Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR
November 2026

For the past three years, First Church has had the opportunity to voice needs and demonstrate an intention to move forward. This process of discernment has come to an end. Your work now is to prepare a profile that accurately reflects your desires in a new pastor. The profile offers honesty, transparency, and clarity! It also should have a clear mission and vision statement (a matter that was not concluded by the way!) Now the time has come to prepare beyond the vision forward meetings and begin to discuss alternative ways of doing ministry at First Church (part-time, retired minister?) Think outside the box now! The church profile is a tool for your next search and call journey but more it is for record keeping with SNEUCC! The profile should reflect what if anything you have learned and incorporated into your ministry. You have the power to define the face of First Church.

Good luck!
P.Dean

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



Mark your calendars!
The fair is coming!
Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
Dec. 4,5,6th
Sign up to work, bake cookies, and let us know what space we need to showcase your work.
Contact Linda: Lindald001@aol.com

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held October 13, 2026 -
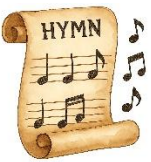


- Treasurer's report - The report from Brooks contained only the year-to-date figures. No data for the month of September was available. Sue Larsen did share that the deficit is approximately $4,000. A total of $15,000 will be taken from the brokerage account for the next few months to cover known bills.
- Investments - September saw a decrease in value, along with funds withdrawn to cover expenses. The account balance for September is $2,288,707.95.
- The next meeting will be held November 10, 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 choir met September 20 after the service and decided to sing Thanksgiving Sunday, and 1-2 Sundays during Advent. Kamilla will provide piano music following the sermon on select Sundays.

Deb Vinick, harpist, is looking forward to joining us again for Christmas Eve.



Edwards Center Research Committee

Barbara Wright

The Edwards Center is closer to opening in the Wolcott Building. The room is set up and we have begun stocking it with donations. We have been working on filling out Deed of Donation forms for every donated item. If you have any items relating to Timothy or Jonathan Edwards and would like to donate them, please speak to any member of the committee or call the church office. We are starting with some papers and several books. We hope to grow our collection. Our Historian, Mary Crittenden is working on a map of the Edwards Trail through Connecticut – depicting sites related to Jonathan or Timothy.

Deacons

Barbara Wright

We have resumed our regular meetings this fall.

The Sunday morning service is now being broadcast on YouTube rather than Zoom and seems to be working out better. Terry will train as backup to Bob Reynolds.

We have set 8:00 PM for the time for the Christmas Eve service.

We have replaced the wax candles in the sanctuary with electric ones and it seems to be working well.

The usher and greeter guidelines have been updated. We are looking for more greeters and ushers for 2027. If you would be willing to help out, please contact any Deacon.

We are happy to report we have one and possibly a second new Deacon for next year.

We met with our Moderator, Judy Borre to discuss the profile she is putting together for the Conference.



On Sunday, October 18th, we officially welcomed Eric Gaines to the First Church family. We are thrilled to have him. Welcome, Eric!











Judy Borre joined the SW American Legion tent at the Apple Fest in October. She shared information with the public about her Sewin4Servicemen group as well as First Church.

Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

The Story of our Third Meeting House:
Why it was built in the middle of the street and how and when it was moved.

After years of debate and disagreement over where the society's third meeting house should be built, the General Assembly granted the people in the northern part of Windsor east of the Connecticut River permission to have their own parish. This changed the name of our church to the First Congregational Church of East Windsor (from the Second Society of Windsor.) It also meant that the people of our parish could choose a place farther to the south. And they did but with a bit of difficulty.

A bit of difficulty? Yes, a lengthy drawn-out process of going to the court multiple times starting in the fall of 1758. The vote on accepting the court's selection of a place was negative several times. Finally, the court ordered selection was marked by a stake at the west side of the road, and the new meeting house had to be built with that spot in the sills of the new building. This interesting bit is found in the Newberry Family Genealogy:

> Josph Newberry (son of Joseph)
> In 1760, the inhabitants of the Second Society in Windsor petitioned the General Assembly to appoint a committee to locate the site for a new meeting-house to be erected in the said society. The committee reported in May, 1761, " that they repair'd to said society, view'd the parts and heard the parties, and affixed a stake on the west side of the street near the course of the line between the lands of Mr. Benjamin Newberry and Mr. Joseph Newberry on which their dwelling houses stand, which stake is to be included within the sills of said meeting house." The General Assembly accepted this report, and the meeting-house was accordingly built on this site.

Since the designated stake was on the west side of "the Road" and without land available west of the stake, the new meeting house was built in the road.

The meeting on Dec. 18, 1761, was in the new meeting house. On Jan. 6, 1761, they voted to build a steeple on the north end of the building by subscription.

After Joseph Newberrry's death, his sons divided his home lot between the three of them. In the town land records in East Windsor, we find the record of the sale of land from Joseph Newberry to the church. This was the third Joseph in the line.

> Oct. 16, 1823, Church meeting notes has, "Voted that the committee of this society be & they are hereby authorized to contract with any person or persons to remove the meeting house belonging to said Society from the place where said house now stands westerly so that the eastern sill of said house shall stand on the west line of the highway provided that house be removed without expense to the Society & provided also said Society by the person or persons contracting to remove said house to indemnify said Society from any damage loss or injury which said house or the Society may sustain in consequence of said house being removed."
>
> Voted. That the committee in making a contract for removing the meeting house be authorized to agree that the house shall be set on Two (rest of the sentence is not readable.)

Turning to the information in the published diary of the Rev. Thomas Robins this information is found:

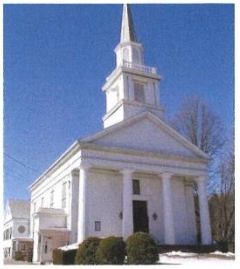
> Oct. 16 Our society had a meeting on the subject of making a small removal of our meeting house.
>
> Oct. 23 The people are preparing to move the meeting house.

The Third Meeting House ended up where the Wolcott Memorial Chapel now stands.

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* In the Julian calendar the new year started in March so 1762 would start in March. The change to the Gregorian calendar occurred over a span of time. England and most of her colonies went to the Gregorian calendar in 1752. Our church records were still in the Julian Calendar dating. Thus Jan. 1761 followed Dec. 1761 as the new year would not start until March.

First Congregational Church
79th Heritage Holiday Fair









993 Main Street
South Windsor, Connecticut

Booths include:
Homemade Fudge
Home Baked Treats
Vintage Jewelry
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip
Handstitched and Handsewn Gifts
Rada Cutlery & Gifts for the Kitchen
Handmade Ornaments & Decorations
Hand-painted Gifts
Cemetery Boxes
Fresh Live Greens Arrangements
Artificial Greens & Wreaths
plus
Treasure Trove and *MORE*!

Fair Hours:

Friday, Dec. 4th
5 pm – 8 pm
Saturday, Dec. 5th
9 am – 2 pm

AND

Sunday, Dec. 6th
1 pm - 4 pm

Free Admission *ALL* Days!

MasterCard VISA

www.firstchurchsw.org









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, November 29th, from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. The rest of the week, we will work Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 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.

If you can only work in the evening, contact me to make arrangements.

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 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
79th Heritage Holiday Fair

December 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2026
Order Form for Cemetery Boxes
Orders must be into the church
by November 29, 2026

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, 12/1 to Friday,12/4; but no later than noon on Friday, December 4th.

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

Please plan ahead.

Crop Walk for Hunger 2026

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD

2026
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

A big thank you to Vicky Margiott for representing First Church in the 2026 Crop Walk for Hunger. CROP stands for **C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty. The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Participation is a First Church tradition. Over $2500 was raised for our local event.



Upcoming Mission Initiatives for First Congregational Church SW, UCC

The Mission's Committee is very excited to announce some upcoming activities we will be engaging in through the end of the year. The time and events are as follows:

Food Snacks for Children - Starting in October and ongoing into next year – As the SW Senior Center is currently in good shape with toiletries and cleaning products, we are turning to partner with MACC (Manchester Area Community Churches) for snack food donations for area children in need. The Cart in the Narthex will be available for drop offs. They have suggested the following items:

- Juice boxes
- Chips
- Hot Cocoa packets
- Canned Pasta
- Canned fruit, applesauce cups
- Cookies
- Canned pasta
- Mac and cheese cups

Coat Drive – Starting in October through November, we will be looking for **gently used and clean winter items** for Cornerstone. Any coat or items that Cornerstone cannot use, we will bring to MACC. There will be a box in the Narthex for drop off. Items they are looking for are:

- Men's jackets
- Men's gloves
- Men's boots
- Women's jackets
- Hats for both women and men

Thanksgiving Food Drive – On Sunday, November 15, 2026, we will collect items listed on the Thanksgiving Food Drive flyer that was handed out at church. Please contact the church office if you need a copy of the wish list. Plan to bring all food items on that Sunday morning.

Christmas Fund for Retired Pastors – We will be collecting money for the month of December. There will be special envelopes in the pew holders to insert your money in. Just place it in the offering plate. If you cannot find these special envelopes, please ask Rachel Anderson or Terry Belknap.

Officer Barrett Outreach program helping the homeless in the Hartford area – We will be collecting McDonald's gift certificates in the amount of $25.00 or less in the month of December. There will be a card holder box in the Narthex for dropping them off.
In addition to the McDonalds gift certificates that the congregation will be purchasing, the Missions Committee will be buying and providing dark color Back Packs, sweat pants, and shirts in size Medium, Large and 2X to give to Officer Barrett to distribute as needed.

Coming next year, we will again make bags for carrying personal hygiene items as part of the **Days For Girls project.**
Other projects to follow next year as well. We always welcome new ideas.



Trustees News

Jean Trotman



The annual furnace maintenance has been done. Homestead reported that the Wolcott furnace is old and needs to be replaced. No information yet on cost.

The heat has been turned on in the main building. We have one quote for plowing our driveway this winter, but are looking for at least a second quote.

We had a lengthy discussion about rates for public use of our facilities. Some rates were agreed upon but we aren't publishing them until we have it all finalized. We did agree to make personal use of church facilities free to active members. More on this topic to come.

We are replacing old and outdated EXIT signs and smoke detectors in the Wolcott building per the Fire Marshall. On the advice of the company that inspected our fire extinguishers, we are replacing the current water-based fire extinguisher near the offices with powder-based ones to minimize damage to the electronics.

The 2027 budget is in progress. Please contact a Trustee if your committee needs funds or you are aware of any unusual needs for the coming year.

Parish Nurse News



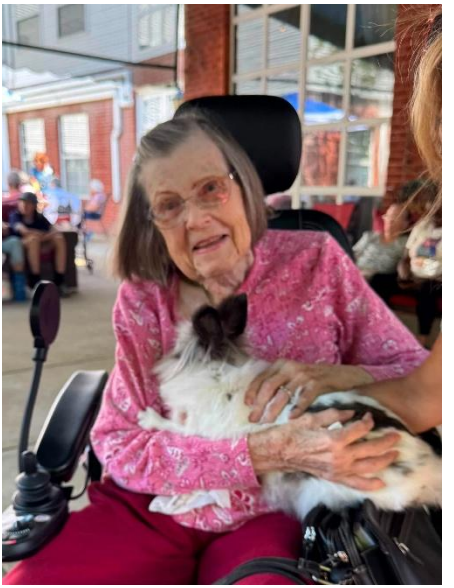
Parish Nurse Melody Treadwell will host office hours on Thursdays from 9 AM – 2 PM in the chapel. Please stop in for a blood sugar screening, a blood pressure check, or to discuss a health concern. You are always welcome to contact the church office to confirm Melody's availability.

Save the Date



South United Methodist Church is presenting their Candlelight Concert on Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 4:30 pm. SUMC is located at 1226 Main Street, Manchester. Their sanctuary is handicap-accessible. The concert is free to the public.





A warm hello from our fellow First Church member, Joyce Coon. Joyce has been receiving visits from our parish nurse, Melody Treadwell. The director of the Arbors thought we would enjoy seeing these beautiful photos of our friend. Joyce enjoys having her caregiver read her our Sunday bulletin we mail each week so that she can stay connected to her church. She even reads the hymns! We miss you at church, Joyce!





Church Family News



Happy Birthday!

Becca Clark	11/09	Melody Treadwell	11/25
Oscar Soares	11/09	Emily Dalpe	11/26
Owen Soares	11/09	Les Clapp	11/27
Carroll Stearns	11/18		

In Our Thoughts and Prayers…

Doris Burgdorf
Joyce Coon
Della Mitchell
Bob Woodward
Cliff McClellan
Karen Rossi



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

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **December, 2026**. Please send your submissions and photos to the church office by **Nov.13th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thank you!

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!

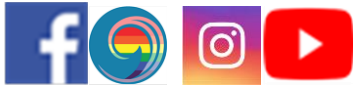
📺 How to tune in:

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.

Join Us Sundays at 10:00 AM!

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TO: