

# Main Street Musings

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



January 2026

## Making it Home

This January, I will have been with First Church for two years. Yes, it was a challenge to leave Wisconsin for a place I had never been. I was scared and wondering what all of you may be like, I was afraid of not meeting your expectations; sad at times as I remember the familiar. I had left behind my home!

But in these two years, I have made this unfamiliar place my home. I have come to love and accept this home and my church family! I have enjoyed new sights on my travels, like NYC (I love it!) and look forward to exploring yet more new adventures.

I still get homesick for my beloved Wisconsin and midwestern hospitality, but your acceptance of me has made this transition a bit easier. This is such an environment of love and acceptance, I flourish and grow and am able to give you my best! This will continue into the next two years and get even better. May First Church offer a home where all may flourish and grow; where, as a family, we can offer our sad, our happy and give our best making others adjustments easier, like you made mine! Happy New Year, Happy Anniversary!

Pastor Dean

### Pastor Dean's Hours & Office

#### Schedule:

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm;  
Monday: Off



Above: Pastor Dean and Wendy Leonard light the Advent candles for worship.

**WARNING**

**Official notice is hereby given that the 328th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in South Windsor, Connecticut, will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 18th, 2026 after the Morning Service, as well as via Zoom.**

**For the purpose of:**

- 1. Accepting the Board and Committee Reports for 2025.**
- 2. Electing church officers/board/committees and personnel for 2026.**
- 3. Approving the Operating Budget for 2026.**
- 4. Enacting any other business that may legally come before this meeting.**

**Jean Jackson, Clerk**

**Judy Borre, Moderator**

**Inclement weather date – January 25, 2026**

## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held December 9, 2025 -



- Treasurer's report - October and November reports were available. October's expenses were \$28,805.89. Income was \$29,508.02. Surplus for October was \$702.13; deficit year-to-date was \$15,447.24. Per Sue Larsen, October was an uneventful month. November's expenses were \$36,493.42. Income was \$57,095.00. The increase in income was due in part to receiving \$17,000 from the Trust fund to help cover expenses. Bills for the floor will appear in the December report. Surplus for the month of November is \$20,601.58; surplus year-to-date is \$5,154.34.
- Investments - Sue Larsen has not seen an investment report from Kingston Wealth Management yet, nor has Jean Trotman.
- The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026 following the morning service; time is 11:30 am; in person and via Zoom. The Diaconate will provide a light lunch for those attending. We encourage everyone to attend as we need a quorum of 25 to approve reports, the nominating slate, and the operating budget for 2026. Inclement weather date is January 25, 2026.

## *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield



The sanctuary piano and the Fellowship Hall piano were tuned November 13. The organ was tuned November 23.

## *Save the Date!*

Sunday, March 22, 2026, *Take Note!* will present a fundraising concert here at First Church, at 3:00 pm. *Take Note!* is an A cappella 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.

## *Many Hands Make Lighter Work*

First Church is thankful to everyone for their continued hard work and dedication to make our holiday fair the success that it is. We couldn't continue to do it without all of the help before, during and after.



*Celebrating 78 Years of our Church Fair*

## *Hanging of the Chrismons*

Decorating the tree during Advent is a First Church tradition.

Chrismons are white and gold Christmas ornaments featuring ancient Christian symbols that tell the story of Christ. The word is a combination of "Christ" and "monogram".





### *UCW Banquet*

UCW is celebrating the end of an amazing year culminating with a successful fair. We have booked **Lena's for Thursday, January 15th at 5:30.** \$25 pp. See Linda Dalpe with questions. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board outside the men's restroom.

Buffet menu:

- assorted cheese and vegetable tray with crackers, garden salad, eggplant parm, chicken francaise, baked scrod, roasted red bliss potatoes, cake.



Above: Jim Belknap and Rick Whitin help load up two small SUVs with Thanksgiving food donations. At right and below: First Church continues the long tradition of hosting the warm up after Wreaths Across America wreaths are placed in Center Cemetery by local scouts and families.



*Lap Quilt Distribution at The Village*

Lap Quilts made by the Sewin4Servicemen group were distributed to deserving veterans at The Village of Buckland in November.

*Dates for the 2026 Sewin4Servicemen Sewins*

*Saturday, January 24, 2026*

*Saturday, February 28, 2026*

*Saturday, March 28, 2026*

*Saturday, April 25, 2026*

Interested in participating? Contact the church office or Judy Borré for details.



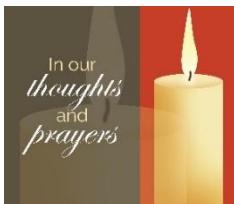
## *Pre-Thanksgiving Interfaith Service*

The Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Service was held at Wapping Community Church on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. We are delighted to continue the tradition of worshipping with many faiths. We celebrated with readings, beautiful music, and songs. Every year, we continue to grow with more participation from clergy and attendees. Thank you all for coming in support of this special community worship service!



## *Church Family News*

Betty Couture	01/04	Ryan Zaugg	01/26
Everett Cote	01/04	Lauren Clarke	01/27
Mary Pelton	01/04	Tracy Margiott	01/27
Leilani Dinse	01/06	Stephen Johnson	01/28
Chenoa Anderson	01/07	Carolyn Stearns	01/28
Chris Kurtzman	01/11	June Aino	01/30
Jared Clarke	01/25	Aimee Bombara	01/31
Rebecca Zaugg	01/26	Morgan Gobin	01/31



*I would like to thank all who helped our family during this trying time. The beautiful luncheon. The nice funeral from Dean, all of Carrie's work on bulletins and other things. The cards, calls and visits were greatly appreciated. It was such a great outpouring from a wonderful church.*

-Rachel Anderson

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

Iva Burnham  
 Bob Woodward  
 The McIntosh Family  
 The Anderson Family  
 The Sharp Family  
 Eric Horsfield

## *Church Office Hours*

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

## *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **February 2026**. Please send your submissions and photos to the church office by **January 16<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion: [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) ~ Thank you!



## *Annual Report Deadlines to Carrie*

Committee Reports due January 2, 2026.  
 Financial Reports due January 9, 2026. Thanks!

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TO: