

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

February 2019

Dear Fellow ‘Hunker-Downers:’

In case you’re wondering about my greeting, I say that because as I write this it is 6 degrees outside! I’m guessing that we’re all ‘hunkering-down’ to stay warm as January ebbs. Fear not, for the days are getting longer! Hopefully, by the time you read this, we’ll be out of the deep-freeze, though not too naïve to think we’re ‘out of the woods’ altogether.

This type of weather brings to mind cozying up to a warm fire, eating comfort food and making the best of the winter days and nights; in other words, to practice the Danish art of *hygge* (pronounced hoo-gah), which encourages downright comfort. This ‘new,’ but very revered and old way of enjoying life has recently been featured in many media outlets.

*Harper’s Bazaar* magazine shares this about *Hygge*: “So what is Hygge? In short, it's a Danish way of living that focuses on hunkering down in the winter and creating a safe, comforting and warm place to while away cold, wet evenings, whether you're at home solo or entertaining. It sounds a lot like the English word 'hug', which is thought to have Scandinavian roots and defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "to cherish oneself; to keep or make oneself snug.”

“The word Hygge is usually translated as "coziness", but it's not just about warm lighting and candles. Hygge is also a mindset – it's about relaxing and being kind to yourself, rather than going without a certain food type or drink, or embarking on any sort of activity that could be emotionally overwhelming. Hygge food is comforting and soothing, rather than healthy – think pastries, cakes and pies. And the results speak for themselves – the Danes have been named the most content people year after year – even despite the nominal hours of sunlight in the winter months. Hygge promotes the idea of enjoying and indulging in the small good things in life – whether sitting round a table with friends and family or drinking a hot mug of tea by candlelight. So forget your credit card balance, your unread emails and the impact of Brexit, it's time to Hygge.”

“**10 routes to Hygge living:** Candles and open fires, Sheepskin rugs, Wool socks, Armchairs, Danish pastries, Dinner with friends, Cycling, Turning your phone off, Hot drinks (preferably served from a china set), Watching a boxset under a duvet.” (you under the duvet – not the TV!)

In short, Hygge is about *abundance* and treating ourselves as we would have others be treated. Hygge can be created with a simple pair of socks or a brightly burning candle; a gift of food or a warm blanket. No matter our origins, we all need to enjoy the comforts of life offered to us by our loving and generous God. As Psalm 23 says, “*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*” God’s abundance is promised for all and we need to give ourselves permission to enjoy these simple gifts of life.

As we enjoy comforts, let us also continue to *provide* comforts in thought, word and deed to those in our midst and elsewhere whose ‘Hygge’ supply is in desperate need of replenishment and sustenance.

**Have you had your ‘Hygge’ today?**

Warmly,

*Rev. Nina*

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/uk/culture/staying-in/news/a38410/what-is-hygge-and-is-it-really-the-secret-to-happiness/> Accessed January 21, 2019.





*Church Committee*  
*Jean Jackson*  
*Church Clerk*

Next Church Committee meeting is  
February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited. Board and Committee meetings will be held following it.

*HOLY LAND TRAVELOGUE*  
*SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 SECOND*  
*HOUR*

Rev. Nina is pleased to be able to make this

presentation on her amazing trip to Israel. She will be sharing her pictures, observations and revelations with the congregation so save the date! A Mediterranean lunch theme is in the works thanks to the Deacons, along with the hope that we will be honored by some of her fellow travelers from Temple

Beth Hillel attending also.



*MARCH 6 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE*  
*6:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY 'FAT*  
*TUESDAY' PANCAKE SUPPER*

**Lent begins March 6.** This year, a 'Fat Tuesday' Pancake Supper celebration will take place following the Ash Wednesday service. The tradition of eating up the fattiest and richest foods before Lenten fasting begins is centuries old. Typically called "Shrove Tuesday," the last day of Mardi Gras, it was thought that believers must be "shriven" or appropriately penitent prior to Lent beginning. Everyone will be asked to bring a topping of their choice. Preserves, sauces, whipped cream, whatever you want! Pancakes will be provided by the Diaconate. Any pancake-flipper volunteers out there? A sign-up sheet will be posted soon.



*Register Now!*  
*Silver Lake Conference*

The calendar for conferences for Silver Lake Conference Center has been posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. There is an open house scheduled for **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2-4pm. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with the church office. First-time campers from last year came home thrilled with their experiences! Camperships may be available to assist to help defray the cost of sending your child(ren).



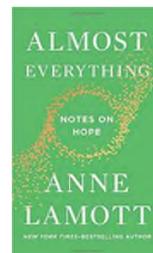
*Kamilla's Kolumn*



Happy New 2019 everybody!

*Book Group*

We will be meeting on **February 20<sup>th</sup>** at noon. Bring a bag lunch.



From Anne Lamott, the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Help, Thanks, Wow*, comes the book we need from her now: How to bring hope back into our lives. Fantastic inspiration for the new year.

*CE News*

The Church School will be taking a field trip to the Tyler Regional Animal Care Shelter, 124 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, CT on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. More details will be forthcoming. The children will be bring needed supplies to the shelter purchased with the money collected in their Advent mite boxes. If you would like to contribute see the list on the Church School bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



Field Trip to the  
Animal Shelter

### *Archivist Column*

Mary Crittenden

When you approach our church building from a distance, you can see the spire with its fish weather vane (in reality it is a wind vane) atop. It was logical that meeting houses with steeples added a vane onto the spire so people could easily know the



direction of the wind. In addition, the bell was housed in the part of the steeple called a belfry. The bell was used to communicate time, announce services and emergencies

to the community.

Moving on downward, we find our little forgotten window above the double front doors. When standing open, these doors are an inviting welcome to people coming to a worship service.

The space inside the front doors (the space below the organ.) is known by several names in different church buildings: entrance hall, anteroom, antechamber, vestibule, foyer, and lobby. Our name for this space is narthex. This word comes via Latin from the Medieval Greek meaning enclosed porch, enclosure.

In addition to utilitarian features such as coat hooks, name tag cabinet, umbrella stand, bookcase (from Bossen's Market) and guest book, we have a Communion Table that was used in this building until it was replaced in the late 1950's by the one we currently use.

Above the table is our stained glass quilt. The design for it is based on one element copied from the Clapp window in the sanctuary. That element is a flame which represents the attributes of the Holy Spirit that descended as a flame on Pentecost.

There are two sets of stairs leading to the choir loft or down to Fellowship hall. There is the entrance to the lift on the south side. There is a difference between a lift and an elevator; much of it is in the mechanics; however, the important difference for the user is how you operate them. Unlike an elevator whose buttons are pushed and released, our lift requires that you keep the button depressed until the desired action is completed.

Leading from the narthex into the sanctuary are two doors – but more about them next month.

### *Coffee Hour Hosts Needed*

Please check your calendar for when you are able to host. The calendar for Coffee Hour Hosts for 2019 has been posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen window. Please consult your calendar and sign up for a Sunday. If you have not hosted before, but would like to host and need some guidance, please feel free to ask one of the "regulars" to mentor you.



### *How do you want to receive the Newsletter?*

If you would like to receive the *Main Street Musing* via email, please email the church office at [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com). This will help in production and mailing costs. Thank you. As an added bonus, you will see the graphics in color.



### *Judy Borre to be Recognized*



The Orford Parish-Pitkin Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will be recognizing Judy Borré, SewIn4Servicemen Project Chair, on Thursday, February 14th at 11:00 a.m. at the Manchester Country Club, 305 Main Street, Manchester. Reservation must be received by February 4<sup>th</sup>. See the sheet on the UCW bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

## Church Family News



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Wayne Coon, who entered eternal life on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Services will be held sometime later this year. Please keep Coon family in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.



Kristen Daigle	02/03
James McGuire	02/05
Nancy Stearns	02/06
Amanda McNulty	02/09
Caitlin Connelly	02/11
Caroline Klein	02/12
Cliff McClellan	02/13
Emaleigh Daigle	02/14
Marilyn Senger	02/15
Clayton Daigle	02/18
Beverly Zaugg	02/21
Ruth Bombara	02/22

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joyce Coon	Shirley Lawton
Bev Nielsen	Vibert Deane
Doris Burgdorf	Bruce Burnham
Gail & Jim Jackson	John Mitchell



Send them a note today!

Bev Nielsen	Joyce Coon
58 Pleasant Valley Road	Arbors at Hopbrook
South Windsor, CT 06074	403 W Center Street; Apt. 316
	Manchester, CT 06040

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March newsletter is **Friday, February 15th**. It will be printed on February 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first issue following the Annual Meeting. Let's get everyone caught up on what is happening in the church.

Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

## Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**February 10<sup>th</sup>**) we collect items for a food pantry. When asked what was needed, Andrea Cofrancesco, Director for the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank answered:

"Cereal, kid snacks, canned fruit please!" These items are distributed to the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank, Manchester Area Conference of Churches. We continue to collect paper toweling for Interval House. These donations are greatly appreciated.



## 2019 Flower Chart

The 2019 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up to provide flowers. Please note how the acknowledgement is to be made. Donors are responsible for ordering and arranging for flowers to be in church on Sunday. Donors may take their arrangements home following service or deliver them to one of our homebound members and friends.



## Lunch Bunch

The lunch bunch meets September to June on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. This month they will meet on **February 21<sup>st</sup>**. Founded as a gathering for retired men, it is open to anyone who wants to visit over a brown bag lunch.



## Worship Service and Event Cancellations

If the weather is bad, you can check for cancellation notices of our events, including Sunday morning worship service and church school, by watching WFSB TV (CBS, channel 3) or listening to WTIC (1080 AM). Notices are also posted on both the websites for WFSB news and the WTIC Storm Center. Generally, a decision to cancel worship will be made on Sunday morning around 7am. Every effort will also be made to update the church answering machine.



# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Office Hours</b> , unless otherwise noted <b>Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid</b> – Drop In Office Hours are: usually Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:30 pm, other times by appointment <b>Claudia Steele, Administrative Assistant</b> – Tuesday through Thursday 9:00am to 2:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon					1	2
3 Deacon's Fund Collection 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour 11:15am Church Chimers 11:30am Deacon's Meeting	4	5 1:30pm Photo Archive Team 7:00pm NA	6 10:00 am Creative Hands	7 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 Food Ingathering 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:15am Church Chimers 11:00am Coffee hour	11	12 1:30pm Photo Archive Team 6:30pm Church Committee 7:00pm NA	13 10:00 am Creative Hands	14 Valentine's Day 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour 11:15am Music Committee	18 President's Day	19 1:30pm Photo Archive Team 7:00pm NA	20 10:00 am Creative Hands Noon Book Group	21 11:30am Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 10:00am SewIn4Servicmen
24 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Holy Land Travelogue Second Hour	25	26 1:30pm Photo Archive Team 7:00pm NA	27 10:00 am Creative Hands 6:30pm UCW Meeting	28 10:00am Newsletter Assembly 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Church Committee**.....2  
**SLCC Registration** .....2  
**Travelogue** .....2  
**Borré Recognition** .....3  
**Travelogue** .....2  
**Ash Wednesday**.....2  
**Coffee Hour Hosts** .....3  
**Cancellation Policy**.....4  
**Kamilla's Kolumn**.....2  
**CE News** .....2  
**Archivists Column** .....3  
**Book Group**.....2  
**Church Family News** .....4  
**Flower Chart** .....4  
**Food Ingathering** .....4

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Choir Rehearsal**..... **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Creative Hands** ..... **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**  
**Photo Archive Team**..... **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Committee Night** ..... **2/12**  
**Holy Land Travelogue**  
**Second Hour** ..... **02/24**  
**Ash Wednesday/**  
**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper** ..... **03/06**  
**Reg. Conf. Minister Chuck**  
**Ericson/Second Hour** ..... **03/10**

**Staff:**

**Minister:** Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid  
**Organist:** Kamilla Mammedova  
**Administrative Assistant:** Claudia Steele  
**Sexton:** Katie Graham

TO:



February 2019



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United Church of Christ

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

"Love is like a tennis match:  
you'll never win consistently until you learn to serve well."  
—Dan P. Herod