

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



September 2025

## Small but The 28<sup>th</sup> of September

On Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, after church, we will continue our journey in discerning our mission statement and long-term vision for First Church. While the mission statement is well underway and has some sound structure, it needs some tweaking yet. But the vision forward meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> will be a bit different. Many have read or are reading the books by Thom S. Rainer, starting with Autopsy of a Deceased Church. Many have found them profound with their message and feel a discussion on their insights and ideas in these small easy-to-read volumes will be a benefit to our work in writing our mission statement.

Thus, on the 28<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a discussion on the first two volumes: Autopsy of a Deceased Church and Anatomy of a Revived Church. Please try to read them and come prepared to share your ideas. Further studies of these volumes will follow. I will present a schedule of evenings or days when we will meet to continue our book study. I think each of you will see our own struggles and hopes reflected in these books. If you need a copy of them, we have some in the church office, or ask someone to lend you theirs to read. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and reactions to these short volumes. I believe they can help us navigate our future and present with their practical advice and compelling stories; stories much the same as our own church.

Shalom,

Dr. Dean Kučera



Pastor Dean's Fall 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 August 12, 2025 -

- Treasurer's report - no report, as Sue Larsen is enjoying some time away.
- Investments - no report, as Lee Anderson is in the hospital. We wish him excellent care.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 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

- Kamilla has returned from vacation and is in the process of selecting music for the fall, in anticipation of regrouping the choir. Stay tuned!
- Tuning of the pianos is on hold until the spinet in Fellowship Hall is returned to its usual spot, with no additional moving in sight.



## *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

Ten people from our committee and spouses took a field trip on August 14 to Stockbridge, MA. We went to the Mission House, former home of Rev. John Sargent. Kendra, the docent at the Mission House, did an excellent job of describing for us what life was like for a Pastor at that time, as well as showing us many pieces of period furniture.

We then proceeded down the street to the Stockbridge Library where Talya, the Curator and Proctor of the Museum and Archives, met with us. She showed us Jonathan Edwards desk, some letters he wrote to his daughters, his last Will and Testament, as well as his Bible. She was very interesting to listen to and she gave us some great tips on the archival saving of papers and books.

We finished the day with a very nice lunch at Park 51 in Lee, MA. Our next event is Elise Bernier-Feely coming to speak to us on September 14 at 2:00 P.M. She will speak on Sarah Edwards' herbs and how she kept her family healthy with the herbs grown in her garden. This event is open to the public.



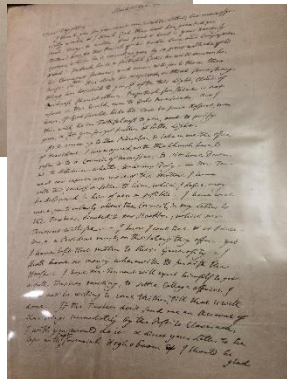
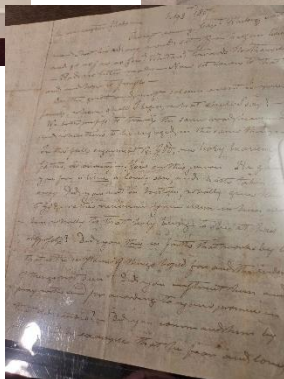
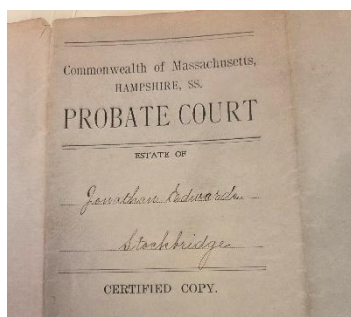
Pictured Above: The Edwards group took a field trip to Stockbridge, Massachusetts on August 14<sup>th</sup> to visit the Stockbridge Library and the Mission House. It was an interesting and unique opportunity to see Jonathan Edwards' Bible, his writing desk, as well as his last will and testament. Above right: Edward Giard, friend of First Church and member of the Edwards Center group, got a close look at Jonathan's bible. Bob Starr looks over his shoulder.



Above: The group enjoyed seeing the unique artwork depicting Jonathan and Native Americans at the Mission House.



Pictured left: A chance to see Jonathan's writing desk was perhaps the highlight of the field trip. Below are the copies of the last will & testament of Jonathan Edwards that the Stockbridge Library had in their archives.







Above: At the Mission House in Stockbridge, MA., the group was led by a museum docent who helped depict what things would have been like for a Pastor during Jonathan Edwards' time. It was interesting to see the early furniture and get a sense of the daily life.





Pictured left: Our wonderful guide and museum docent fills us with information. Pictured below: A primitive baby walker on display at the Mission House.



### *Deacons*

Barb Wright

The Deacons haven't been meeting this summer. Our next meeting will be September 7. We covered two Sundays while Pastor Dean was away, both with Rev. Eugene Young. We will have Rev. Jack Cook here on August 31 while Pastor Dean is in Wisconsin. Rev. Cook attended service here on August 10 to see how we did our service and met several people then. The Deacons are also working with Jean Jackson on updating our membership list, as well as on the Deacons portion of the Bylaws. It will be a busy fall.

### *Holiday Fair News*

Linda Dalpe

Join us for crafting our products for the 2025 church fair. Fridays 1:00-4:00 at 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.

### *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.



### *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. The group meets in Fellowship Hall.

### *Ladies Who Lunch*



Linda Dalpe

The Ladies Lunch Bunch in Fellowship Hall begins on September 25<sup>th</sup> and continues on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Join us!  
No agenda...just fellowship!  
Bring your lunch and a friend.  
11:30-1:00 PM.

### *Church Historian*

Mary Crittenden

There are things we do not know about The Timothy Edwards Church. We do not have our original *Church Notes, Vol. 1*, and I have only recently found the micro-film pictures of the book online. Reading them is going to take hours. Typically, the notes do not give details about the things or practices that were common knowledge. It is when the members considered making changes that the notes give details or glimpses of how things were done and how they were changing. Most of the notes concern routine decisions of who was

going to attend wider church meetings out of town or what funds the church would support in the coming year (often these were the same year after year). Therefore, I am turning to what we know of the practices of New England Congregationalists in our early days, supplemented by information from our Church Notes and the historical items that we have.

Key aspects of colonial congregationalism centered on the autonomy of individual congregations, which were self-governing. Of importance were the preaching, observing the two sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and the belief that each member can go directly to God for guidance and help.

In the earliest known letter of Jonathan Edwards is a reference to what is happening in the church. Jonathan wrote to his sister Mary when she was in Boston (She was sixteen and he was 12).

Dear Sister,

Through the wonderful mercy and goodness of God there hath in this place, been a very remarkable stirring and pouring out of the Spirit of God, and likewise now is, but I think I have reason to think it is in some measure diminished, but I hope not much. About thirteen have been joined to the church in an estate of full communion.

This tells us that people in the community were seeking a closer relationship to God and the church. Following the Sunday sermons, thirty or more people would come to talk to Timothy about the condition of their souls. The statement that they joined the church "in a state of full communion" tells us that they would be able to take part in communion. During the early years, our church had "closed" communion tables, meaning that not all members of the congregation could take part – only members who gave an open profession of a conversion. For this reason, church governance included an Examining Committee."

Communion was often at the end of a Sunday morning worship service or at a special service. Preparation for communion included a personal examination of one's own religious state.

Next month, we will look at the serving of communion.



## *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.

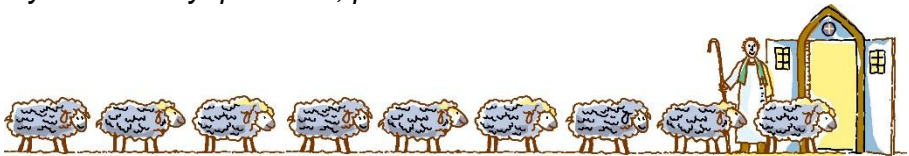
### **Door Locking Schedule**

We have set up an automated door schedule so that on **Sundays from 9:00 AM -1:30 PM** (or until further notice), 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.*

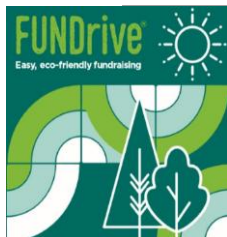


## *FUNDrive: The No-Tag Sale Tag Sale*

**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®

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!

## *Church Family News*



Howard Haviland, Jr. 09/03  
 Marty Zaugg 09/06  
 Stefan Klein 09/13  
 Ruth Tedesco 09/17  
 Silvia Mikkola 09/19  
 Olivia Pelton 09/19

Landon Soares 09/20  
 Chipper Woolam 09/21  
 Lauren Litwin 09/23  
 Allison Hastings 09/27  
 Jenifer Gossett 09/30  
 Kamilla Mammedova 09/30



Lisa & Scott Horsfield 09/15  
 Caitlin & Roger Cote 09/18  
 Lauren & Steven Clarke 09/30



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

Joyce Coon  
 The Charette Family  
 Carol Mattera  
 The Tripp Family  
 The Burnham Family  
 Bob Woodward



It is with tremendous sadness that we share the obituary information for a member of our church family, Jared K. Charette. Our loving thoughts and deepest prayers are with the Charette family and their friends.  
<https://www.carmonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Jared-K-Charette?obId=44300098>

## *Church Office Hours*

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

## *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **October 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **September 12<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion: [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) ~ Thanks!



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TO: