

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

September 2026

No More Church

Words are powerful. They bring to mind emotions and images. Some positive. Some negative. When we hear 'church' we may think of another boring hour to endure – another sermon that does not meet my needs, another commitment asked of me that I cannot or do not want to make. Church – another day to battle the impractical going through the motions of often traditional ideas and outdated concepts. If some of these ideas hit home (and not all well), then maybe its time to forget about church and seek another way to be together without the label that conjures up, if not negative feelings, than indifferent at best.

If you are here in this place with these thoughts then maybe its time to change how we (you) see church? Maybe instead of church, the change has to take place in you (me) and our attitudes and expectations we come here assuming. Change in our attitude and perception of what is expected on Sunday morning may make 'church' a more fluid experience – a place to connect – a place to explore.

A place to expect a deepening of spiritual desires? A fellowship of fun? Whatever it takes to get over the habitual practice of going to church, or not, it must begin in and with YOU!

I do not think of going to church on Sunday to preach or lead just another service. I think – Wow, another opportunity to be with friends, another opportunity to discover new ways of being in fellowship. No more church? Well not exactly. I believe we have become used to church and that may be the problem!! We have become used to the idea, but we can always find ways to generate new ideas and find new ways to make church exciting and practical. No more saying "church can really become" and no more "the way we've always done it." Church is a place where bold and robust relationships can happen if we want! No more of the same old, same old.

P. Dean

Pastor Dean's Hours & Office Schedule:
Tuesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm; Monday: Off

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held August 11, 2026 -

- Treasurer's report - no report was available for the meeting.
- Investments - no report was available for the meeting.
- The next meeting will be held September 8, 2026, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

The organ was tuned July 26, 2026. Chris remarked "only a touch-up was needed". He did replace some screws in the Swell shades that had fallen out, which is normal with use.

Kamilla will be sending an email to folks in the choir to see who will be returning in the fall.

First Church Tag Sale

Thank you to all who helped with the First Church Tag Sale! A ton of hard work, time and energy was put into our participation in the town-wide tag sale. It was great to interact with the community and have a little fun together too. We raised almost \$4000 which supports our scholarships and funds various other needs and wishes of the church.

CHURCH
TAG
SALE



Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

I learned about this special lady from a post of a friend, the Rev. Eric Anderson. He posted on Facebook on Aug. 19, 2026, "I learned this morning of the death of the Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, one of the great leaders and historians of the United Church of Christ."

The Rev. Zikmund was also a photographer. During her tenure at Hartford Seminary, she was invited to preach at most of the UCC churches in Connecticut. When she did, she took a photo.

She would very carefully find a view of the church that avoided the distractions such as utility poles, wires etc.

She developed a marvelous presentation from those photos about the history of church architecture in the state, and she also



donated those pictures to the Connecticut Conference.

These photos were put into albums and given to the Connecticut Conference (The old Mission Society of Connecticut).

The Rev. John Van Epps commented:

BBZ was my advisor for my DMin program at Hartford Seminary. A gracious and brilliant historian, theologian, and lover of the UCC. She was also on the committee for the bicentennial of the Missionary Society of CT in the late 1990s, at which time she took many of those photos. Along with a brief history of each church, she made several albums of all our CT churches. A wonderful resource! Those are now

at the Congregational Library in Boston, as the decision was made to send all the archives there.

Also, there are photographs of all our CT churches from the early 1900s, also in several volumes, along with all the photographic plates.

The materials from the Connecticut archives are currently being sorted, catalogued and filed / shelved at the library. The work is to be completed early next year. They have a person working full time on this.

Thank you, Rev. Eric Anderson, for your permission to use information and the photo from your Facebook page. The photo of Eric with The Rev. Dr. Zikmund was taken by Eric at last summer's General Synod (2025).

The photo of our church building was copied from the list of UCC Churches in the Southern New England Conference. It was taken by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund in 1994 or

soon after: as evidenced by the Lift entrance in the photo and the presence of mature trees that are long gone.

Is anyone interested in going to the Congregational Library in Boston next spring? Contact Mary Crittenden if so.



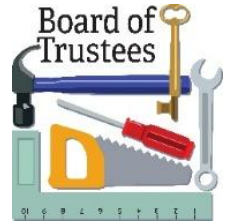
Trustees News

Jean Trotman

Our Sunday services switched to YouTube instead of Zoom starting 8/16.

We worked on our expectations for anyone using our facilities for special occasions and next month we hope to finalize rental rates.

With the Edwards Center ready to open, we discussed moving the archival records from the second floor to the first floor so the two could support each other more easily.



Parish Nurse

Parish Nurse Melody Treadwell will host office hours on Thursdays from 9 AM – 2 PM in the chapel.

Please stop in for a blood sugar screening, a blood pressure check, or to discuss a health concern. You are always welcome to contact the church office to confirm Melody's availability.



More Musical News

Jean Jackson



SNEUCC Annual Meeting Conference Choir - A choir is forming to be part of the Annual Meeting being held September 25-27 in Worcester, MA. Rehearsals for interested participants are Sept. 26 from 5:30-7:00 pm, and Sept. 27 at 8:30 am. Registration is required so that

additional information can be sent to you. Go to

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/7th-annual-meeting-of-the-sneucc-19566021> and scroll down to click on Join the Conference Choir.

Emanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a free: "Protest Music Sing-along Concert". Location is Center Memorial Park on Main Street in Manchester, the concert is this Sunday August 30, from 2-4 pm.

The choir at First Church is seeking new voices. See Jean Jackson after Sunday service if interested in joining our small group.

First Church Potluck Supper

You're Invited to a
First Church Potluck Supper

Thursday, September 10, 2026,
at 6:00 PM in the
Newly Renovated Fellowship Hall.

Bring a Covered Dish!

RSVP TO CHURCH BY SEPT. 1ST - LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'LL BRING!
EMAIL FIRSTCHURCHSW@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 860.528-7992

First Congregational Church - 993 Main St. - South Windsor, CT 06074

Visit firstchurchsw.org for other events & information.

Sunday worship service starts at 10:00 a.m.

Church Family News



Happy Birthday!

Howard Haviland, Jr.	09/03	Ruth Tedesco	09/17
Marty Zaugg	09/06	Silvia Mikkola	09/19
Billy Cox	09/13	Ken Goodwin, Jr.	09/19
Stefan Klein	09/13	Landon Soares	09/20
Jan Soares	09/16	Lauren Litwin	09/23

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Doris Burgdorf
Iva Burnham
Joyce Coon
Della Mitchell
Bob Woodward



The Anderson Family
The Sharp Family
The Senger Family
The Starr Family
The Zaugg Family



Administrative Assistant, Carrie Morse celebrated **7 years** with First Church on August 6th.

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **October, 2026**.

Please send your news and photos to the church office by

September 11th for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

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

We Have Moved to YouTube

Can't make it to the sanctuary? We have transitioned our online livestream from Zoom to YouTube! Sundays at 10:00 am.

 How to tune in: <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstChurchSW>

💎 Bonus: Services will now be saved directly to our channel, so you can watch live or catch up whenever it fits your schedule.

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United Church of Christ

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TO: