

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



December 2024

Greetings,

As I near my first year of serving First Congregational Church, I am amazed at how quickly time flies! What will happen as we prepare for another year? There will be a time to gather our discernment discussions into an assessment of how we have done, what we have accomplished, and what we wish to accomplish in the next year. An assessment of the pastor will take place and a time of discussing a plan for ministry will ensue. At the same time, Pastor will give an assessment of the congregation and what he would like to see accomplished in his next year among us. This will be a time to hear constructive ideas, offer support and encourage one another. It will not be a time for personal attacks or complaints. The goal is to create a space to share ideas and encourage one another to forge a hopeful and healthy future for First Church. We have accomplished much already and are seeing growth and a reclamation of your church. You are all beginning to see that the future is open and you all have the power to mold a future of joy and meaning. Nothing is written in stone and new ideas and activities, even when they fail, spawn new ideas and creative programs. I am encouraged by what I hear from many during our discernment discussions! But we need the whole church involved at this time, every voice counts. If you do not speak up, you compromise your hope in seeing a stronger First Church. Your ideas will not be heard; your contribution goes unheard and unseen. A new year is upon us and it promises to be great. We need everyone to join the conversation. For now, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

See you in church!

Pastor Dean

**Pastor Dean's Winter Hours & Office Schedule:
Tuesday - Friday 8am - 1:30pm; Monday: Off**



Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held November 12, 2024 -

- Treasurer's report - October's report was shared via email. Income was \$25,727.59. Income includes \$10,000 received from the brokerage account to cover expenses and \$11,413.16 in Capital Funds. Sue Larsen noted that the balance of the Capital Funds were removed this month as well to be placed in a new account. Expenses were \$25,539.18. Surplus for October was \$188.41; year-to-date deficit is \$14,911.64.
- Investments - The brokerage account saw a decrease in the investment value of \$42,662.97 in October. A total of \$13,981.22 was withdrawn to cover expenses, while dividends and interest received added \$4,511.51, resulting in a net decrease of \$56,644.19. The ending balance for October is \$2,171,591.13. No changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.



Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

The sanctuary piano will be tuned November 26.

A small group of chimers will take part in the Thanksgiving Interfaith service November 26.



Christmas Concert
PROGRAM

South United
Methodist Church,

1226 Main St., Manchester, is presenting

their Candlelight Concert on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 4:30 pm. Featured is the Chancel Concert Choir and Wildfire, SUMC's praise band. An additional treat - SUMC's new pastor, Rev. Taesung Kang will join the choir for "O Holy Night" as the soloist. Join us in celebrating the Christmas season! See Jean Jackson, a member of the concert choir, for more information.

Moderator's Moment

Judy Borré

2025 First Congregational Church Annual Meeting

It's that time again – our Annual Meeting. The date has been set for Sunday, January 26, 2025 and will be held in Fellowship Hall. The inclement weather date is the following Sunday, February 2, 2025.

Committee chairs should provide me with their slate of members by December 29, 2024. No nominations from the floor will be accepted. After the slate has been presented to the membership, if someone would like to fill a vacancy on a committee then they should talk to the committee chair. The committee in question will vote on membership.

Committee reports should be submitted to Carrie by January 3, 2025.
Financials submitted by January 10, 2025.

As in the past, the Diaconate will be catering the meeting. If you would like to provide something such as desserts, please talk to Barb Wright.

Missions Committee

Rachel Anderson, Terry Belknap, Chevy Ricketts, Nancy Stearns, &
Elsie Woolam

Thanks to all of you who donated to Neighbors in Need last month. We were able to send \$350 to UCC.

Our thanks also to those who gave to the Thanksgiving food drive. Not only did we send a car full of bags of food, but also several boxes of hand and foot warmers as well to MACC.

Our Christmas gift drive this year will be to once again collect gift cards for Interval House, a safe house whose mission is to work to end domestic violence. They get referrals of nearly 100 women a month, so their needs are many.

These gift cards are given to families who have fled domestic violence so they can buy items such as food and personal care items while they are sheltered by Interval House. The amount of each card should be \$25 to \$50 each. Stores recommended are CVS,

Walgreens, Large grocery stores, Walmart, and Target. These will be collected on December 15.

We also support Interval House annually with a monetary gift. If you have questions please ask one of our missions members.

Deacons

Barb Wright

The Deacons met this month and discussed plans for the Interfaith Service to be held Nov. 26 at 6:30 P.M. Pastor Dean has the service put together, UCW will handle refreshments. Jim and Terry Belknap will usher.

We will be bringing the sanctuary decorations for Christmas down from the attic Sunday, Nov. 24.

We will be decorating the sanctuary for Advent on Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 A.M. If anyone would like to join us, we would appreciate the help.

We also discussed the Advent services. Pastor Dean will ask some people from the congregation to participate in lighting the Advent Candles, culminating with the Christ candle being lit on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Eve Service will be at 8:00 P.M. We will be having a harpist perform at that service.

The next meeting will be December 8.

Trustees News

Jean Trotman

The capital fund raising efforts continue. The Ladies Night Out raised \$2,000 and we continue to consider other ways to raise the funds needed to repair our floor. A conversation with a professional grant writer gave us some additional ideas for refining our approach to searching for available funds.

The north side of the church has now been power washed.

Additional lighting for the back and north side of the church has been approved, but we don't yet have an installation date.



Sunday, November 10th was a special worship service here at First Church. In honor of Veterans Day, all of the handmade patriotic lap quilts sewn last winter by the Sewin4Servicemen group led by Judy Borré, were dedicated and blessed. With the help of the American Legion Post #133 Abe E. Miller of South Windsor, these quilts will be distributed to local veterans residing in assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the local area. Just a beautiful splash of red, white and blue as far as the eye could see.

Church Family News



Chris Bombara	12/03	Katelyn Whitin	12/16
Linda Dalpe	12/07	Judy Borré	12/20
Christine Virr	12/08	Carol Mattera	12/21
Tim Nicholson	12/11	Wyatt Cote	12/22
Liisa Whitin	12/12	Jade Paul	12/23
David Anderson	12/14	Jean Trotman	12/25
Erin Jones	12/15	Byron Smith	12/26
Bruce Burnham	12/16	Aaron Kurtzman	12/31



Doris Burgdorf
Della Mitchell
Cliff McClellan
The Cox Family

The Zaugg Family
Joyce Coon
Bob Woodward
Carol Mattera

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **January 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **Dec. 13th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thanks!



Church Office Hours

Hours are typically Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm.
Please note: The office will be closed for Christmas on 12/24, 12/25, 12/26 and closed New Year's Day 1/1/25.



Annual Report Deadlines to Carrie

Committee Reports due January 3, 2025.
Financial Reports due January 10, 2025. *Thanks!*



First Congregational Church 77th Heritage Holiday Fair

993 Main Street
South Windsor, Connecticut
www.firstchurchsw.org

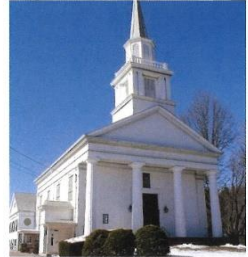
Booths include:
Homemade Fudge
Home Baked Treats
Vintage Jewelry
Ornaments and Decorations
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip
Rada Cutlery

Cemetery Boxes
Fresh Greens Arrangements
Artificial Greens & Wreaths

Treasure Trove and MORE!

Friday, Dec. 6th
5pm - 8pm
Saturday, Dec. 7th
9am - 2pm

Free Admission Both Days!



Don't forget to stop by our church fair! A special surprise: we will be extending our hours to include Sunday, December 8th from noon – 4pm for any last-minute gift shopping! Local, handmade, unique and affordable gifts for everyone on your list! Tell your neighbors, friends and family. The proceeds from our fair will go towards the repairs needed to the basement floor of our historic church.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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TO: