
& Frist Church Outreach*



July	7th	6 pm	“ROCKIN HEARTBEATS
July	14th	6 pm	Mateo Macias
July	21st	6 pm	Valley Chordsmen
July	28th	6 pm	The Kerry Boys

Volunteers needed for: Set-up, serving and clean-up from 5 pm to 7 pm
Serving hot dogs, chips & beverage. Entertainment begins at 6 pm.
Come, bring a friend, a lawn chair enjoy the evenings! We know that these
are popular concerts and hope that you will use the opportunity for
introducing your friends and neighbors to our lively and spirited church.
Waterbury Baptist Ministries is in charge of the first two Tuesdays.
First Church is in charge of last two weeks.

We need hotdog donations!!



Looking ahead to September!!!



**Home Coming Sunday
and Church picnic date TBA!!**