

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

June 2018

All things are possible with God's help! We recently completed a full complement of lively events in the past month here at First Congregational Church of South Windsor: Our Shared History Day on April 28, the Scholarship Fundraiser Tag Sale on May 5, Church Clean Up Day on May 12 and Adopt-A-Road cleaning of Governor's Boulevard on May 19, in addition to day-to-day ministries by this church community and even a hymn sing. Many souls assembled to support these mission and stewardship initiatives, donating time, talents, things and financial support to make these events possible.

Along with the sense of satisfaction and 'well done,' that working together in Christ as community can provide, there's also a palpable sigh of relief for some as summer approaches. The church program and school years come to a close and vacations are planned, bringing with them the prospect of rest, relaxation and fun in the sun. Although worship and fellowship together remain utmost in our minds, so too, should fun!

I can't help but share the phrase that just popped into my head: "Fun in the Son." This could be a throwback to a clever camp week conference name at our UCC Silver Lake Conference Center in the early 2000's. We could all use some "Fun in the Son." At any rate, it is a good reminder that God and God's Son took time out to rest and yes, perhaps even have fun, after much work had been accomplished - Sabbath time. Even in the midst of the drama of Creation and Jesus' life on earth, we are told each took time to recharge.

Most notably, God's Sabbath time following God's cosmically prolific creation of the earth and *every* living thing comes to mind: "*Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creating that God had done*" (Genesis 2:3).

Likewise Jesus took many opportunities to flee "far from the maddening crowds." to rest and recharge: "*Because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to /his disciples/. 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. 'So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place'*" (Mark 6:31-32).

We all know that feeling: when we just can't lift another box of tag sale stuff, give another tour, pick up another piece of litter, scrub another chandelier, or talk to one more person about another idea or item of church business! We just want to go away to a "solitary place" and rest! Sabbath rest!

It is important to remember that God wants us to take care of ourselves. In the midst of all that we do, we must go back to the basics and remember that *even God* and Jesus needed rest after completing appointed tasks. The concept of *sabbath* resting from our labors is essential to the well-being of all living things. And God knew it long before now!

Preaching professor Tom Long says in a recent *Christian Century* article: "The sabbath is about participating in and anticipating God's rest and God's justice for all." Sabbath is a mindset, to be practiced regularly. We observe the Sabbath, but we must also practice sabbath.

Long continues, "The sabbath is a way of life, way of training one's attention, that leads to the life that really is life. Deep in its disciplines, is the goal of clearing away life's clutter and focusing on what truly matters."

Earth must rest; fields are to be left fallow; flowers bloom, then wither and die, the plant rests. Rhythmic seasons come and go, allowing for the cycle of nature to recharge, honoring God's Holy Plan -sabbath. Why not us?

Friends, take time for yourselves to reconnect with God, the One who made you. Find that place, physical and spiritual, that leads you to rejuvenation. Whether using your mind, body or spirit, or any combination thereof, take time to get to that place that feeds your spirit and offers you the peace beyond all understanding.

Scripture tells us that playing and resting are essential to our well-being. May fun in the sun bring you closer to 'Fun in the Son.' May you find your special time with your life-giving God, whether it be in worship, at a concert, in the garden, at the shore, running, on the back porch or sitting quietly on a rock, contemplating the flight of the Great Blue Heron; wherever you seek it, may God's sabbath find you and restore you. And may you find that the peace of your sabbath time spills over and is passed on to others.

Restfully,

Nina

¹www.newsletter@christiancentury.org, *Sunday's Coming: Tom Long on the sabbath as a way of life. Christian Century.* Accessed Tuesday, May 29, 2018.

²Ibid

Church Committee

*Jean J
Church Clerk*

- May's meeting was cancelled due to the threatening storms passing through the area prior to meeting time.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend, whether or not you serve on a board or committee.

How We Communicate

We will be welcoming Dr. Ron Casey on June 3rd as our Second Hour speaker. A light luncheon will be served as we enjoy Dr. Casey's words of wisdom on "How We Communicate." This is an important subject both personally and corporately for our church community in the world. He was originally scheduled as one of our "Crossing the Road with Christ: Cultivating a Changing Worldview" speakers this past winter.

Dr. Ron Casey is a licensed psychologist. He has been in private practice as a psychotherapist since 1980. Ron has worked with the Center for Creative Leadership's leadership development programs since 1988. In this role he provides consultation and coaching to executives, managers and other leaders from a wide range of professional settings. Ron offers similar services through Impact Leadership Development



Group. Ron is currently the consulting psychologist to the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and directs a program of psychological services for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Ron was an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**June 10th**) we collect items for a food pantry. We have learned from Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services, Town of South Windsor that "We need CEREAL in a big way, so that would be the only thing I would request at this time." These donations are appreciated greatly.



Church Picnic

Our church will hold a picnic on **June 10**. The



Trustees have graciously offered to grill the burgers and dogs. The CE committee has offered to provide desserts. That leaves the salads, paper goods and drinks to the rest of the us. A sign-up sheet for food items, set up and clean up, and attendance are located on the table in the Fellowship

Hall. Any questions, please see Terry Belknap.

Trustees News

Carroll

The nine new replacement windows for the upper level of the addition have been installed by our contractor Phil Dunham. The 60+ year old windows did not leave without a fight however which caused the unanticipated loss of interior trim. Replacement trim has been selected and will be installed this month. Trustees will then arrange for painting of the interior woodwork of the three affected rooms as well as the walls of the pastors study. Thank you to George Cox and Art Dunham for shepherding the project.

Trustees have received an initial proposal for upgrading the fire alarm system from RKS Security which we have reviewed and returned for minor changes. This upgrade has several improvements over our current fire detection system:

- It expands the coverage of fire sensors within the church and Wolcott building to include areas not previously covered including most noticeably the sanctuary.
- The Wolcott building will now be included for remote monitoring by the monitoring service.
- The monitoring service will now be able to differentiate between fire alarms, power outages and furnace failures thereby reducing the number of false alarms.
- Responding fire personnel will now be able to pinpoint the location of the fire upon arrival using the addressable alarm panel.

We are hopeful that this project can be completed prior to the end of the summer.



Our Shared History: Old Main Street

Over 50 guests attended 'Our Shared History Day' open house on April 28, in conjunction with the Wood Library and Ellsworth School open houses celebrating the founding of East Windsor. Guests were greeted by the Rev. Timothy Edwards (Jim



Belknap) and Mrs. Edwards (Mary Wild), Kip Dalpe and Eden Dalpe. Lynda Jones and Ingrid Fraize assisted Mary Crittenden as docents in the sanctuary.

We displayed most of our antique silver communion service in the Memorial Cabinet. Marilyn Senger and Julia Reynolds were

hostesses in the Chapel. Edie and Bob Starr displayed material on the Edwards Family as well as others. A highlight for guests was the Starrs' original 'Edwards Chair.' Laura Klein and Diane Archambault guided visitors down to Fellowship Hall to observe the Sewin4Servicemen community quilters busily finishing up the 125 quilts to be distributed to local veterans. Past, Present and Future at work!!

Church DEACONS

Deacon's News

Mary

A Diaconate Meeting was held on Sunday, May 13.

June 3, we will host Dr. Ron Casey for the Second Hour presentation on "How We Communicate" after worship. We are planning to purchase wraps for a heartier coffee hour. Dr. Casey is an engaging and fun speaker. Please support this timely event!

We have added an Introit to the order of Sunday services between the Announcements and Call to Worship to provide reflective time before beginning worship. It has been well received. The next meeting is after worship, Sunday, June 17.

Answer: We will serve the Lord ... and obey him.
Joshua 24:24, NIV

UCW

The UCW held their annual meeting at South Windsor Pizza on May 16, 2018.

Nina led us in prayer before our delicious dinner was served to the sixteen who attended that evening. A brief meeting was held.



Outgoing President, Diane Archambault, thanked all who participated in the kitchen clean up. Thank you George Cox for running the dishwasher for us. Kitchen inspection is rescheduled for June.

Our April tag sale was very successful, but required a lot of work to set up and run. Approximately \$1,400.00 We will be giving out two \$200.00 scholarships out of the proceeds this year. Monies left over will be saved for future scholarships as our youth grow.

We next voted on the slate for new officers: Co-Presidents: Ingrid Fraize and Rachel Anderson, Vice President: Jean Trotman, Secretary: Mary Ann Novak. and Treasurer: Judy Borre.

The group thanks Diane for her service these past two years. Recognition was given to our church administrator Claudia Steele for all she does for this group.

Box Tops for Education

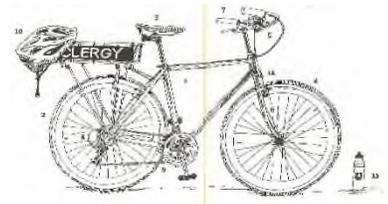
UCW (United Church Women) continue to collect the Box Tops for Education. These proof of purchase coupons, trimmed from the package or label are then given to the South



Windsor Public Schools where they will be utilized to supplement the needs of the schools. See the UCW bulletin board for a complete list of products. Please note that the Labels of Education (Campbell) will close May 31st.

Summer Worship Fun

Notice to all present, past and future cyclists: get your bicycles and bicycle memories 'revved' up and keep your eyes and spirits open for this summer's "Holy Spokes!" fun inspired by the Rev. Laura Everett's book, *holy spokes*.



Holiday Fair News

Linda

Production continues in the warehouse with the following dates changed to **Tuesday nights: June 5,12,19,26**. Then we will take a break for summer with projects being worked on at home. Meetings will return on **Mondays starting on July 30th from 6:30-8:30 until fair week**.

We are looking for extra handles that come in the box with swiffer dusters. Also, if you happen to visit tag sales, we are on the look out for scrapbooking paper punches. Gramma's Attic and Treasure Trove items will be collected so as you do summer/fall cleaning please keep us in mind. Remember there is a space limitation in the Wolcott building to display our goods so we will not be taking in large items/furniture for our Christmas fair.

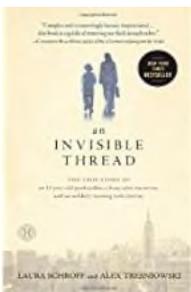


As always we welcome newcomers to our workshops. Bring something that you'd like to have extra help to assemble, or bring new ideas. We are gathering items for our themed raffle baskets as well as interesting new items for the silent "teacup" auction.

A finalized list of the basket themes will be posted on our bulletin board in early June but they will definitely include the most popular Staycation, UCONN, A Time for Me, Garden Paradise, and Family Fun Night with several other special ideas being discussed. There are many ways that you can help to make these baskets special. Ask Linda or Maryanne for more information or ideas.

Book Group

The May Book Group meeting was postponed until June 13th at Noon. They will be discussing "The Invisible Thread" by *Laura Schroff*. Bring your bag lunch. If the weather is nice, we might meet outside.



This inspirational *New York Times* bestseller chronicles the lifelong friendship between a busy sales executive and a disadvantaged young boy, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness. A *straightforward tale of kindness*

and paying it forward in 1980s New York....an uplifting reminder that small gestures matter-Kirkus Reviews.

Tom Clough, UCC Eastern Regional Director, to retire

We recently learned that The Rev. Dr. Thomas Clough -- our Regional Director, mentor, guide, counselor, and friend for the past seven years -- will retire on June 30. In his letter he states that "These have been exciting and challenging times of transition for the 61 congregations of God's Favorite Region." Tom was proactive in caring for churches in our area, and brought wisdom and new strategies to help churches deal with changing times.

Tom was ordained in 1981 and has served faithfully for 37 years. Thank you, Tom, for all your support for First Congregational Church of South Windsor! You will be dearly missed, along with your astute discernment and sense of humor!. The Trustees are sending a donation to his retirement gift sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the UCC. We send blessings on this next chapter for Tom. The Rev. Chuck Ericson will serve as interim Regional Minister.



Adopt a Road

On May 19, fifteen intrepid souls from our congregation braved the elements to fulfill our responsibility to the town of South Windsor under



the Adopt-A-Road program. Under at-first cloudy skies, we broke up into four groups to collect trash on Governors Highway from Main Street to Belden Road. We finished a couple hours later in a steady rain with 15 bags of trash to our credit. Thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile program and who took obvious pride in maintaining a clean and attractive environment. Thanks to Jim for heading up this effort!

Christian Education News

The Church School staff and students have been busy preparing for Children's Day on Sunday, June 10th. This service is always an enjoyable and memorable service. Parents and guardians are reminded to have their children to church on the 10th at 9:30 a.m. We look forward to the message that the children have for us.

On May 20th, several Christian Education volunteers, along with Nina, travelled to Silver Lake for their Annual Open House. Adrienne Andrews shared photos (see below). You will need to use your imagination to get a feel of what it is like with 250 young people laughing, worshipping, swimming, climbing, learning, eating and experiencing God in this beautiful setting. This year we have three children attending!



Photo credit: South Windsor Patch posting
accessed: 05/30/18

Celebrate Merger of Temple Beth Hillel and Congregation Beth Ahm June 24, 2018

These two congregations will be walking ten miles from Windsor to Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor, carrying Torah and wedding canopies. This is both a joyful and sad occasion, as the congregation at Temple Beth Ahm closes its doors, but joins in faithful fellowship with its new friends. First Congregational Church of South Windsor is along their route, and they will be stopping here for a brief pit stop and blessing sometime around 1pm before completing the remaining 1.9 miles to Temple Beth Hillel on Baker Lane. Our congregation is invited to come out to provide hospitality, support and witness this historic and spiritually life-giving event. More details to come!

Living proof

Have you ever realized that you can give things to God that are of value to him? Or are you just sitting around daydreaming about the greatness of his redemption, while neglecting all the things you could be doing for him? I'm not referring to works which could be regarded as divine and miraculous, but ordinary, simple human things — things which would be evidence to God that you are totally surrendered to him.

—Oswald Chambers



Clockwise from top left : Camp store, Cabins, Waterfront, Camp garden, Nina climbing the hill back from the waterfront.

Church Family News



Sean	06/02
Julia	06/05
James	06/09
Tyler	06/09
Eden	06/10
Lauren	06/20
Eric	06/24
Chevy	06/25
George	06/29
Bob	06/29
Colby	06/30



Lee and Rachel	06/14
Marty and Lisa	06/18
David and Chenoa	06/19
Art and Lee	06/20
Michael and Ruth	06/23
Douglas and Heather	06/23



Joyce and Wayne	Lorraine
Bev	Shirley
Doris	Vibert
Bruce	



Send them a note today!

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

Lorraine
1693 John Fitch Blvd
South Windsor, CT 06074

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 **June 21st**. Founded as a gathering for retired men, it is open to anyone who wants to visit over a brown bag lunch.



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter will be the July/August edition. Please have your articles in to the church office by 9 am on the 14th of June. Articles can be submitted electronically or left in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox. The newsletter does not write itself!!!! We need your input. Thank you!

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

*More Pictures from
Our Shared History
April 28, 2018*



Clockwise from top left: Lauren and Marcia staff the table exhibit at Ellsworth School; Rev. & Mrs. Timothy Edwards (aka James and Mary), Elise and Doris, Ellsworth School Alum. Ellsworth School pictures by Joan and First Congregational Church photo by Nina Schmid.

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours , unless otherwise noted Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid – Drop In Office Hours are: Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:30 pm, other times by appointment Claudia Steele, Administrative Assistant – 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	4 9:00am Clergy group	5 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St 7:00pm NA	6 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	7	8	9
10 Food Ingathering 10:00am Worship 11:30am Church Picnic	11	12 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St 6:30pm Church Committee 7:00pm NA	13 10:00 am Creative Hands Noon Book Group 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
					Tri-Conference	
17 Father's Day Tools for Hope Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee hour	18	19 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St 7:00pm NA	20 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	21 11:30am Lunch Bunch	22	23
24 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee hour	25	26 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St 7:00pm NA	27 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	28	29	30

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Staff:

Minister: Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid
Organist: Kamilla Mammedova
Administrative Assistant: Claudia Steele
Sexton: (needed)

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Fair Workshops 06/05, 12, 19, 26
Creative Hands 06/06, 13, 20, 27
Photo Archive Team..... 06/06, 13, 20, 27
Church Committee 06/12
Book Group 06/13
Newsletter Article Deadline 06/14
Tri-Conference..... 06/15-16
Deacon's Meeting..... 06/17
Lunch Bunch 06/21

TO:



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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF

“In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes,
 and every sunset is different.”
 —John Steinbeck, *The Winter of Our Discontent*