



As August gives way to September, and we approach the season of harvest, it is prudent to take time and look at the season of planting. In so doing we can see how our decisions have borne fruit in the growing season, and we can learn what works, what didn't and what along the way we actually have little control over. It has been a season for certain, with a re-tilling of our soil, and a reassessment of the farm writ-large. By and large, we feel that the church has come a long way since early spring. Though we faced some harsh challenges, this congregation has come together and come through the brunt of it stronger and closer. Attendance by and large has been up, and summer worship has seen the same since we moved time and location. One could say that the soil is doing well.

As farmers do, so must we look to expanding and reinvigorating the fields if we wish the farm to continue its success. The crop must be renewed once in a while, with fresh plants added to keep the crop healthy and vigorous. This has been where I have been looking the most as we come into the autumn of our year. Leaving the metaphors behind, let us speak plainly and look to the future together, because that is where it is; together. The vitality of a church is dependent on more than just a pastor.

Continued

While the job of pastor is vital to providing fresh lessons and teaching of the word to the congregation, especially in the Congregational Tradition, it is in the body of the members that a large part of evangelism happens. Members share what they have received by preaching it in their own lives, sharing it with others, and bringing in those who you wish would know the truths you know into the pews to hear it for themselves, and live it in community.

Your church needs you now more than ever. If you feel the services speaking, share it with someone, share it with everyone. If you don't feel these things, then come in and speak to the church, be it the Pastor, the moderator, a deacon. Voice what you feel you are lacking and bring it to the attention of the church. We may not see what you see, and what you see may be something the Lord is trying to give this church to move forward.

In these troubled times of limited faith in the world, it is even more important that you get your lamp out from under that basket and set it on a hill to shine. It may be the light someone needs, and it is certainly the light your congregation needs right now.

Now is the time to act, to rejoin, to commit to new faith in your church family, and a time to bring in fresh ears to rejoice in the word of Christ. Won't you come and share your gifts with us? It's nearly harvest time.

Blessings to you all.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Jay



SEPTEMBER "BIRTHDAY" WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following Church Members!

Averie Sharma 9/1
Parker Elwell 9/3
Pearlette Stephenson 9/5
Nicholas DeLauri 9/5
Patricia McGuire 9/7
Noah Santoro 9/7

Menisha Martinez 9/13
Richard DeLauri 9/15
Eli Hirbour 9/17
Walker Fitzgerald 9/18
Elaine Maynard 9/25
Bill Gemske 9/26
Diane Currier 9/27

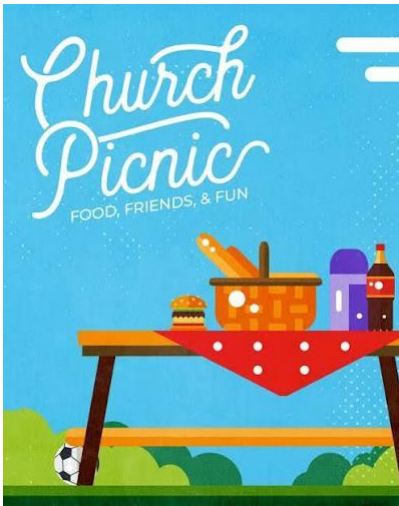


A Request from Outreach
Our committee would like to
continue with our hygiene kit
Ministry, therefore we are
asking the Congregation to
help with donations of the
following items:

Toothpaste/toothbrushes - Deodorant - Washcloths
Hand towels - Razors for (men & women)
Pocket combs - Hairbrushes (women)
V05 shampoo- fits nicely in freezer bags gal size
Sanitary napkins - Socks

The Outreach Committee thanks you for your continued support.

Homecoming Picnic



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
Following worship in
Clinton Hall and Lawn
(weather permitting)

**Church provides Hot dogs,
hamburgers!**

Members will bring:
Last Names beginning with A- M bring picnic salads
Last Names beginning with N- Z bring desserts





NOTES FROM OUR Director of Music

As we begin to move our calendar forward after summer, our activities that ended in June will begin again!

Choir rehearsals will begin on 9/10 at 7:30pm in the choir room located in the basement. **Bell Choir** rehearsals will begin on 9/17 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

A recital featuring Ronald Ebrecht will take place on Sunday, September 13 at 4:00pm, with a reception to follow. A freewill offering will be taken to support The Connecticut Institute for Refugees & Immigrants. The program will feature music by Bach, Berlin, Duruflé and Scott.

Viewing nights for the **Chosen & House of David** will be on the following evenings: **September 16 & 30 at 6:00pm**

As a reminder! For the Chosen and House of David, we typically do potluck style so don't forget to bring an entree or dessert to share!

Bach to Basics beginning music program will start on:
September 23 at 6:30pm

Building Maintenance: Floor refinishing will be continuing over the course of the next month. Please check to make sure the program you are attending hasn't been postponed or moved to a different area of the building!

Stewart Crouse

Good afternoon Friends,

Many thanks to everyone who came to my recital in Middle Haddam in May. I was thrilled to have 102 in a church that seats 102! It was fun to explore the possibilities of that antique organ, and especially the Jelani Eddington transcriptions in theater organ style.



Since then I have been preparing for concerts this fall, which include Waterbury. The AGO chapter board has decided that our concerts this year should benefit immigrant services, thus the charity designated. This organ is magnificent: capable of many subtle, beautiful sounds and impressively powerful when needed.

The program begins with the Bach masterpiece, Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor bwv 542. Among his most difficult, with a grand, highly chromatic Fantasy but with a very singable, catchy Fugue, whose subject that can easily play on repeat in your minds.

Then, I have put together a group one might call a Symphony of American Song, with three Eddington transcriptions including Won't you play a simple melody and others by Berlin. My passion for Shirley Scott continues with What Makes Harold Sing, a piece she wrote for her favorite Sax player Harold Vick. This group will show the jazz possibilities of Waterbury organ.

Continued

After a brief pause, I will present two Duruflé pieces, the Scherzo, opus 2 and the Prelude, Adagio and Choral Variations on Veni Creator, opus 4. The Gregorian verses will be sung by a duet from the balcony, interspersed between the concluding variations. (The Duruflé pair I am preparing for my November 8 appearance at St Philip's Cathedral, Atlanta.)

I look forward to seeing everyone!

Best regards
Ron



Please join us for a

Benefit Concert

featuring

Ronald Ebrecht

Sunday, September 13, 2026

4:00 pm

*to support the Connecticut Institute
for Refugees and Immigrants*

presented by

First Congregational Church,
222 West Main Street, Waterbury

and the

Waterbury Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Music by Bach, Berlin, Duruflé, Scott

*An offering will be accepted to benefit the Institute and a
reception will follow.*



The Lion's Club is the world's largest service club. We collect eyeglasses, repair and recycle them throughout the world. We help all people who have eye problems including Waterbury with a Low Vision Center here at our church.

Waterbury Lion's Club Ziti Dinner Fundraiser

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

First Congregational Church

222 West Main Street, Waterbury CT

Tickets: Gary Rosengrant, or any member!

LOOKING AHEAD!!!

Dear members, we need your help!

October 23rd and 24th will be our annual Haunted House/Halloween Party

and once again I am calling upon

the generosity of the congregation to

donate candy and decorations for the

cause. We will begin collecting donations on October 4th

and right up until the 19th. Furthermore, if you are

interested in volunteering for setup,

operation, or take down, please contact

me (Stewart Crouse at 706-9824).

There is a little something for everyone to do.

