

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



May 2023

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose  
under heaven — Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

I am writing to share with you my decision to resign as Minister of First Congregational Church of South Windsor, effective June 10, 2023. This was not an easy decision, reached after months of deep, soul-searching prayer and discernment. I now feel that The Lord is calling both this minister and, I believe, this congregation, “on to fresh and newer spaces.” It is time for our paths to diverge.

I will be forever grateful that the First Congregational Church of South Windsor was the first to call me as its settled pastor. Serving this historic and hospitable congregation has been the opportunity of a lifetime. The fruits of these almost seven years of ministry together will always be with me, and I pray, also with you.

Worshipping God through the seasons of both church and life, celebrating the FCCSW’s 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an interfaith theme, voting to become an Open and Affirming congregation, holding our first Armchair Retreat, continued collaboration with Mission Partners, representing and ramping up the church’s presence in the community for funeral services and receptions, leading prayer for various civic organizations, attending and supporting church efforts such as Sew-in-4-Servicemen and Christmas Fair, forging together through two-plus years of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Zooming worship from my

living room to safeguard the congregation and community, and caring for the needs of God's people, are just a few of the notable good works we have labored so hard to accomplish.

During April, May and part of June, I will conduct my usual duties with continued special attention to pastoral care, bidding adieu to the people of our church community, preparing the path for next steps, along with tending to closure in administrative areas. I look forward to worshipping, visiting, sharing coffee and meals and being in communion with all of you at this tender time.

May 28, 2023 will be my final Sunday leading worship and preaching, during which there will be a Service of Release. June 10, 2023 will be the closing day of my ministry to all of you, which date satisfies the required sixty-day advance notice according to our covenantal agreement. I will be utilizing the balance of my vacation time from May 29 through June 10, along with a few days here and there post-Easter.

The Rev. Isaac Lawson, Area Conference Minister, South Central Region, Southern New England Conference, UCC will be available to share his wisdom and assist with transitional details and guidance regarding ministerial coverage.

I most sincerely thank you for your support and love. I will always carry you in my heart. Please know you are loved and I will miss you. May God's grace shine upon all of us as we remain pilgrims of Christ, trodding new paths set before us. I leave you with the words of Herman Hesse's poem, *Stages*:

*As every flower fades and as all youth  
Departs, so life at every stage,  
So every virtue, so our grasp of truth,  
Blossoms in its day and may not last forever.  
Since life may summon us at every age  
Be ready, heart, for parting, new endeavor,*

*Be ready bravely and without remorse  
To find new light that old ties cannot give.  
In all beginnings dwells a magic force  
For guarding us and helping us to live.  
Serenely let us move to distant places  
And let no sentiments of home detain us.  
The Cosmic Spirit seeks not to restrain us  
But lifts us stage by stage to wider spaces.  
If we accept a home of our own making,  
Familiar habit makes for indolence.  
We must prepare for parting and leave-taking  
Or else remain the slaves of permanence.  
Even the hour of our death may send  
Us speeding on to fresh and newer spaces,  
And life may summon us to newer races.  
So be it, heart: bid farewell without end.*

God keep you,

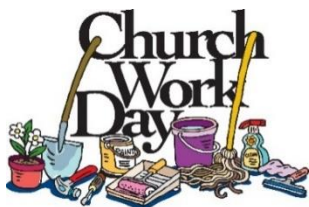
*Rev. Nina*

### *Maundy Thursday Service 2023*



## *Church Clean Up Day*

Jean Trotman



Please join the Trustees on May 13th from 9-2 for some needed housekeeping chores. Bring your own lunch. We are hoping to complete the following:

wash windows, clean the chandelier and sconces in the sanctuary, replace burned out bulbs in 5 of the spot lights in the

sanctuary and do some spring cleanup/weeding in the beds on the north and south sides of the church. If you have any questions, please contact me at C: 860-690-9071, H: 860-289-7637 or [jtrotman3@cox.net](mailto:jtrotman3@cox.net).

## *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman, Acting Chairman

Several of the things we have been working on have been completed: a new copier/printer was installed in the Office on 4/11, we have engaged with Homestead for our AC maintenance, and the stump left after the removal of the tree in front of the Wolcott Building has been removed. The Tortora Home Improvement company has been approved to do a water test to detect the cause/source of the water that has damaged the east wall in Fellowship Hall. This will include removing some damaged sections of the wall and repairing them. We expect this to be scheduled shortly.

## *Wapping Church 'Peace Through Pies' Event*

You are invited to the 2nd annual "Peace Through Pies" event at Wapping Community Church, Sunday, May 7th. From 2-4pm we've invited people from all over the SW community to come and have some pie, either in our back parking lot or in our Community Room, depending on the weather that day.



"There is no particular agenda for this event. Just a chance to get together with all kinds of people from town, to greet old friends and make new ones, and to promote the kind of peace that's possible when we know our neighbors. All over a good piece of pie! Feel free to come yourself, if you are free, and please let folks at First Church know as well. The more the merrier!"

### Liturgy of Farewell for Pastor Nina's Last Sunday

As most of you will already know, after serving First Congregational Church of South Windsor for seven years, Pastor Nina Schmid will be officiating her last service on Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Please join us for this special service "A Liturgy of Farewell" to say goodbye. The choir will be reconvening to sing her off to her future.

This will be followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall where we can say our personal farewells and share stories of Nina's stewardship.

We are sad that she is leaving us and wish her and her family happiness for her future.

Judith Borré, Moderator



Please keep in your prayers Chris Walton and his family. Chris's father passed away during Holy Week. Chris served as our organist and choir director for several years. He currently tunes and repairs our 100+ year old tracker organ.

An Invitation: South United Methodist Church on Main Street in Manchester will present their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm. Taking part are the Concert Choir, Wesley Ringers (handbells), a vocal quartet, and a talented pianist or two. Admission is free.



**HANDBELL**  
**PERFORMANCE**

## *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson & Lisa Horsfield

- The choir is off for the season, and will regroup in the Fall.
- Kamilla Mammedova will be on vacation June 18 through July 2. The search for substitutes to cover these 3 dates is underway.
- Jean Jackson shared an invitation from Grace Baptist Church in Norwalk to join them Sunday, May 21 at 4 pm to explore a new hymnal, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism". Registration is required; cost is \$20 for the hymnal so you can sing your way through the evening. A flyer will be on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Church Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held April 11, 2023 -

- Treasurer's report - Details were not available at the meeting, but were emailed to all the following day. Expenses for March were \$28,138.54. Payroll expenses were higher as March had three pay periods. Cleaning contractor expenses were higher as 2 4-week bills were received. Income was \$24,284.40. \$20,089.40 was withdrawn from the brokerage account to cover the higher than usual expenses. Deficit for the month is \$3,854.14; deficit year-to-date is \$13,325.32. There is no balance on hand; checking account is -\$712.73.
- Investments - In March, the brokerage account increased to just under \$75,000. \$20,089.40 was withdrawn to cover expenses. Ending balance for March is \$1,896,770. No changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in the Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.



## *Church Treasurer Wanted*

Lee Anderson, our current Treasurer, has asked to step down. Therefore, we are looking for a volunteer who would be interested in interviewing for the Treasurer position. You would need to be a member of the Church, have experience with bookkeeping and payroll and be reasonably computer savvy, including knowledge of spreadsheet and expense tracking software. Based on the current work load, tasks (including meetings) take an average of 25 hours per month. Should the Trustees decide to outsource payroll, that time commitment drops to about 20 hours per month.

Treasurer duties: Serve as a member of the Trustees; have custody of the funds of the church; manage payroll and all associated State and Federal tax filings as required by law; reconcile weekly deposits with the Financial Secretary; arrange for the deposit of church funds in such banks or trust companies as may be approved by the Trustees; withdraw Trust funds as needed, in coordination with the Church's Investment Manager, and allocate withdrawals against the proper accounts; pay bills and reconcile bank statements promptly; keep proper books of account with supporting vouchers for disbursements which shall be open to the Church Committee at reasonable times; furnish a financial statement of current funds at the Annual Meeting of the church to include endowment funds; report all receipts and disbursements during the preceding year; during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year, create a budget worksheet for the Trustees and guide the development of a budget for the next year; perform such other duties as a majority of the Trustees may reasonably direct.



If you are interested, please contact either of the people below.

Jean Trotman, head of the Trustees

H: 860-289-7637, C: 860-690 9071 email: [jtrotman3@cox.net](mailto:jtrotman3@cox.net)

Judy Borré, Moderator

H: 860-644-4397 email: [borre@cox.net](mailto:borre@cox.net)



*Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden

By the late 1990's the building structure was in need of extensive work. The Chapel was being used for classes with the space divided by curtains rather than a chapel. One class was meeting in the Metzger Memorial Chapel. A couple months ago, I posed a few questions. I've jumped ahead in the story so now back to the question about Sunday Schools...

When did Sunday Schools start and why? I've asked several people to guess why these schools were started. These answers mentioned some things that were benefits; but none got to the big reason.

The Sunday School movement started in England and quickly spread. It is important to realize that Sunday schools were originally, literally schools. They were places where poor children could learn to read. Of course the text book was the Bible. Many children learned to write by copying out passages from the Scriptures. For a long time, they were the only way working-class families could receive an education. By the mid-19th century, Sunday school attendance was a near universal aspect of childhood.

Even parents who did not regularly attend church themselves generally insisted that their children go to Sunday school.

Working-class families were grateful for this opportunity to receive an education. They also looked forward to annual highlights such as prize days, parades, and picnics, which came to mark the calendars of their lives as much as more traditional seasonal holidays.

In both Britain and America, universal, compulsory state education was established by the 1870s. After that, reading and writing were learned on weekdays at school and the Sunday school curriculum was limited to religious education. Nevertheless, many parents continued to believe that regular Sunday school attendance was an essential component of childhood. The trend for permissive parenting





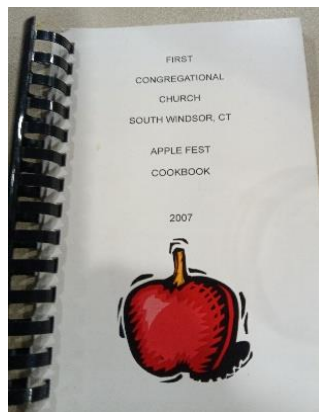
in the 1960s, however, meant that a widespread culture of insisting that children go to Sunday school whether they want to or not (especially when the parents were not themselves going to church) was abandoned.

In the United States each denomination generally established its own Christian education policy, although interdenominational cooperation was frequently an important factor. The Philadelphia Sunday School Union, the first interdenominational Sunday school association in the United States, was organized in 1791. The International Council of Religious Education, which was organized in 1922, became part of the National Council of Churches in 1950.

Historical information sourced from wikipedia and Encyclopedia Britannica at britannica.com. Photo is public domain.

### *Wanted: A Copy of This Cookbook*

The members of First Congregational Church, South Windsor self-published an Apple Fest Cookbook 2007 during the time that we were doing the Apple Fest. We do not have a copy in our archive and I would like for us to have one. Hopefully someone has a copy that they are willing to give to the church archive, we would love to have it. At an event of the South Windsor Historical Society, I saw the South Windsor Library's copy. In it is an apple cake recipe that Elsie Woolam had submitted. She brought apple cake to this pot luck.



Elsie Woolam and Mary Crittenden attended a SW Historical Society potluck recently. Elsie (pictured here 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) brought a recipe for Apple Cake. It is one she has used many times in the past. She also submitted it to the Apple Fest Cookbook 2007 (pictured above). That is the cookbook we are looking to add to our church archives.



## BLANKETS OF HOPE



We will once again be participating in the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets of Hope program. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

A donation of \$10.00 will purchase a blanket, and we will continue our tradition of dedicating them on Mother's Day in honor of, or in memory of, mothers or mother figures in our lives. An order form is included in this newsletter if you wish to mail it in, and we will also be including the order forms in our Sunday bulletins in the two weeks prior to Mother's Day.



I would like to purchase blanket/blankets at \$10.00 each in honor of or in memory of a mother for Church World Service to send to people in need of shelter and warmth. **Orders must be received by the church office by Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.** Make your check payable to First Congregational Church with **Blankets of Hope** in the memo portion.

Number of blankets: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

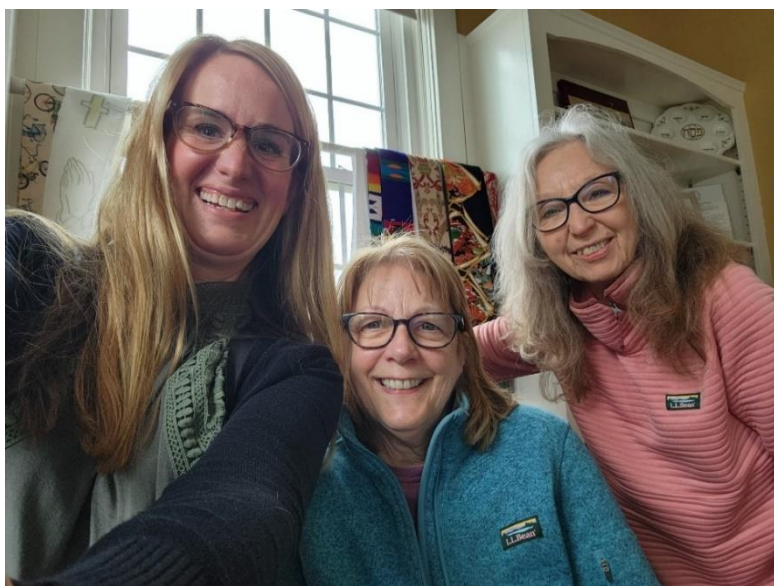
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

*Easter Sunrise 2023*





*Above: Carrie Morse, Administrative Assistant; Terry Belknap, Deacon Extraordinaire; and Rev. Nina put their heads together most of Good Friday afternoon to solve a major internet snafu so the Zoom show could go on Easter morning! Many minds make light work!*

### *Helping Hawkwing 2023*



*Members of FCCSW volunteered to help Hawkwing sort donation boxes at their storage unit so that they could be distributed to those in need. Items were transported to Glastonbury to get ready for the reservation which frees up more space in South Windsor for more donations.*

**New!**  
**RideShare**  
**Program at**  
**FCCSW**



We are very excited to share that we will now

offer carpool connections for anyone who wishes to attend an event, meeting, or service and cannot drive themselves or doesn't drive at night. Starting immediately, some members of FCCSW have offered to pick up and bring home anyone who is in need of a ride. The process would go as follows:

- **Need a Ride?** - Call or Email the church office and let Carrie know you need a ride. Please contact the church office well in advance of the activity. In the email, please include your name, contact phone number and when you need the ride. Carrie will send an email to a list of Drivers with your information. One of the drivers that is available will be in contact with you to make plans for pick up.
- **Drivers** - The driver accepting the ride request should let other drivers and Carrie know that they will provide the ride. Simply "respond all" to the church email that you intend to provide the ride and will contact the person needing the ride.
- **DRIVERS NEEDED** - We need to build our base of drivers offering to provide rides. So please, if you want to be considered as a driver, please contact the church office with your name, email and contact phone number.

Thank you to everyone for being willing to make this new program successful and providing rides for our fellow members.

## Church Family News



LeAnne Morgan	05/04	Mary Greco	05/15
Craig Anderson	05/06	Jeff Virr	05/25
Logan Jackson	05/10	Kate Larsen	05/29
Scott Larsen	05/12		



Bob & Julia Reynolds	05/01		
John & Sheila McIntosh	05/19	John & Sue Larsen	05/26
Eric & Jan Soares	05/25	Greg & Jean Jackson	05/29



Doris Burgdorf	Della Mitchell
Joyce Coon	Edie & Bob Starr
Stefan & Laura Klein	Brad & Barb Wright
Merle & Leilani Dinse	Patty & Billy Cox
Lisa Horsfield	Bob Peck
Cliff McClellan	

Ray and Beverly Zaugg have chosen to relocate.  
We are wishing them well! Their new address is:  
Brookdale  
Room 218

1715 Ellington Road  
South Windsor, CT 06074

*\*They would enjoy hearing from friends and having visitors!*



## *Prayer Chain*

Rachel Anderson

We have an active prayer chain here at First Church. It is a confidential list of people we pray for as requested. The people on the chain remain confidential. If you have names that



you would like to add, please contact Rachel Anderson via phone or email. (860) 644-2157 or [leeandrachela@gmail.com](mailto:leeandrachela@gmail.com). Also, if anyone would like to join us on the chain, let me know, we would love to have you. It is not time consuming and is at your convenience.



## *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **June 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **May 12<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion. Thank you. [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com)



## *Church Office Hours*

Hours will be Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm, unless otherwise noted.

## *Drop-in Hours with Rev. Nina!*

Wednesdays, from 10 am – noon, or by appointment





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

993 Main Street

PO Box 165

South Windsor, CT 06074-0165

860-528-7992

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

[www.firstchurchsw.org](http://www.firstchurchsw.org)



TO: