

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



November 2024

The fall is here and many of you are already gearing up for Thanksgiving and the big Christmas bazaar. But, with the fun, there is always lots of preparation, stress and disappointments. We expect a lot around the holidays and the perfect Hallmark never ending Christmas movies don't help. None of us should think that the holidays are that perfect where it snows at the end... ever notice that? And everyone gets what they wanted. Yeah, right. But reality for most of us is not like that. Oh, we have our moments... there is magic and joy in the unexpected. But for others, the holidays can bring on depression and a feeling of isolation, with the memory of loved ones who no longer grace our thanksgiving table. Loneliness is a cycle that causes sad thoughts and depression. More sad thoughts ... more bad feelings. That is why, as a community of faith, we must be mindful of others who face these feelings and offer a place to come together in joyful worship... with fun events...and meaningful relationships. We launch the season with an uplifting interfaith worship service on Tuesday November 26th at 6:30 pm. We will have a bright Christmas bazaar. But, keep the work and FUN in balance, folks. And we adorn our beautiful church with greens and lights to cheer us up. To help with the sad that often comes our way at the holidays... join us each Sunday for uplifting worship and fellowship. If you're alone, volunteer at a community Thanksgiving or community meal and serve others who need some holiday cheer. You're not alone, but being alone only promotes negative thinking. Get involved at the level that works for you. Know others have hard problems to deal with, not just YOU. Yes, the holidays... you get out of them what you give back to others. True giving... is not monetary. It is with the heart and a love that heals our brokenness. Let this be the focus of thanks at our tables this year and in our church family. Reach out... get out... join us on Sundays. There is a place at the welcome table for you!

Happy thanksgiving and happy up and coming holidays.
Take it slow. Enjoy. Shalom.
Peace...

Pastor Dean



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

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held October 8, 2024 -

- Treasurer's report - September's income was \$17,995.74. Income includes \$10,000 received from the brokerage account to cover expenses. Expenses were \$20,934.30. Deficit for September was \$2,938.56; year-to-date deficit is \$15,357.17.
- Investments - The brokerage account saw an increase of \$49,712.16 in September. \$11,890.72 was withdrawn to cover expenses, resulting in a net gain of \$37,821.44. The ending balance for September is \$2,228,235.32. No changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 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.



Above: Rev. Eugene Young fills in for Pastor Dean's vacation as pulpit supply earlier this month. Communion is prepared with help from Julie Reynolds, James and Terry Belknap.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

The choir is gathering at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings for rehearsal. All are welcome to join them.

Deb Vinick, harpist, will join us for the Christmas Eve service.



Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

The Beginnings of Windsor (first known as Matianuck, changed to Dorchester and finally to Windsor).

Under the leadership of William Holmes, a ship from the Plymouth Colony arrived September 26, 1633. They purchased land from the local River Indians and established a trading post south of the confluence of the Farmington River and the Connecticut River.



Some Massachusetts settlers were unhappy that many Anglican reforms were coming into the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Governor Winthrop thought that the settlement should be run by only a few people while the Reverends Warham and Maverick believed the members of the congregations should have a voice in electing their leaders. Having sought and received permission to establish a new ecclesiastical society in the Connecticut River Valley They set out in October 1635. About 60 people (there were 23 heads of households) trekked 100 miles. This two-week journey followed the Old Connecticut Path. This took them through swamps, streams, rivers and over small mountains. They brought some animals with them. They sent belongings and supplies by ship.

They had planned to establish a settlement on the east side of the Connecticut River. However, on arriving there, they decided to go to the west side of the river as the east side was prone to flooding.

In mid-November, before they could provide adequate shelters, they were surprised by the arrival of an early winter. The supplies coming by ship could not make it to them due to the river freezing. Some struggled back to Dorchester and the others stayed to care for the cattle.

They survived the winter with the help of the Plymouth settlers and the Native Americans. Having little time before winter weather set in, some who stayed made shelters by digging into the river bank. When spring arrived, the transplanted settlers moved to higher ground in the meadow north of the Farmington River. Finally, they were able to receive their provisions. They initially named their settlement Dorchester.

Another group under the auspices of Lord Saltonstall migrated from England to Windsor. They sailed up the Connecticut River and settled in what became Warehouse Point. This was the farthest that ocean going vessels could navigate the river due to rapids beyond this point. (See note at end)

In 1636, Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield formed the Colony of Connecticut. It was also known as the River Colony and as the Connecticut River Colony.

In 1637, the colony's General Court changed the name of the settlement from Dorchester to Windsor, perhaps naming it after the town of Windsor, England.

NOTE: Ships going up river had goods needed by settlers north of the rapids. People north of the rapids had goods to sell. This led to the building of warehouses there. Ships could off-load their goods and then reload from supplies stored there. Thus, the settlement there became known as Warehouse Point.

Right: A Jewelry Sale was held on Saturday, October 5th as a fundraiser to benefit our capital campaign for repairing the church floor. Lynda Jones and Carrie Morse headed up this effort with help and support from Carol Mattera, Rachel Anderson, and of course, a special thank you to Jerry Dalpe for helping us set up the square for credit card purchases! Over \$220 was raised for our cause. Thanks to all who helped in some way or donated jewelry. The church appreciates all of the support!



Church Family News



| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Kevin Greco | 11/03 | Carroll Stearns | 11/18 |
| Benjamin Lopata | 11/04 | Emily Dalpe | 11/26 |
| Becca Clark | 11/09 | Les Clapp | 11/27 |
| Oscar Soares | 11/09 | Noah Chaponis | 11/30 |
| Owen Soares | 11/09 | | |

Jerry & Linda Dalpe 11/20



Doris Burgdorf
Della Mitchell
Cliff McClellan
The Cox Family

The Zaugg Family
Joyce Coon
Bob Woodward
Carol Mattera



Our *Great Pumpkin* Volunteers stuffed 250 Halloween treat bags for trick or treaters during coffee hour after worship last week. Halloween on Main St. is an exciting night and we enjoy greeting the children in the community.





Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **December 2024**. Please send your submissions and photos to the church office by **Nov.15th** 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 Thanksgiving, on 11/28 and Friday 11/29.



Our Pasta Dinner was a great evening!

We held this pasta dinner as a fundraiser to benefit our capital campaign for repairing the church floor.

We had a wonderful turnout and the most incredible handmade from scratch pasta sauce, prepared by our own Julie Reynolds. Julie slow cooked that sauce all day and the church smelled so amazing! Thank you, Julie! Homemade meatballs, a fresh garden salad with virtually everything you could think of and piles of desserts if you had any room left. Thank you to everyone who made this night so fun, so delicious, and so successful!





First Congregational Church 77th Heritage Holiday Fair

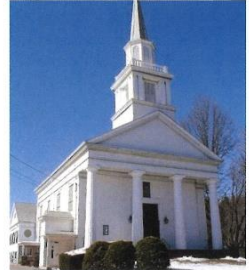
993 Main Street
South Windsor, Connecticut
www.firstchurchsw.org

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!



Fair advertising is well underway! Please feel free to see Carrie for printed flyers or the smaller quarter sheets to help us spread the word. If anyone would like to take a few to hang up or leave at places you frequent, we would love your help with advertising. Think of hairdressers, small businesses, & restaurants in the area. Thanks!

Holiday Fair Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7

The Fair is scheduled for Friday 12/6 from 5-8 and Saturday, 12/7 from 9-2. Due to the work and resources needed to set up our Fair, we will start the setup the weekend of 11/16 & 17. This is a major endeavor by the church and we will need help from everyone during this 3-week period.

Two sign-up sheets will be posted in the coffee hour area. One for the cookies we will need and the other for all of the different tasks and times you will be needed from setup to the day of the Fair to pack up. Please check it out and pick the times and tasks that work best for you.

- Please let us know what you are working on at home so that we are sure to have space to display it properly for sale.
- Contact Linda if you have something for the Treasure Trove.
- Work continues every Friday from 1-4 at the Dalpe warehouse until set up day.

Let's make this fair the best one yet! Spread the dates of the Fair through all of your social media resources. There are little paper handouts available as well to help spread the word to neighbors and friends to save the date.

If you have any questions, contact Jean Trotman or Linda Dalpe.

Trustees News

Jean Trotman

Though much delayed by wet weather this past summer, the painting of the ramp to the Wolcott Building has been finished. The front of the church has been power washed. We are investigating additional nighttime lighting for our parking area.

Our Capital Fundraising efforts for the repairs to the Fellowship Hall floor are well under way. The spaghetti dinner was a success. Thanks to all who helped with special thanks to our chefs, Bob and Julie Reynolds. Letters were sent out requesting a special pledge for



the repairs. A Ladies Dinner Social will be held on Friday, October 25th at 5:30PM at Three Seasons Cafe at Topstone Golf Course. So far, our collective efforts have earned us about \$30,000. We are still investigating options for grants and since they all require us to fund 50% of the cost, this shows that we are working hard to raise the necessary money.

Greens for the Holiday Fair

Jean Trotman



We will once again be creating holiday boxes, boxwood trees and fresh arrangements for the home/office/etc. We need many volunteers, experienced or not (we are happy to show you how). Come once or come often. We are grateful for any time you can donate. The greens are a major draw and many hands make this important part of the fair a success.

The order form for holiday boxes is included in this newsletter. Completed forms and payment may be left at the church office, in the UCW mail box or given to me.

We will start on orders for the boxes beginning Sunday afternoon, December 1st, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. The rest of the week, we will work Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. We will be cleaning up on Friday morning and setting up the work area for opening at 5:00 p.m. Please bring your own clippers, garden gloves and food. Greens, bows and embellishments will be provided.

Please contact me, Vicky Margiott (C: 860-614-5449) or Terry Belknap (C:860-798-9166) if you have fresh greens to contribute. In particular, we are looking for white pine.

If you have any questions, contact Jean Trotman at any of the below but if you do call, I prefer that you use my cell number:

H: 860-289-7637

C: 860-690-9071 If you choose to text me, please leave your name. If you want to talk to me and I don't answer, please leave a message including your name.

Email: jtrotman3@cox.net

First Congregational Church - South Windsor Holiday Fair

December 6th & 7th, 2024

Order Form for Cemetery Boxes

Orders must be into the church

by December 1, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

PLAIN (greens, pinecones, ribbon)

Small are \$20 per box _____ # boxes Total _____

Large are \$25 per box _____ # boxes Total _____

EMBELLISHED (greens, pinecones, ribbon, ornaments, etc.)

Small are \$25 per box _____ # boxes Total _____

Large are \$33 per box _____ # boxes Total _____

Total enclosed _____ **Check #** _____

Orders must be accompanied with payment (make checks payable to First Congregational Church). Pre-orders may be picked up Tuesday, 12/3 to Friday, 12/6; but no later than noon on Friday, December 6th.

Pre orders are limited. First 20 orders are guaranteed. Others to be completed as time and resources allow.

Please plan ahead.

Heritage Day 2024



Left: SW Community Chorus performed at Heritage Day. Right: First Church's table display.



Left: A closer look at all of our historical artifacts. Right: Billy Cox and Judy Borré wrestle the display stands.



Below: James Belknop represents our Rev. Timothy Edwards just perfectly. We think you'll agree that he does a really great job!



Left: Jerry Dalpe and James Belknop put the finishing touches on the displays.

Right: James Belknop and Mary Crittenden await the crowds of visitors.



Heritage Day, held September 28, 2024, was simply a beautiful autumn day on Main Street. We enjoyed sharing our 330+ year church history with the community and taking part in the special activities at East Windsor Hill with the SW Historical Society.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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TO: