

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



November 2025

Where do we go from here?

You have chosen to move forward. The choice to remain open (the discernment phase) has come to a conclusion – choices have consequences and our/your choices are no different.

For you who have participated in the discussions and work that went into the choice to remain open, your involvement, ideas and input have contributed to the movement forward we are seeing taking place in our church. But choosing to remain open means you have also chosen to take ownership of your choices. Our last Vision Forward was productive and a great deal was achieved. Our ideas were heard and again we made a choice – to move beyond keeping our door open to deciding HOW we would implement the movement forward we have chosen and what that means. The next phase of your work will be to discern how to implement your ideas into a plan for how you will construct your future and what needs to change in order to move into that future. Your continued involvement will be vital in how you want First Church to evolve. In the books we are reviewing, we have seen ideas and stories much like our church! The hopes, the challenges and the things we need to know about ourselves in order to know what may be holding us back and what is propelling us forward. Our choice to reflect and now implement these ideas has moved from discussion to theory to action to practice. Our next Vision Forward will begin to review the choices you yourselves have made. See you at our next meeting!

Moving Forward,  
Dr. Dean Kučera





Pictured above from left to right: Our new members Amy Ceraoli, Vera Berizkina, and Wendy Leonard. Below: Thank you to the First Church Deacons for providing the beautiful and delicious cake to celebrate this very special occasion.



## *Welcome, Our New Members!*

On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed three lovely new members into our First Church family! Please help us welcome Vera Berizkina, Amy Cerasoli, and Wendy Leonard. If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church, please inform Pastor Dean or a deacon of your interest. We would love for you to join our church!





Above: from left to right are Pastor Dean, new member Wendy Leonard, Deacon Barbara Wright, new member Vera Berizkina, Deacon Terry Belknap, new member Amy Cerasoli, and Deacon Rick Whitin. Pictured below, from left to right, are Amy Cerasoli, Vera Berizkina, and Wendy Leonard making their vows of faith.



## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held October 14, 2025 -



- Treasurer's report - Income for September was \$14,082. Expenses were \$20,145.18. Deficit for the month was \$6,063.18; deficit year-to-date is \$16,149.37.
- Investments - In September, the account saw an increase of \$32,608. A total of \$10,000 was disbursed, leaving an ending balance of \$2,279,887.74. No changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm. Stay tuned - it will either be in Fellowship Hall or in Metzger Chapel, and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend, in person or via Zoom, whether or not you serve on a committee.

## *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield



Kamilla needed a sick day Sunday, October 12; Jean Jackson covered for her. The choir was scheduled to take part in the service but was missing 4 of the 7 members. Jean pulled together a chime group who filled that spot in the

service. She will make an effort to have more chime music going forward. Deb Vinick, harpist, will return for the Christmas Eve service. A tuning of the organ will be scheduled now that the sanctuary is on the winter heating schedule.

## *Choir News*

Jean Jackson



The choir began rehearsals on September 28, 2025. They meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. All are welcome to join the choir. The choir normally sings the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.

## *The Edwards Center*

Barbara Wright

The Edwards Center Committee met in the front room of the Wolcott Building and discussed how we would like to set the room up, what furniture we will need and color to paint the room. Edie is contacting someone about painting the room. We are looking for table, chairs, two file cabinets and two glass front bookcases. We would like them all to be in matching woods.

We have received a very nice and gracious letter from Elise Bernier-Feeley thanking us for the plant which we gave her when she spoke in September to us about Sarah Pierpont Edwards and her herb gardens. She has named the plant, Sarah! Also, as a result of her coming down to speak to us twice, she has become more interested in Timothy Edwards and is doing some in depth study of him.

## *Deacons*

Barb Wright

Deacons have been very busy the past month.

The Deacons input for by-laws changes have been submitted to the By-Laws Review Committee for consideration.

Usher guidelines have been updated and are in the Narthex for the ushers' use.

We will be starting to have greeters in the Narthex on Sunday mornings beginning in January. If you would like to be a greeter, please speak to Barbara Wright. At this point, we have 12 people who have agreed to participate.

The Deacons asked Pastor Dean to stay on for at least two more years, with the goal to have a vision plan completed the first year and implemented the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. He has agreed, with a review at the end of the first year to see if he feels we are moving in the right direction. He will continue to hold 2<sup>nd</sup> hour meetings.

The Deacons, at the suggestion of Linda Dalpe, have voted to have bears sitting in the pews again. If you are in need of comfort or know of someone who is, feel free to take one. They have been in the pews since October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Ecumenical Service will be held at Wapping Church this year on November 25.

Deacons will be decorating the church for Advent on Saturday, November 29, @ 10:00 a.m. Any help would be appreciated. The Christmas Eve service will be held @ 8:00 p.m.

