

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



August 2025



Good news! We are reaching our goals! I am happy to announce that the new floor is in place. In September, there will be a potluck dinner and an official dedication of our new basement. Plans for this event are in the making. The dinner will be held on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Our mission statement was reviewed on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. A discussion followed, a vote was taken, and we will need to work on it some more. The next Vision Forward Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, following worship, to work on the mission statement.

Soon, coffee time will resume (to be announced). Thank you to all who continued to attend Sunday service even when no coffee or fellowship followed due to construction. Your loyalty is appreciated!

We continue to experiment with summer worship using our new supplement, Elemental Joy, and offering a shorter summer service. Again, thank you to those who support our church in the summer months.

Small advances lead to big results. You are part of that – in helping to reach our many goals.

Dr. Dean Kučera



**Pastor Dean's Summer Hours & Office Schedule:**  
**Tuesday - Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm; Monday: Off**



## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held July 8, 2025 -



- Treasurer's report - Sue Larsen did not receive the June report from Brooks. It will be sent via email once Sue has it.
- Investments - The brokerage account report was not available.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 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, whether or not you serve on a committee

## *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

- Jean Jackson covered Kamilla's vacation in July.
- Another 20 copies of Elemental Joy were purchased. With fluctuating attendance, the ushers at times were finding it hard to ask folks to share the limited number on hand.



## *Parish Nurse*

Melody Treadwell



The Parish Nurse has been holding open hours in the chapel on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM for anyone wishing to stop in for blood pressure or blood sugar screening. Since she may also be

accompanying Pastor Dean on some home visits, she would like to ask folks to let the church office know if you will be stopping by. She doesn't want to miss anyone and can work the visits around the screenings. Please email or call Carrie in the office to confirm availability. Thanks!

## *The Edwards Center*

Barbara Wright

The Edwards Center group has met and is planning a trip to Stockbridge, MA, on August 14. We have appointments to visit the Mission House and the Stockbridge Library to view Jonathan Edwards' reading desk and other memorabilia from his time in Stockbridge. We will be carpooling. If you have an interest in joining us, please contact Edie Starr or Barb Wright.

We have previously made trips to Northampton, MA, Yale, and the Wethersfield church.

We are hoping to open our own Edwards Center in the Wolcott Building in the fall.

On September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, Elise Bernier Feeley will be here to tell us about Sarah Edwards' herb garden and how she kept her family healthy with the herbs grown in her garden. Elise is an expert on Jonathan Edwards, especially his time in Northampton.



The Mission House, Stockbridge, MA, wikipedia.org

## *Volunteer Funeral Coordinators*



Thank you to Barbara Wright and Julie Reynolds for volunteering to be our funeral coordinators. It is a vital job and we appreciate your willingness to help!

## *Holiday Fair News*

Linda Dalpe

Join us for crafting our products for the 2025 church fair.

Fridays 1:00-4:00

1090 Main St.

860-528-1936

Call or text Linda to let her know you are coming!

Bring ideas, or projects you might need supplies or help with.

Short on ideas or talent? Come anyway, we will find something for you to do.

## *Ladies Who Lunch*



Linda Dalpe

Ladies Lunch Bunch in Fellowship Hall coming soon.

No agenda...just fellowship!

Bring your lunch and a friend.

11:30-1:00

The 4th Thursday of each month starting September 25<sup>th</sup>.

### *A message from Linda Dalpe, July 6, 2025*

We've been talking a lot about change recently...in the church service, hymns, uses of the church buildings, changes in our bodies now that we aren't 30,40 anymore...or even getting used to the quiet in the house when a pet or family member is absent – perhaps forever...Change is hard...That was very apparent to me when my dad died, and the kinesics stuttering that happened around the dinner table as to who was going to sit in that empty seat. When Mom died, for a long time, Jerry and I started to have dinner in front of the TV, avoiding the decision as to who was going to sit in Mom's chair.

Each decade seems to bring on a new "issue". Last year, we even had a "come to Jesus" workshop about "I'm dead, now what" -not to deal with the legal issues of wills, (although research says only 32% of Americans actually have a will) but more about recording our personal desires, passwords, where stuff is, who gets what knick-knack etc., to help others left behind to make decisions.

Why am I bringing all of this up? Change can be scary, but it can also be freeing...of letting go, and that's where I want to go this morning... about letting go. This is beyond the Marie Kondo Japanese method of cleaning or dealing with clutter - "Does this bring me joy?" – it is much further into the "Swedish death cleaning," where one makes conscious decisions about our possessions and their significance. It's not about getting rid of everything ...whether we are talking about hymns from the blue hymnal, or a pair of shorts that (let's be real) I am never going to be that skinny again to wear them.

A few years ago, I saved a cartoon out of the newspaper. The old man opens the garage door, and it is packed to the ceiling, and he says, "And son, someday this will all be yours". And the son is looking at him in despair. I have joked with several of you about my

kids rolling in dumpsters if something happens to me... I'm not a hoarder. I've gone through a number of purges over the years for grandma's attic or treasure trove or to help someone in need. It just kills me to put good things that have life and that someone can use into the landfill. Although it doesn't help me to be extremely sentimental.

In the last newsletter, and in an announcement that I made in church, UCW is going to have a "no tag sale" tag sale. This means that we don't have to spend 3 weeks downstairs, moving it all in, organizing, washing, pricing, packing it up, and worrying about how to get rid of it. As a non-profit, First Church UCW made a partnership with Savers, and they will be writing us a check for what we collect. The tag sale delivery date is Saturday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, when we will deliver everything that we have collected. Hopefully, on that day, many hands will make light work of loading the truck or trailer.

So, we are asking for you to put gently used, clean clothing, coats, scarves, mittens, hats, shoes, belts, pocketbooks, linens, blankets, quilts, draperies, towels, etc. into black garbage bags and drop them off at my house (1090 Main St.) or under the canopy here at church. We are also taking in small household items, working appliances, dishes, cookware, glassware, utensils, knick-knacks, holiday decorations, toys, games, anything that can be put into manageable boxes, and mark them as household. Books, DVDs, CDs go into labeled boxes as such. UCW does not have to sort the bags or boxes – Simply put textiles in black bags, household items in boxes. They were specific about what they wanted, so, if in doubt, ask Carrie or me. Our biggest profit margin will be in textiles.

Back to tying this announcement into change and letting go, which is why I asked Pastor Dean to let me speak for a few minutes today.

Last Wednesday was the first day in a long time that I had absolutely nowhere to be - the whole day - Not a single commitment or list pad that was urgent. Since I had bought a big box of black garbage bags in preparation for this tag sale, I figured I would see what I had to start the tag sale collection. I lined a hamper with the first garbage bag and started folding in some of my things when I said to myself, "Seriously, you were really going to wear that?" ...things I had set aside that still had the price tags on, or "what was I thinking when I bought that on sale? I don't even like that color."

Confession: I have been using Mom's bedroom and Caitlin's, and Liesl's as an extension of my closet, (you know, winter, summer, doesn't quite fit...) so I opened the first bureau and found not one, but no less than 75 scarves – more than half never worn with tickets attached. Most had been gifts from my Spanish friends where everyone wears them....

By the third bureau, it got harder. I started hitting some of Mom's things that I had saved from other purges. These were the things that I was still emotionally attached to, and this is where I learned about finally letting go. I folded things - and into the bag they went. Maybe the folding helped my head, as I wasn't just dumping them carelessly like I was throwing them away.

I moved into the upstairs hall closet – some of mom's hats, dresses she wore to my brothers' weddings, my wedding, the new nightgown that my grandmother had made for her, and I continued into more closets with clothes that I don't need or can't fit into. Honestly, at my age and stage in my career, how many coats, suits, and jackets does one really need? I purged the tops of the bureaus of little dishes or other mementos that I had bought for her or the kids, that no one wants. I found myself saying out loud, "Mom, I'll always love you, but I don't need these things anymore to remember you. In 3 short hours, I had filled 4 bags and a box. And I've only just begun. But that was enough decision-making for the day.

That isn't to say that I am getting rid of everything – (after all, someday I might need it, right?) But it is the realization that I don't need everything, and I am asking myself, "Is it worth my sanity, or does it drain my sanity to take up this space?"

While I was working, I was thinking about church and this new attitude I was having...about change and letting go - Are you seeing where I am going with this? For example, my resistance to changing the words to "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" that I've been singing for 65 years - or singing Shalom in another language that I don't speak, or even "but we've always served communion this way" or decorated this way, or...I can go on and on...

I leave you with 2 messages here –

- 1) Many of you have had to downsize already, so you understand the purging part and, yet, we somehow continue to collect. But, if you

have recently purged, perhaps you will share this message of collection with friends, neighbors, relatives, children, and grandchildren. There will be a flyer available shortly for distribution to explain what we are collecting and where to bring it. And finally

- 2) I had forgotten about how freeing letting go can be. It has brought me some peace and clarity that I didn't even know I needed. But more importantly, it got me thinking more positively about changes we need to consider to keep our church alive and current. It doesn't mean throwing everything out that we treasure. It means careful attention to each decision we make, what we value, and what will improve our church life.

p.s. I've started my 7<sup>th</sup> bag and 2<sup>nd</sup> box as of this morning.

### *Some Fellowship Hall Floor Updates..*

Jean Trotman

The removal of the cement and placement of the vapor barrier has been completed. The Town has inspected the work, and new cement is scheduled to be poured starting Wednesday, July 16th. The painter will start sometime after that and work during the time the floor is curing/drying. The timeline has slipped about 2 weeks, but, barring any further impacts to the schedule, it appears that all the work will be done by September.







The failing concrete was removed. Chunks of concrete were sent out through the window on a conveyor belt to a dump truck. All of the large chunks and rocks were removed, and the dirt was smoothed out to prepare for the next phase. Below: a vapor barrier was added before the new cement was poured.



Left: The new concrete was poured on July 16.



## *New Door Schedule on Sundays*

We are going to give our door locking schedule another try to allow for the south entrance door to be unlocked during church on Sundays. It makes it much easier for some folks than trying to use the steep front steps. Please see below for more details.

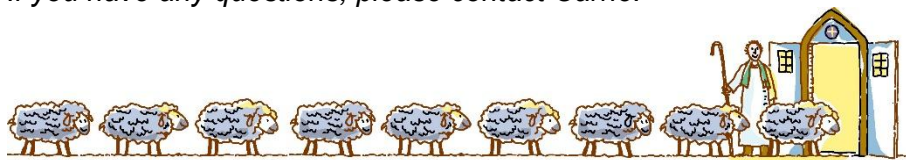
### **Door Locking Schedule**

We have set up an automated door schedule so that on **Sundays from 9:00 AM -1:30 PM** (and every Sunday moving forward, or until we say stop), the south door will unlock and remain unlocked with the first person to scan in with their door key. The first person who scans in with their door key between 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM activates the door schedule for that day. It will now be unlocked for those coming in after you. You may still need to disarm the burglar alarm on the panel inside the door, so please be prepared with that fob available. The door will automatically relock at 1:30 PM. If church or coffee hour ends early, the last person to leave can simply lock the door on the way out by scanning their key outside and making sure the door locks behind them. The last person out needs to set the burglar alarm. If they forget to lock the door on the way out, it will automatically lock at 1:30 PM (or the scheduled time for that particular day). The burglar alarm will not reset itself. If, for some reason, there are no activities at the church during the scheduled time, the door will simply remain locked.

**\*\*This is a very important reminder: PLEASE try the door FIRST before using your key. If someone comes along and forgets to check the door first, using their key after the first person has already activated the system will cancel the door schedule for that day. You will lock the door.**

There are two lanyards in the black mailbox by the door. One to indicate that the first person has gone inside and the door is now unlocked. The other is to indicate the door is locked. Please swap them out as necessary.

*If you have any questions, please contact Carrie.*



*Church Historian***From How Used to How Heated**

Mary Crittenden

I promised to report on what I found on how our congregation used the Wolcott Memorial Chapel (WMC) in the first years after it was built in 1887. So far, I have found but little in our church records:

- Started holding the Annual meetings in the WMC Jan. 1889.
- “Jan. 2, 1903, Annual Meeting was held in the Chapel following supper.” In most of the following years, the minutes mention that the meeting followed a meal.
- Voted to use the first floor of the WMC for the younger Sunday School Classes.
- Jan. 7, 1908: ” Voted to hold Sunday Worship Services in the WMC until the church can be adequately heated.” Included was a request to have the committee research getting a furnace for the church building. We know that there were two furnaces at the back of the sanctuary at the time when the photograph on the wall next to the white Memorial Cabinet was taken. In that picture, we can see the two ducts that were over the heads of the congregation, designed to carry smoke from the furnaces at the back of the sanctuary to the chimneys in the wall behind where the hymn boards hang.

Early homes were heated by burning wood in a fireplace. Most houses had a central chimney serving one or more fireplaces for cooking and to heat rooms adjacent to the chimney. The temperature in a room heated by a fire in a fireplace was very uneven. At times in winter, the temperature near the outer walls could drop to freezing. Our winters were colder than English winters. Our church members had mostly come from England, so the homes here up into the 1800s had fireplaces as their primary heat source.

While our English settlers brought fireplaces, German settlers had iron stoves that did heat spaces more evenly. By the 1820s and 1830s, stoves that could burn either wood or coal started becoming popular. We do not know how the WMC was heated, but there is no evidence of fireplaces and, certainly, there was no central heating from a furnace under it. There was no basement until the late 1950s.

From the motion approved Jan. 7, 1908, we know that the WMC must have had “adequate” heat. Therefore, I guess that there may have been a stove on one or both floors of the chapel.

## *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. Everyone brings their lunch and there is usually great coffee served. While Fellowship Hall is under construction, the Bunch will meet at the Masonic Lodge, located at 1559 Main Street, just up the street from our church. Join them! Questions? Contact the church office.



## *Scholarships Awarded - Rockwell and United Church Workers - Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Judy Borré

We watched them grow up in the church. Now they are young women.

Caroline Alicia Klein was awarded a Rockwell Scholarship, as well as a UCW Scholarship. She will be entering her senior year at Vassar College with a major area of study in Computer Science and Film. She was unable to attend as she is currently working in California.

Emily Lynn Dalpe was awarded a UCW Scholarship. She will be entering her freshman year at Manchester Community College, focusing on social and behavioral science – early childhood education. Due to a prior commitment, she was unable to attend the award service.

Eulalie McNulty was awarded a UCW Scholarship. She will be entering her freshman year at the University of Connecticut with a currently undecided major.

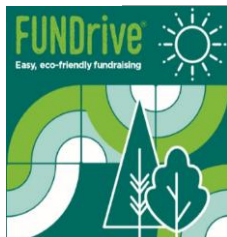


## *FUNDrive: The No-Tag Sale Tag Sale*

**Clean out your closets for  
First Congregational Church/United Church of Christ!**

Help us get the word out.

#fundrive2fundraise



**Our Goal:** \$3000

750 Large Yard Bags (avg. 20 lbs.)

225 Medium boxes (household goods)

**Fundraiser Dates:**

07/01/2025 - 09/21/2025



**WE ARE COLLECTING GENTLY USED AND CLEAN:**

### **Clothes**

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

### **Household Textiles**

bedding, comforters, blankets, quilts, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, decorative pillows, etc.

### **Small Household Goods**

Kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics.

### **Books & Media**

paperback, hard cover - all genres

*\*media needs to be boxed separately*

*\*no encyclopedias or textbooks*

Please use garbage bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.



*FUNDrive® is an eco-friendly fundraiser for nonprofit organizations.*

Collect **gently-used** items in your community and FUNDrive® will buy them.

Visit <https://FUNDrive.savers.com> to learn more.



**First Congregational Church of South Windsor**

**993 Main Street, South Windsor, CT.**

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

We are fundraising for the finishing touches after the reconstruction of our new Fellowship Hall! Help us by unloading your unwanted, but gently used, household items, books, toys and clothing. Items can be dropped off at the south entrance of the church. Textiles must be in garbage bags and all other items must be neatly boxed. Books must be boxed separately from other items. Questions? Please contact the

First Church office at [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) or 860/528-7992 or Linda Dalpe at 860/528-1936.

Thanks for your support!

### *Jewelry Wanted*

While you are fall cleaning, don't forget to look in your jewelry box. What jewelry do you no longer wear? How about broken jewelry taking up space in your jewelry box? We are collecting jewelry for the church fair. You can drop it off at 1090 Main St. or bring it to church and give it to Linda Dalpe or Lynda Jones. Please pass the word to family and friends.



### *Potluck Supper Save the Date!*

A First Church Potluck Supper will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM to celebrate the newly reconstructed Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet for your covered dish will be on a clipboard in the narthex. Ask an usher if you need help finding it.



BRING A COVERED DISH

**Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM**  
**Come celebrate the newly re-constructed Fellowship Hall.**

Let us know what you'll bring -  
sign up sheets will be out in the church narthex,  
or email First Church at [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com)

First Congregational Church - 993 Main Street - South Windsor, CT 06074  
Visit [firstchurchsw.org](http://firstchurchsw.org) for other events & information

Worship and Church School begin at 10:00 AM on Sundays - Join us!

## Church Family News



Joseph Charette 08/01  
Terry Belknap 08/04  
Jared Charette 08/07  
Mary Crittenden 08/09  
Rachel Mathiau 08/11  
Susan Ventura 08/14  
Ana Smith 08/14

Sean Woble 08/16  
Nick Smith 08/17  
Mark Weiland 08/22  
Elsie Woolam 08/23  
Doreen Jackson 08/27  
Joseph Woble 08/28  
Marge Weismantel 08/29  
Iva Burnham 08/31



Laura & Stefan Klein 08/06  
Edie & Robert Starr 08/18

Silvia & George Mikkola 08/25  
Dawn & Jay Samsel 08/26  
Lynda & Patrick Jones 08/26

The Addington Family  
The Belknap Family  
Doris Burgdorf  
Iva Burnham  
The Burnham Family



Joyce Coon  
Carol Mattera  
Della Mitchell  
The Tripp Family  
Bob Woodward

It is with deep sadness that we share the obituary information for our dear friend and church member, Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann (Risley) Addington. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Addington family and their friends.



<https://www.carmonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Elizabeth-Betsy-Ann-Risley-Addington?obId=43555805#/obituaryInfo>

## Table Graces and Prayers

Stop by and pick up one of our newly republished Table Graces and Prayers from all religions. They are wonderful for family mealtime, special occasions, and celebrations.



"Do I have to give thanks for all the spinach or just the bite I'm going to eat?"





### *Church Office Hours*

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

### *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **August 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **July 11<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion: [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) ~ Thanks!



### *Soup & Sauce*

There are half a dozen 1-quart containers of corn chowder in the church freezer. They are the last from the fundraiser for Fellowship Hall. The price is \$8.00/quart. The money can go to Sue Larsen, Ingrid Fraize or the church office. There are also 3-4 containers of Bob and Julie Reynolds' pasta sauce available for \$5.00 each. See Julie about the sauce. Thanks!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

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TO: