

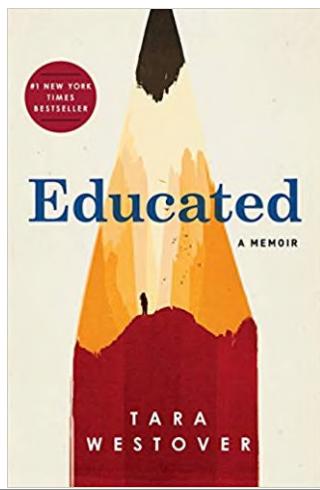
Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

March 2019



MARCH 6
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
6:30 P.M.



Book Club
March 20th - Noon



Judea to Jerusalem:
Mapping Jesus' Way to the Cross
Lenten Soup Suppers
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
March 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10

Hi Everybody!

When was the last time you thought of church as fun? Do you ‘allow’ yourself to think of church as fun?

Sometimes our institutional religious conditioning can leave us feeling like our spiritual lives have to be all work and no play; that there is no room for levity or silliness. We can be left feeling less than uplifted; certainly not transcendent.

Thoughts might be: “Oh no...another new hymn! What happened to the old ones? This isn’t any fun!” Or, conversely, “Oh no, another old, droning hymn? Where are all the new ones? This isn’t any fun!” It can feel like revering God, loving Jesus and being Christian must be executed with a furrowed brow and sin-sick soul. Our seriousness can overwhelm the playful side of God – the very joy that God intends for us to experience together.

The playful side of God may not be familiar to some. However, the Book of Psalms contains many thanksgivings and praises in honor of God which can be viewed as playful: trees clapping hands, mountains skipping like rams (or hills like lambs), making joyful noise with harp and lyre, dance and song!

Sometimes I like to think that Jesus, in the midst of his radical and disruptive ministry, had many moments to have fun. After all, he was The Human One, ministering to the multitudes. Humor is inevitable, whether it is wry, sarcastic, subversive, blatant, mocking or filled with wisdom. It is often said that having a sense of humor is the most important attribute a person of the cloth can possess.

In his article titled, “The Humor of Christ,” Rev. Dr. Don Sweeting says this: “Can you imagine Jesus going to dinner parties and never laughing? Can you picture him changing water into wine to keep a wedding party rolling and never cracking a smile? Can you fathom a master story teller who never used humor?”

A few weeks ago, we heard Luke’s story of Jesus almost being thrown off a cliff, yet “he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.” I guess he showed them! Now that had to be fun! The Indiana Jones of Nazareth! Sometimes I picture Jesus enjoying a little mischievousness when he says once again to his disciples “Do you not yet understand!?!?”

In case you haven’t heard, our children and youth are having some fun with Jesus for the next twelve weeks. Each week, a name is drawn and someone gets to take our Jesus rag doll home. “Taking Care of Jesus” is inspiring some ingenious, compassionate – and fun! – happenings. This week, Jesus came back from Owen Soares’ house with a new scarf to keep him warm, and a whole bunch of great pictures of Jesus in various stages of being taken care of – and, having fun!

Please take a moment to view some of the pictures in the newsletter and on our website. They will inspire fun thoughts within you! We look forward to hearing about each child’s experience “Taking Care of Jesus.”

In closing, this is not to say there is never fun at church; of course, there is. This is simply a reminder. Let’s look for the joy more often. Let’s look for the fun. Let’s lighten up and not take ourselves so seriously. Sweeting cites Psalm 126: “when the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion...our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy.”

Together, we have the opportunity to worship, welcome and wonder about God. Part of that ‘wonderment’ is making sure we seek out the lighter side of life more often, along with the serious side. As you make your way through the days, weeks and months, even though things may seem bleak sometimes, set your sights on the lighter side of God. You may be surprised at what you discover – even if only for a brief moment.

With prayers for laughter as we joyfully seek God,

Nina

References to Sweeting article found at <https://www.nae.net/the-humor-of-christ/>



Deacon's News

This month the Diaconate met to introduce new deacons, and thank our deacons who have completed their terms. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Mary Crittenden, Rachel Anderson, and Linda Dalpe for their tireless hard work and incredible talents! This year's sitting deacons include Kip Dalpe

(Chair), Judy Borie

(Vice-chair), Lauren

Horsfield

(Secretary). We

extend a warm

welcome to new deacons Carol Mattera (Treasurer), Cathy Mikkola (Slack) and Mark Weiland. Please let the deacons know if you're interested in being an usher or lay leader. It is a wonderful way to get closer to your church family.

The February 17th worship procedures training session had to be postponed due to winter ailments. This was intended to be a refresher for current volunteers and an introduction for our new folks. Sessions will consist of a review and updating of steps for worship preparations and processes, from greeting to communion and more. The Diaconate hopes to make these refresher sessions a regular event as the liturgical seasons change and new people volunteer.

We hope you'll join us at 11:30 a.m. on February 24th for Rev. Nina's Israel Travelogue. Lunch will be hosted by the Diaconate with gracious contributions from CE and UCW committees. We look forward to hearing about Rev. Nina's experiences in the Holy Land and sharing this time with our friends from Temple Beth Hillel!

On March 6th following our 6pm Ash Wednesday service, the deacons will be flipping flapjacks for a one-day belated, 'Fat Tuesday' celebration! We're excited to butter up some griddles and welcome back this tradition. We look forward to some culinary indulgence with a large dollop of fellowship to bring in the Lenten season. Please bring a favorite topping (preserves, chocolate sauce, bacon bits, fruit, whipped cream, fruit). A sign-up sheet has been posted.

Lenten Wednesday night soup-suppers will begin Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The theme this year is: "Judea to Jerusalem: Mapping Jesus' Way to the Cross." Come see the ancient places that Jesus traveled, and how they are known today.

On March 31st, our Interim Regional Conference Minister Chuck Ericson will join us as guest



preacher, followed by a Second Hour with lunch and a question and answer time hosted by the Diaconate. Please gather with us to welcome our special guest.

As incoming Chair, I am honored to work with our wonderful team of servants and look forward to supporting the new team, and serving the congregation.

Diaconate Chair Kip Dalpe

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6:30 P.M. & 'FAT TUESDAY' PANCAKE SUPPER

Lent begins March 6. This year, a 'Fat Tuesday' Pancake Supper celebration will take place following the Ash Wednesday service. The tradition



of eating up the fattiest and richest foods before Lenten fasting begins is centuries old. Typically called "Shrove Tuesday," the last day of Mardi Gras, it was thought that believers must be "shriven" or appropriately penitent prior to Lent beginning. Everyone will be asked to bring a topping of their choice. Preserves, sauces, whipped cream, whatever you want! Pancakes will be provided by the Diaconate. Any pancake-flipper volunteers out there? A sign-up sheet will be posted soon.



Church Committee Jean Jackson Church Clerk

February 19, 2019 Church Committee Highlights -

- Treasurer's report - Expenses for the month of January were \$18,645.20. Income was \$11,631.85, which included \$8,000 withdrawn from the investment account to cover expenses. Cash on hand is \$4,002.20. There is a deficit for the month, and year-to-date, of \$7,013.35.
- Investments - In January the account increased \$102,103.00. \$8,000.00 was withdrawn to cover expenses, resulting in a net gain of \$94,103.00. The end value for January is \$1,685,526.75.
- Next meeting of the Church Committee is March 12, 2019. All are invited to attend, whether or not you serve on a committee.

6th Annual Sewin4Servicemen

Judith Borré, Project Chair

On Saturday, January 23rd as you entered Fellowship Hall, the sound of laughter, pleasant



chatter and the sound of sewing machines would have greeted you. Seven new participants joined our happy band of sewers and pressers. 130 kits

were prepared which the ladies dove into like ants at a picnic. I will be hard pressed to keep up with their enthusiasm.

Along with providing comfort for the veterans, we strive to pass on our sewing knowledge and sense of community involvement. Here Jean is working with Marlena on her lap quilt called "blocks". We hope to have more of our youth join our creative efforts



This year's group of 36 will be again increased as five new sewers will be joining the Feb. 23rd session.

Kamilla's Kolumn

***CHOIR IS LIKE A FAMILY**

There are times when we don't get along with each other.

There are times when we feel like ripping out each other's hair.

There are times when we just want to give up and quit.

But we don't.

We don't because we have each other to lean on and to help us through the tough times.

We don't because we don't want to let each other down.

We don't because our bond with each other is stronger than our love of music, the thing that brought us together in the first place.

We don't because

CHOIR IS A FAMILY

Register Now! Silver Lake Conference

The calendar for conferences for Silver Lake Conference Center has been posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. There is an open house scheduled for **Sunday, May 20th, 2-4pm**. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with the church office. First-time campers from last year came home thrilled with their experiences! Camperships may be available to assist to help defray the cost of sending your child(ren).



Trustees News

At the annual meeting in January concerns were voiced about the condition of the church lift. Past malfunctions, repair problems as well as the current maintenance practices were all discussed. Among the questions asked were whether or not it is time to replace the current 35-year old unit and if so at what cost?

To help answer these questions the Trustees contracted with Elevator Service Company Inc. a Connecticut company which both services and installs lifts like ours.

The first step consisted of a visit by a company representative who focused on gathering maintenance and repair histories as well as information about the problems that we are currently experiencing. Step Two was a two-hour onsite evaluation by a qualified elevator mechanic. In addition to assessing the mechanical health of our unit and making any adjustments possible in the course of that inspection the mechanic was to identify any other more major repairs necessary to bring our lift back to optimum performance.



We are now waiting for a written report which will document the results of that inspection including recommended next steps and their estimated cost. In the event that replacement of the existing lift was recommended Elevator Service Company would include the estimated cost of that change as part of its report. At this point such a recommendation appears unlikely.

Holiday Fair Update

Linda Dalpe

Workshops Resume

Crafting workshops for the fair have begun on Fridays at 1:00 in the warehouse at 1090 Main St. and will continue until the end of May.

We have changed the day and time to accommodate so many who do not like to come out at night. However, there will be some special workshops scheduled at night throughout the late spring and summer. We have expanded the workshop into two rooms - one sewing and one crafting. As we get organized, we will begin to display our latest creations in the showcase in fellowship hall. Ideas are ALWAYS welcome, as are all women who would like to drop over on Friday afternoons. It is easier to plan if we know you are coming. And you can always bring a project that you want more hands to help assemble or complete.

Donations Needed

We are asking that if you have something for Gramma's attic or Treasure Trove, please be sure it is clean and packed in boxes labeled for either place to make it easier to sort. We are now beginning to collect things for the fair. We will not be taking in large furniture.

For more information contact Linda Dalpe 860-528-1936.

CE News

We are looking forward to Vicki Margiott's annual teaching Seder. Each year Vicki shares with the Church School youth the meanings of the food served during the Passover. This year's session will be on April 14th.



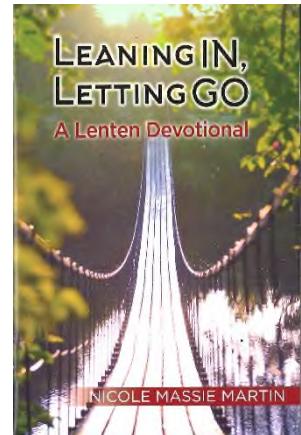
Holiday Fair

2019 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Lenten Devotionals Available

We will again be offering 2 devotionals to read during Lent. The first is *Leaning In, Letting Go: A Lenten Devotional* by Nicole Massie Martin.

"Are you feeling stuck in your relationship with God and others? Clear the obstacles and learn how to lean into God's unfailing love." In this Lenten devotional, Nicole Massie Martin takes us on a hope-filled journey of letting go of all that keeps us from experiencing the joy of resurrection. Daily reflection and prayers invite us to lean into God's grace and let go of our own agendas and practices – and to love into the abundant life God calls us to enjoy and share with the world.



The second of this year's Lenten devotionals, with a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday devotional comes to us from the UCC Stillspeaking Writers' Group and the Daily Devotional contributors. It is entitled:



TAKE NOTHING WITH YOU / 2019 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL. "When we enter the spiritual journey of Lent, we often take things with us: our past experiences, our interpretations of Scripture, our questions about the world, our struggles in faith. What does an unencumbered journey look like? Let's find out together." (Description from the UCC Resources website).

UCW News

Ingrid Fraize and Rachel Anderson
Please watch for dates and updates in the weekly bulletin at church.



Archvisit Column

Mary Crittenden

Last month we stopped at the doors to the sanctuary. If we look back to earlier meeting houses, we find two or three doors to the building. One door alone on one side was for the minister, his family and dignitaries. There were two doors for the congregation to use. One door was for men and one for women. When box seating was changed to pews, men sat on the south side and women on the north side.

When you enter our building through the front doors, you step into a sheltered space we call the narthex from the Medieval Greek meaning 'enclosed porch.' From there you enter the sanctuary through one of two doors.

Old photos of the sanctuary show two large heat ducts above the pews. These ran the length of the sanctuary, through the west wall and into chimneys. After we installed a new furnace, those heat ducts were no longer needed and were removed. Some of the pews under the ducts held supports for them. Those heat ducts can be seen in a photo to the left of the Memorial Cabinet.

So now if you spend a few minutes looking, you can find six pews with notches cut into the scroll of the pew arm. These notches were for those supports that kept the heating ducts in place above everyone's heads. Looking at these six pews we find that they are not in their original places.

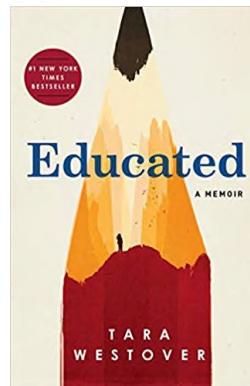
Our pews were not designed for comfort. A cushion was added and for those with short legs individual members made footstools. A few are signed on the underside. Are there any two alike? Pew doors were designed to keep out cold drafts. The doors were removed at some point and later added back on. The doors are the original ones as they had been stored.

Next month we will consider the extensive work done in 1987 renovation of the sanctuary and narthex.



Book Group

We will be meeting on **March 20th** at noon. Bring a bag lunch. We will be discussing *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover - "An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.



Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home."

Lenten Soup Supper

Did you ever wonder where some of the biblical locations in Jesus' life are on a map? Did you ever wish you had a better understanding of the geography where our religious roots took hold?



Even before Nina knew she was going to the Holy Land, the idea of studying the geographic journey of Jesus was enthusiastically born at one of our Book Group discussions last year. Many of us are not familiar with the actual path Jesus took. Biblical lands are now known by other names, being located in the 'present-day' Holy Land. There were practical considerations, such as how long it actually took to travel from one destination to the next, *on foot*. It is hard to envision the routes, let alone where they are today, along with the challenges.

When Nina had the opportunity to go with Temple Beth Hillel to Israel, it seemed like "hasgachat pratit" - Hebrew for 'divine providence' - was at play. Facets of Nina's pilgrimage, combined with scripture, history, geography and our own faith journeys, will facilitate our walks with Jesus during Lent. Come take a place at the table with us for this Lenten adventure!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Please check your calendar for when you are able to host. The calendar for Coffee Hour Hosts for 2019 has been posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen window. Please consult your calendar and sign up for a Sunday. If you have not hosted before, but would like to host and need some guidance, please feel free to ask one of the "regulars" to mentor you.



How do you want to receive the Newsletter?

If you would like to receive the *Main Street Musing* via email, please email the church office at firstchurchsw@gmail.com. This will help in production and mailing costs. Thank you. As an added bonus, you will see the graphics in color.



In the mail bag

Our Church Family,
We want to thank everyone for you(r) thoughts and
prayers.
We are also so grateful for the gifts
We appreciate everything.

Bill, Felicia, Bill IV and Olivia Pelton

We provided the Peltons with air mattresses and bedding after their home sustained damage from a fire. Thank you to Linda Dalpe and Ingrid Fraize for purchasing and delivering these items. We are grateful that Bill, Felicia, Bill and Olivia were unharmed during the fire, though they did lose a beloved pet.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ray Zaugg for his 56 years of service to the South Windsor Fire Department.



Congratulations to Judy Borré for being recognized

by the Orford Parish-Pitkin Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for her work on her SewIn4Servicemen project.

SewIn4Servicemen Lap Quilt Dedication November 18, 2018



November is the time of year we thank our veterans for the service to and sacrifice for our country. Last year (2017) as we dedicated 85 quilts, I challenged the participants to create enough quilts to hang from the choir loft. As usual, 50 participants (Kip and his daughters and women) rose to the occasion working on 120+ quilts. On November 18th the congregation along with the 'SewIn' participants and members of American Legion Post #133 blessed over 100 of these quilts. After the New Year, these quilts will be distributed to local veterans with the help of the American Legion.

On January 26, 2019, the 6th Annual Sewin4Servicemen began. The next meetings are Saturdays, March 23 and April 27 from 10 am to 4 pm. If you are interested in participating please contact Judy Borré or the Church Office.

Wreaths Across America December 15, 2018

Judy Borré

The scouts placed the wreaths on the headstones, stepped back, saluted and thanked each veteran for their service. Watching as the wreaths were placed by cub scouts through Eagle Scouts, I had the feeling if they were an example of our youth, the future will be okay. Then approximately 70 scouts, family members and scout leaders along with members of American Legion Post #133 South Windsor gathered in First Church's Fellowship Hall to enjoy refreshments and comradery. One Legionnaire commented on the joyous sounds of children greeting him as he came down the stairs. The items set aside by Edie Starr from the fair "Sweet Shop" were a big hit. Thank you, Marcia, Mary and Marilyn, for your help in providing the refreshments for our guests. Rev. Nina will be officiating at the next Nevers Park Wreaths Across America event on December 14, 2019.

Church Family News



Jean Jackson	03/03
Mary Anne Novak	03/06
Lee Anderson	03/07
Liam Senatro	03/07
Aubrey Aukstolis	03/08
Holly Burnham	03/08
Lisa Horsfield	03/08
Stephanie Clarke	03/10
Caitlin Cote	03/12
Dashiel Cote	03/14
Scott Burnham	03/16
Jim McGuire	03/16
Geoff Gossett	03/17
Patrick Woble	03/17
Liz Smith	03/18
Riley Anderson	03/21
Ingrid Fraize	03/24
Michael McClellan	03/24
JT Samsel	03/24
Bei Tong	03/25
Joyce Coon	03/26
Art Dunham	03/27
Brad Wright	03/30
Karen Smith	03/31

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joyce Coon	Shirley Lawton
Bev Nielsen	Vibert Deane
Doris Burgdorf	Bruce Burnham
Gail & Jim Jackson	John Mitchell
Avis Pelletier	Ingrid Fraize



Send them a note today!

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

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 **March 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 deadline for the April newsletter is **Friday, March 15th**. It will be printed on March 28th. Let's get everyone caught up on what is happening in the church.

DEADLINE!

2019 Flower Chart

The 2019 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up to provide flowers. Please note how the acknowledgement is to be made. Donors are responsible for ordering and arranging for flowers to be in church on Sunday. Donors may take their arrangements home following service or deliver them to one of our homebound members and friends.



Worship Service and Event Cancellations

If the weather is bad, you can check for cancellation notices of our events, including Sunday morning worship service and church school, by watching WFSB TV (CBS, channel 3) or listening to WTIC (1080 AM).



Notices are also posted on both the websites for WFSB news and the WTIC Storm Center. Generally, a decision to cancel worship will be made on Sunday morning around 7am. Every effort will also be made to update the church answering machine.

Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**March 10th**) we collect items for a food pantry. When asked what was needed, Andrea Cofrancesco, Director for the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank answered: "Kid snacks, paper goods, toiletries, cleaning products!" These items are distributed to the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank and Manchester Area Conference of Churches. We continue to collect paper toweling for Interval House. These donations are greatly appreciated.



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SAVE THE DATE

<i>Photo Archive Team</i>	Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.
<i>Creative Hands</i>	Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
<i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
<i>Fair Workshops</i>	
@ 1090 Main St	Fridays at 1:00 p.m.
<i>Ash Wednesday/</i>	
<i>Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper</i>	3/6
<i>Church Committee</i>	3/12
<i>Lenten Soup Suppers</i>	3/13, 3/20, 3/27
<i>Lunch Bunch</i>	3/21
<i>SewIn4 Servicemen</i>	3/23
<i>Reg. Conf. Minister Chuck</i>	
<i>Ericson/Second Hour</i>	03/31

Staff:

Minister: Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid
Organist: Kamilla Mammedova
Administrative Assistant: Claudia Steele
Sexton: Katie Graham

:TO:



—Frank Sonnenberg

“It's better to bite your tongue than to eat your words.”