We are in receipt of a nativity set from the former Wesley United Methodist Church in East Hartford. It will be set up either in the Narthex or on the Communion Table. This set was made by one of their members. Thank you, Donna, Ruth, Howard and Barbara for such a wonderful gift.

### *Holiday Fair News*

Join us on Fridays to help craft new items for the fair. They meet from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM at 1090 Main Street. Call or text Linda Dalpe to let her know you are coming! Her number is 860-528-1936. There are many ways to help, even if you feel you are not particularly 'crafty'.

### *Jewelry Wanted*



We continue to collect jewelry for the church fair. Even some of the broken jewelry can be repurposed. You can drop off your donations at 1090 Main St. or bring them to church and give them to Linda Dalpe or Lynda Jones.

### *Save the Dates*

Jean Jackson

Sunday, December 14, 2025 - South United Methodist Church on Main Street in Manchester will present its Christmas Candlelight Concert at 4:30 pm. You will hear seasonal music from the Chancel Concert Choir, the Wesley Ringers (handbells), and their Wildfire Praise Band. More to come, so stay tuned!

Sunday, March 22, 2026, *Take Note!* will present a fundraising concert here at First Church, at 3:00 pm. *Take Note!* is an acapella group from the Mansfield area. The concert will raise funds for the floor project in Fellowship Hall. Their services are at no cost to us. A donation toward the project will be requested of attendees. Please spread the word!

See Jean Jackson with questions about either of these events.

## *Ladies Who Lunch*

Linda Dalpe



The Ladies' Lunch Bunch met in Fellowship Hall for the first time in September with plans to continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we have had to adjust the November and December ladies' lunch dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. The next lunch date is November 13. In December, we will meet on December 11. All are welcome!

No agenda...just fellowship! Bring your lunch and a friend. We will be there from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.



### *Sewin4Servicemen Lap Quilt Distributions*

Sewin4Servicemen is a group of dedicated sewers and quilters organized by First Church member Judy Borré. They have been meeting in our church basement for years over the winter, generally four times, for these all-day sewing projects. The very dedicated volunteers show up year after year after year to stitch patriotic lap quilts for deserving veterans throughout our community. Four Saturdays make a lifetime of difference to a veteran receiving a special lap quilt. The lap quilts are made for deserving veterans in our town and surrounding towns as a special thank you for their service to our country. Thanks to all the sewers and quilters, and, of course, organizer and First Church member Judy Borré, for their dedication to this special mission.

Interested in joining us? You do not need to be a member or have an affiliation with First Congregational Church. All are welcome here! Don't sew? We'll need ironers!

More information about the Sewin4Servicemen 2026 dates will be available soon.



Above left: Jean Trotman presents a lap quilt to a deserving veteran at Brookdale.

Above right: Marcia Magee honors another veteran with a quilt as his fluffy friend peeks through.



Pictured Left: Marcia Magee presents a quilt to a deserving veteran at Brookdale. Above: Joan Boudle, Susan Leslie, Judy Borr , Buzz from the American Legion, and Patti McGrath.

In September, some of our church members who participated in the Sewin'4Servicemen quilting days last winter were on hand to present the lap quilts to a few veterans at The Village at Buckland Court. After the lap quilt ceremony concluded, they visited with First Church members, Marilyn Senger and Jo McGilvary.



Pictured above from left to right: Marcia Magee, Mary Crittenden, Judy Borr , Jo McGilvary, and seated in front is Marilyn Senger.

**First Congregational Church - South Windsor  
Holiday Fair**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Order Form for Cemetery Boxes  
Orders must be into the church  
by November 30, 2025**

Name

Address

Phone number

Email

**PLAIN** (greens, pinecones, ribbon)

Small are \$20 per box

# boxes Total

Large are \$25 per box

# boxes Total

**EMBELLISHED** (greens, pinecones, ribbon, ornaments, etc.)

Small are \$25 per box

# boxes Total

Large are \$33 per box

# boxes Total

**Total enclosed**

**Check #**

Orders must be accompanied with payment (make checks payable to First Congregational Church). Pre-orders may be picked up Tuesday, 12/2 to Friday, 12/5; but no later than noon on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Pre orders are limited. First 20 orders are guaranteed.  
Others to be completed as time and resources allow.**

**Please plan ahead.**

## *Greens for the Holiday Fair*

We will once again be creating holiday boxes, boxwood trees and fresh arrangements for the home/office/etc. We need many volunteers, experienced or not (we are happy to show you how). Come once or come often. We are grateful for any time you can donate. The greens are a major draw and many hands make this important part of the fair a success.

The order form for holiday boxes is included in this newsletter. Completed forms and payment may be left at the church office, in the UCW mail box or given to me.

We will start on orders for the boxes beginning Sunday afternoon, November 30th, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. The rest of the week, we will work Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to TBD, but will be open later one evening yet to be decided. Please let me know if you prefer to work in the evening. We will be cleaning up on Friday morning and setting up for opening at 5:00 p.m. Please bring your own clippers, garden gloves and food. Greens, bows and embellishments will be provided.

Please contact me, Vicky Margiott (C: 860-614-5449) or Terry Belknap (C: 860-798-9166) if you have fresh greens to contribute. We are looking for holly, white pine, scotch pine, juniper, yew, or any evergreen that you have. Cuttings can be left on the lawn behind the church on Friday or Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, November 28th or 29th.

If you have any questions, contact Jean Trotman at any of the below, but if you call, I prefer that you use my cell number:

H: 860-289-7637

C: 860-690-9071 If you choose to text me, please leave your name. If you want to talk to me and I don't answer, please leave a message including your name.

Email: jtrotman3@cox.net

*Missions Committee*

Nancy Stearns

The Missions committee has partnered with Hands on Hartford for several years. Below is a web address to a video they presented at a recent fundraiser and included in their newsletter. It is 13 minutes long and describes the various programs and assistance they offer to people in need. The SW Director of Human Services said that South Windsor residents who become homeless often find their way to Hartford for services.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL7nGbZ\\_Bfs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL7nGbZ_Bfs)



The Missions committee delivered 10 backpacks to MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches) for homeless individuals they or the police encounter who have not yet connected with MACC for services. The backpacks contain winter hats, gloves, socks, underwear, toiletries and snacks. MACC is currently serving close to 60 homeless individuals.

This year our church is sponsoring a few of the 270 families served by MACC for our Christmas Gift Giving. We will provide a \$25 gift card for a holiday dinner and a \$35 gift card as a Christmas present for each person. The gift cards for food should be purchased at

Walmart, Stop & Shop, ShopRite, or Big Y, while the Christmas present gift cards should be purchased at Walmart or Target. We will have a Christmas tree in the lower hall decorated with envelopes marked for each person we are sponsoring. If you are able to help with this project, please take an envelope (or more) and sign your name on the sign-up sheet next to the corresponding number of the person you are assisting. Please deliver the gift cards to church in the envelope any time in November - but NO LATER than November 30th. We need to deliver them to MACC early in December so they can be distributed to the families.

### *Crop Walk for Hunger 2025*

Vicky Margiott



Thanks to all who supported the Crop Walk. Our team received many donations, which are much needed this year. Rick Whiten, Paul, and I represented First Church. I wore a sign so passersby would know about our mission. We received many honks and waves in support of our fight to end hunger.



### *Church Historian*

Mary Crittenden

As we saw last month, Deacon Allen purchased two silver communion tankards in 1867 for \$23. He gave the old ones to the Mission Society of Connecticut to be given to a more needy church.

Going to an earlier date, in 1756 in our Church Notes (vol. 2): "Voted that the officers of the church be a committee to ascertain the cost (and if they deem it expedient) to exchange the tankards and platters of the Communion Service, for silver or plated ones and pay for them from funds of the church." There is no follow-up to let us know what they decided or did.

However, I have found two sources that tell us that instead of buying new communion cups, the church was given two by Roger Wolcott. They are described in two published books:

From the Memorial of Henry Wolcott, we learn that there were pieces that stayed in the Family and also that were given to our church as stated below:

The church in South Windsor has two valuable communion cups of silver, which he ordered from England and presented to it, bearing the initials, the one of his own names, the other of his wife's, with the date: "R. W. 1756," "S. W. 1756." It is not improbable that all these pieces were procured at the same time. (p 120).

However, the second author names a different silversmith for these.

The next ... is John Potwine, who was born in Boston in 1698, and followed his trade there until about 1737, when he moved to Hartford. For a time, he seems to have continued as a silversmith, for three beakers made by him are owned by the Congregational Church, Durham, and two by the church in South Windsor. He was a silversmith of very high order. He was apparently for a while in partnership in Hartford with a man named Whiting, and later was a merchant in Coventry and East Windsor, dying in the latter place in 1792. <sup>1</sup> (pp 49-50)

The Congregational Church in South Windsor owns two beautiful beakers made by John Potwine, a silversmith of that vicinity, and presented by Governor Roger Wolcott in 1756. <sup>1</sup> (pp 36-37)

We may do a bit of questioning here about the communion tankards purchased by Deacon Allen and the old ones he gave away.

The church must have had Communion Service before 1756. Other authors tell us that "Often the first Communion Service that a church purchased was pewter. Around 1850 or later, the churches were replacing the pewter with silver. There were churches that already had silver communion ware, had their tankards recast in a new design. Is it possible that Deacon Allan was disposing and replacing only older pewter tankards?

<sup>1</sup>Early Silver of Connecticut and Its Makers: George Munson Curtis. 1916

<sup>2</sup>Memorial of Henry Wolcott One of the First Settlers of Windsor, Connecticut and of Some of His Descendants: Samuel Wolcott. 1881

## *Thanksgiving Food Drive*

**Sunday. November 16th**

THANK YOU once again for participating in the Thanksgiving/Holiday Food Collection. Please include this check list with your donation to the **Cornerstone Food Bank**.



First Congregational Church SW Missions

Meal		Extras	
	Soup		Coffee
	Canned Fruit/Fresh Fruit		Tea
	Stuffing Mix		Flour
	Gravy Mix		Sugar
	Applesauce/Cranberry Sauce		Evaporated Milk
	Canned or Fresh Vegetables		Peanut Butter
	Instant Potatoes		Jelly
	Pie Crust/Pie Filling/Dessert Mix		Fluff
	Juice		Raisins
	Bread Mix		Oatmeal
	Cookies		Peanuts or Nuts
	Turkey Gift Certificates		Canned Ham



The First Church Missions Committee organized a service project to benefit MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches). The backpacks, stuffed with necessities and love, will make their way to those most in need of MACC's services. Thank you to all who helped to prepare these backpacks for their special delivery. **We choose love!**



## *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman



Fellowship Hall repairs are almost complete. The painter finished and carpet is installed. All doors had to be trimmed before being rehung. I expect the pod to be emptied and everything put back in its proper place by the end of October.

Those in our congregation from the Wesley Methodist church that disbanded decided to share their remaining funds with several local organizations, of which we were one. Their gift of \$12,000 for our building fund was a wonderful and greatly appreciated surprise. For the moment, the money has been put in a CD with the intention of starting a fund for the next capital improvement project.

We selected Kingston Wealth Management to help us manage our endowment assets. Carroll Stearns and Sue Larsen along with myself have signed the necessary paperwork to start the process and will be working with them to establish a plan for moving forward.

Unitech has installed a new sound system in the sanctuary and improved our options for sound elsewhere in the church. Several of our folks who have had trouble hearing in the past have praised the improvements in the sanctuary.

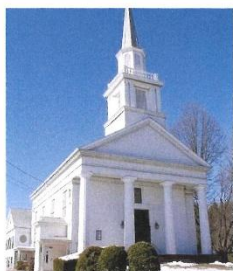
## *The Lunch Bunch*



The Lunch Bunch is the men's group that meets on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM for conversation and lunch with friends. The date for November is November 20<sup>th</sup>. Everyone brings their lunch and there is usually great coffee served. The group meets in Fellowship Hall.

# First Congregational Church

## 78<sup>th</sup> Heritage Holiday Fair



993 Main Street  
South Windsor, Connecticut

### Booths include:

Homemade Fudge  
Home Baked Treats  
Vintage Jewelry  
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip  
Rada Cutlery  
Handmade Ornaments & Decorations  
Hand-painted Gifts  
Cemetery Boxes  
Fresh Greens Arrangements  
Artificial Greens & Wreaths  
plus  
Treasure Trove and *MORE!*

### Fair Hours:

**Friday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

5 pm – 8 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

9 am – 2 pm

**AND returning this year:**

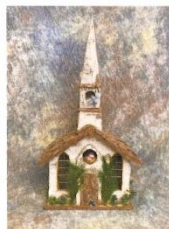
**Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

1 pm - 4 pm

Free Admission *ALL* Days!



[www.firstchurchsw.org](http://www.firstchurchsw.org)



Church Fair Flyers are available now in the church office. Please consider helping us spread the word. If you have a place you frequent, we would love for you to share our fair flyer. Carrie can also send you a copy by email, if that is easier.

## *Church Family News*



Kevin Greco	11/03	Carroll Stearns	11/18
Benjamin Lopata	11/04	Emily Dalpe	11/26
Becca Clark	11/09	Les Clapp	11/27
Oscar Soares	11/09	Noah Chaponis	11/30
Owen Soares	11/09		



The Addington Family  
 The Belknap Family  
 Joyce Coon  
 The Charette Family  
 Carol Mattera  
 Doris Burgdorf  
 Della Mitchell

Iva Burnham  
 The Tripp Family  
 The Burnham Family  
 Bob Woodward  
 The McIntosh Family  
 Lee Anderson  
 Don Sharp

## *Church Office Hours*

Hours are normally Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.

## *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **December 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **November 14<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion:

[firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) ~ Thanks!



## *Updated Church Directories are here!*



An updated Church directory is now available in the church office. You will find additional copies in the narthex and in the back-office stairwell on Sundays. They are green. Please contact Carrie if you need a copy sent via email.

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TO: