

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



February 2025

**Lenten discussions.** Hi everyone, yes, it's way early, but I wanted to get our Lenten schedule out so all of you can mark it on your calendar and join in. We will start Lent with a Hungarian goulash meal then discussion. Please note the meal date, times and discussion topics below. I expect to see a good turnout for these gatherings. Bring a friend. Discussions are open to the public. Below are brief descriptions of our discussions:

What Day was Jesus Crucified?

We have been told that Jesus was crucified on a Friday. But is this accurate or was the real day different? A closer look at the biblical narrative may suggest a different perspective. Join us after our Lenten meal for a lively discussion into this tradition.

Why do some Christians worship on Sunday? When is the Biblical Sabbath? Join us after our Lenten meal to explore this question.

Is communion a Seder or Memorial meal? Jesus said he wanted to eat the Passover with his disciples. Was this a full seder Passover or a memorial abbreviated Passover meal? We will discuss the evidence.

Join us after the Lenten meal for discussion on this topic.

Yes... I know Easter is a bit away. But I wanted to get the word out regarding our Lenten meals and discussions. I hope you will mark your calendars and enjoy some good soup, goulash and discussion. Bring a friend. Look forward to seeing all of you. *Pastor Dean*

**Meal schedule and discussions for Lenten season:**

Goulash meal... **March 12th 6:30pm**

**Discussion: What day was Jesus crucified?**

Soup & bread... **March 26th 6:30pm**

**Discussion: Is Sunday or Saturday the Sabbath?**

Soup & bread... **April 9th 6:30pm**

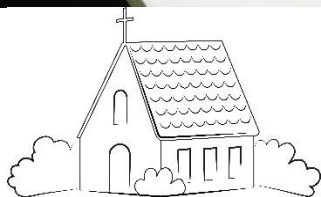
**Discussion: Was the last supper or communion as Passover meal?**



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



Join Our  
Family  
of Faith



December 29, 2024 was a New Member Sunday service, an extra special celebration of family and friends. On this new member Sunday, we welcomed Donna Fletcher and Ruth Tedesco to our First Church family. Pictured above is Ruth with her family and at right is Donna with her family. We are so delighted to have you both! Welcome!



## *Deacons*

Barbara Wright

Deacon's met in January. We discussed the annual meeting. We are in charge of refreshments and will have small finger sandwiches, tossed salad and chips. Judy Borre will provide dessert.

We made plans for lent and Maundy Thursday. The church will be open during the Pastor's office hours if anyone would like to receive ashes in the Chapel.

We will do three Lenten Suppers on March 12, 26 and April 9. The first will be another Hungarian Goulash meal. The other two will be soup suppers. All will have a program after and be open to the public.

The beautiful Maundy Thursday service will be done as in the past. The next meeting will be held February 16.

## *Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden

Our Windsor Colonists started arriving in 1633 (the Holmes group from the Plymouth Colony) and 1635 from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The list of Windsor Founders is defined as all those individuals found on records pertaining to Windsor before the close of 1641.<sup>1</sup> This list includes all the original proprietors plus others who were not land owners.

Did you know that the northern hemisphere was in the grip of the Little Ice Age (the coldest part of this was from 1550 to 1700,) when our settlers from Dorchester in the Massachusetts Bay Colony arrived in October 1635.

November and December were recorded as extremely cold and snowy. The following April, Winthrop said the people who had moved into Connecticut had lost most of their cattle and were in "great straits for want of provisions." (Kupperman <sup>2</sup>)

Remember, they had trekked the Indian trail (now called the Connecticut Path) but had shipped their provisions. The ship couldn't get to them as the river was frozen. Many of the settlers returned to Dorchester for the winter.

In the distribution of land, proprietors received various parcels of land. First was a house lot in the settlement. Additional parcels were also in the distribution. Land on the eastside of the Connecticut River near the river was subject to flooding. Even though the Dorchester settlers made their first purchase of land from the Indians on the east

side, the settlement was on the west side. Land granted on the east side of the river was called Windsor Farms. Frequently, we find that other settlements called their outlying areas “farms.”

Settlers started using the East Side land as pasture land. They also did some mowing of the grasses. The Connecticut River was a major obstacle until the Bissell Ferry. Many sources claim that John Bissell operated a ferry starting in 1641. Probably this was an informal arrangement as it was not until 1648 that the town contracted with him to operate a ferry. This gave the land owners a safer way to cross the river, but at a cost.

John Bissell probably moved to the east side in 1655, building a house around 1658-59 in what would become South Windsor. Thus, they were pioneers in the East Windsor emigration. Threat from the Indians was a big concern. Settlers carried weapons into their fields and retired to block houses. The flood plain was wet and at times had standing water in it; some residents got malaria. The early residents had a difficult life and the conditions were primitive. They worked hard, their homes were crude. They laid out the road. The town books for June 1672 have a list of 27 men appointed to do highway work. The Road was to extend from the Podunk to the Scantic and facilitate leaving one's property without trespassing on their neighbor's property.

The Colony Records show that in 1672 there was a move to make the lands on the east side of the river a distinct plantation. The crucial reply from Windsor was not pressured and the colonial record for the next meeting simply states that they see no reason for this to not proceed. (see Stiles vol 1, p. 588) We will return to this next month.

With the start of the King Philip's War in 1675, the households on the east side were vulnerable due to the small number of households and the fact that they were scattered. Many moved back to the west side. Finally, they were ordered to return to the west side and to bring their cattle and grain. When the war ended and peace returned, the emigration began again with vigor.

Next month, we will continue our story.

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<sup>1</sup> Founder's List as recognized by DFAW (Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor.)

<sup>2</sup> Karen Ordahl Kupperman. *Climate and Mastery of the Wilderness in Seventeenth-Century New England*. Colonial Society of Mass. Vol. 63

## *Advent Candle Lighting*



### *Advent 3 and 4*

Above: Judy Borré lights the Advent candle on the Third Sunday of Advent.



Below: James and Terry Belknap light the Advent Candle on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.



Right: Ushers Marcia Magee and Scott Horsfield bring forward the offering plates. Pastor Dean Kucera and Barbara Wright receive the generous offerings.

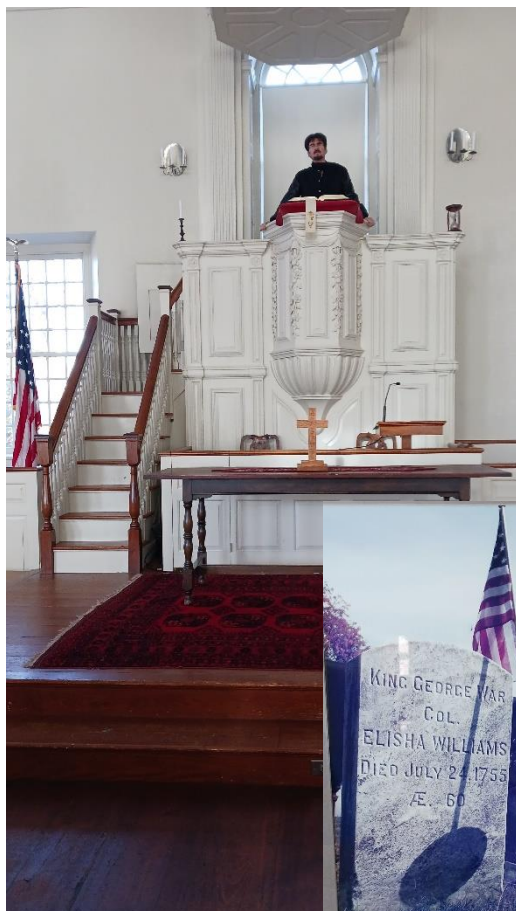


## *Edwards Center Visits First Church of Wethersfield*

Ingrid Fraize

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Edwards Center committee members visited First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, CT. We toured their Jonathan Edwards room that has a reproduction of his unusual desk that is on a turntable.

The room has a library with a collection of books on the Edwards family, among other artifacts. We also enjoyed a tour of the sanctuary. It's rich history and beautiful restoration was narrated by Roger Willard. He is a lifetime member of the church and an extremely knowledgeable guide. Our thanks are extended to him for our successful tour. Thanks also goes to an anonymous, generous donor of \$150.00 for the Edwards Center at our church.



## Church Family News



2/03 Kristen Daigle  
 2/06 Nancy Stearns  
 2/09 Amanda McNulty  
 2/11 Caitlin Connelly  
 2/12 Caroline Klein  
 2/12 Samantha McNulty

2/13 Cliff McClellan  
 2/14 Emaleigh Daigle  
 2/15 Marilyn Senger  
 2/18 Clayton Daigle  
 2/21 Beverly Zaugg  
 2/22 Ruth Bombara



Doris Burgdorf  
 Della Mitchell  
 Cliff McClellan  
 The Cox Family  
 The Zaugg Family

Joyce Coon  
 Bob Woodward  
 Carol Mattera  
 The Burnham Family

Thoughts and prayers are with the Burnham family following the passing of our dear friend and fellow church member, Dr. Bruce Evans Burnham.



### Church Office Hours

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

### Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **March 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **Feb.14<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion:

[firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) ~ Thanks



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TO: