

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



April 2023



Easter Seekers:

We are almost there! We have almost reached the point of that exuberant and thrilling joy in the knowledge that Jesus Christ emerges alive after his crucifixion on Calvary, marking our Christian celebration of his Resurrection – Easter Morn! As you receive this newsletter, our church community and Christians around the world are about to enter the holiest of seasons, Holy Week, or Passion Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday's reflective silence and the glorious noise of Easter morning.

During these past weeks of Lent, we have been walking with the Psalms of Lent and the joy – yes, that's right, joy – they hold. Did you know the Psalms offer us heaps and heaps and heaps of joy, which is often hidden amidst the darkness and more lethargic liturgies of Lent? While the contrast in the dark and the light is necessary and unavoidable as Jesus walks his wilderness, we lean towards the light and let the Psalms guide us to the joys of God's ever-present, effervescent love. We have been on a journey of discovery.

We have learned that there are many types and categories of Psalms: poems of lament, hymns of praise, songs of thanksgiving,

expressions of desperation and desolation, celebrations of royal enthronement and the traits of true kings (good shepherds), words of wisdom, cries for comfort and faith in God's forgiveness; promises of salvation and redemption. Even in the deepest darkness, God is present. What a joy-filled promise!

Psalm 130 with the very joy of God's forgiveness; Psalm 121; "I lift my eyes unto the hills" and its promise of assurance along the way; a song of ascent, believed to be sung by pilgrims walking the rough roads to Jerusalem, that God will not let your foot slip. Psalm 95 exuberantly invites us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord!" To praise!

We are reminded that the ever-popular Psalm 23, while usually heard at funerals, is not about death, it is about LIFE! Yes, God will keep us, pursue us with joyful love and watch over us all the days of our life and into eternity!



Who hasn't needed God's help? Psalm 130 describes the watchful waiting of our souls for God: "Out of the depths I cry...my soul waits for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning." Joy in the morning!

*my soul waits for
the LORD more than
those who watch
for the morning.*

Psalm 130:6

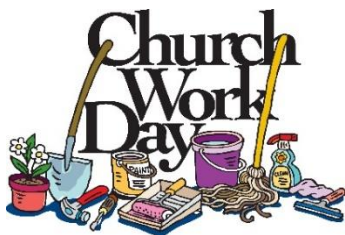
Then, Psalm 118 – chock a-block full of joyous exclamations - will lead us to and through Holy Week and Easter morn, exhorting glorious thanksgiving for God's steadfast love; "I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord;" the stone that was rejected has become the cornerstone; blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Give thanks with joy for such steadfast love! Help yourself to the heaps and heaps and heaps of joy offered in the Psalms and this Easter morn and all year through! Blessed and Happy Easter to you all!

Joyfully,

Rev. Nina

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.

Gifts and Memorials

Rachel Anderson



Memorials & Gifts

On April 30th, after church services, Gifts and Memorials will be dedicating the Little Church Library in memory of Leona Dunham. A Special coffee hour will follow. This is a miniature model of First Church that will be used as a lending library and 'take a snack' location. Right now, we are looking for donations of individual snacks in sealed packages. These can be dropped off at church during business hours. The library

was constructed by our own Tim Starr and is currently on display in the church chapel. The library will be located on Main Street near the South driveway.



Trustees News

Jean Trotman, Acting Chairman

Our office copier is on its last legs. We have decided to hire Ryan Business Systems to replace it and provide any necessary maintenance. A new machine should be in place shortly after Easter. We have received 2 bids for annual maintenance on our AC system and will be making a decision shortly. We are hoping to have the tree stump by the ramp to the Wolcott Building removed in time for the dedication of the Little Church lending library on April 30th. The South Windsor Community Chorus will be using Fellowship Hall for their practices on Monday evenings starting 3/20.

The group working on a replacement for our Treasurer continues to meet weekly to learn about all aspects of the job, develop a job description and make plans to fill this position.

This spring, we are planning a Church Clean-up day to do some housekeeping chores that haven't happened for a while as well as a day to clean and prepare the Wolcott ramp for repainting.

Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

There are still unanswered questions that I posed last month:

Today we will consider the questions concerning the chapel. I think most of you have a good idea of what a chapel is. It is room or space set aside as a place of prayer and worship. It usually has an altar. Yes, there was a chapel in the Wolcott Memorial Chapel building.

The second floor was one large room. That was the chapel. It had benches that could be set up facing the altar or put into other configurations for other purposes. They had hymnals with hymns that many people considered children's hymns. Many of these were the same hymns that were sung in the church that I grew up going to. Why did the Sabbath

School (Sunday School or Church School) need a chapel? The children did not spend any time in the adult service, but on arriving at the church, the children went into the Wolcott Memorial Chapel and



the adults went into the church for their worship service. The children had their own brief service. That gave them a service that was at their level and it was an opportunity to teach them how they should behave in a church service.

The chapel had dividers that could enclose individual classes for the lessons. I do not know when the children started attending the beginning of the morning service in the church sanctuary with their parents before going next door to their classes. There were years when there were not enough separate classrooms in the Wolcott Memorial Chapel to accommodate all of the large church school classes.

Elsie Woolam recalls when her class met in the church office (which at that time was only half the size of the workroom). Her class also met in the choir loft, probably a different year.

I joined the church in 1994. A year or so later there was a class that needed a teacher in the middle of the school year as their teacher left. I was asked to teach that class of eight graders. We met in the Metzger Memorial Chapel. Less than 25 years ago we had a good-sized Church School.

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 and no longer used as a chapel. A committee was needed to look into what options we had. That committee was composed of Jane Maytubby (Moderator and

Chairperson), Merle Dinse, Dave Chapman, Bruce Burnham, Mary Crittenden, Bill Stone, Al Parks, Mark Franklin, Justin George, Jack Phillips, Joyce and Wayne Coon, and Art Dunham. Sue Larsen and John Mitchell oversaw the building finances.

They considered the needed repairs, the size of the building and that it could not house all the classes. After considering possible ways to increase the number of class rooms, we gave the congregation three different plans. The Church voted on these plans at a meeting after the morning worship service on November 16, 1997 and was rededicated on April 26, 1998.



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 4th 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

Judy Borré, Moderator

H: 860-644-4397 email: borre@cox.net

Missions News

Rachel Anderson

On Palm Sunday; April 2, we will do our yearly collection for one of our charities. This year we are supporting the MACC Pantry by donating some much-needed supplies for their food pantry. While they often get food, they have other needs also. When talking to their director I found they also need paper goods, diapers (especially sizes 5 and 6), toiletries, dish and laundry soap, and cleaning products of all kinds. Let's fill them up.

We will also have our annual Mother's Day and Father's Day collection. This will be a chance to honor them by donating to CWS Blankets of Hope in their names. Cost to donate is \$10 per blanket as the cost of the blankets has gone up. More details to follow.



Below: Church attendees receiving their flower bulb kits from our adorable and friendly volunteers after a recent church service.



Adopt-A-Road

James Belknap

Spring is here, which means it is time for our annual cleanup of

Governor's Highway as part of the town of South Windsor's "Adopt-A-Road" program that First Church has been part of for many years now. So, we're looking for volunteers to cover the roadway from Main Street to Beldon Street and collect litter from the walking area next to the road (not on the traveled road itself). We'll hopefully have enough volunteers so we can break into groups to cover Main Street to Route 5

*Clean-up Project*

and Route 5 to Beldon Street. We're looking at Saturday, April 15 as our work date (weather permitting), starting at 9:30am. An alternate "rain date" would be Sunday, April 16 at 1:00pm. We'll plan to meet at the church, determine how to divide us up and then get to our starting locations. We estimate it will take about two hours to complete the cleanup, depending on the number of participants.

The town will provide orange safety vests, trash grabber tools, trash bags and road signs. Bring your own gloves. Youths age 10-15 are permitted with a parent or guardian's consent signature on the volunteer listing form.

Please contact Jim Belknap (860-436-9722) or let the church office know if you wish to volunteer. Jim needs to provide the town with an Agreement of Volunteers form containing everyone's names and signatures by the Friday before the scheduled date in order to obtain the Adopt-A-Road permit and pick up supplies. So, please let Jim or the office know as soon as possible if you can participate. Thanks.

Church Fair

Linda Dalpe



Workshops: The fair committee has started workshops again on Fridays from 1:00-4:00. Bring your ideas or a project that you want help with. Enjoy the friendship while we create. No talent you say? Come anyway and we will find a job for you. Contact Linda Dalpe @ 860-528-1936 for schedule and more information.

Wanted: Spring is fast approaching, which means it's time to think about spring cleaning your jewelry box. Just like clothes that you have had in your closet and haven't had on your back in 10 years, your jewelry box needs attention too. Sort out that jewelry that you no longer use, even if it is broken or missing its mate. You can drop it off at 1090 Main, or give Linda a call (860-528-1936) and she will pick it up.

Wanted: Painters, woodworkers, bakers, chefs. Tell us your secret talent and we will happily have you join our team of creators.

Notice: There will **not** be a scholarship tag sale **nor** grandma's attic. We **will continue** with **Treasure Trove** at the fair which displays "high end Grandma's attic" i.e. - things in good/new condition that we can sell at \$5 and up. The space is limited, so when in doubt give Linda Dalpe a call to help you decide what to do with the items without sending them to the landfill.

Right: The chime choir performs "Kum ba Yah" during the March 19, 2023 worship service. The chime choir is led by Jean Jackson, pictured facing the chimers. From left to right: Bob Reynolds, Terry Belknap, Julie Reynolds, Jim Belknap, Carol Mattera and Kamilla Mammedova.





Lenten Soup-er Supper Series 2023

"I Wonder..., I Believe..., I Pray..."



The response to the soup supper series was truly terrific! It was a delight to have so many in attendance. It is always a wonderful opportunity for fellowship too.

Excerpt from Ann Weem's Poem,
Holy Week:

*"The only road to Easter morning
is through the unrelenting shadows of that Friday.
Only then will the alleluías be sung;
only then will the dancing begin."*

(Weems, Ann. *Kneeling in Jerusalem*. P. 73-74. Ann Barr Weems. Louisville: 1993).

First Congregational Church of South Windsor

993 Main Street South Windsor, CT. 06074

(860)528-7992

firstchurchsw@gmail.com

All Sunday 10:00am Services offered in person and online. Please contact us for more information.

Exploring Lent Together Through Scripture, Conversation, Prayer and Music



Holy Week

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday- *Sunny and Partially Cloudy*

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

10:00 am worship

Followed by Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday

Service of Shadows and Communion

7:00 pm

Friday, April 7: Good Friday

Sanctuary Open for Silent Meditation and Prayer

12 Noon – 3:00 pm

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, April 9 - *All Creation Sings!*

Backyard Sunrise Service 6:15 am

988 Main Street, South Windsor

Across from the church – park on the street or in the church parking lot

Easter breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall between services.

Easter Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 am - *All Creation is Still Singing!*

Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24; John 20:1-18

First Congregational Church Sanctuary





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



Michael Samsel	04/02	Jacob Charette	04/20
James Belknap	04/07	Lilly Morse	04/20
Lynda Jones	04/07	Caty Ventura	04/22
Rob Donaldson	04/10	Justin Clark	04/23
Rachel Anderson	04/15	Colin Neary	04/25
Donna Woolam	04/16	Erica Shepardson	04/25
Diane Archambault	04/17	Megan McClellan	04/26



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

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. 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 at your convenience.

Prayer Shawls

We are really running low on prayer shawls. If you knit or crochet and would like to help, it would be very appreciated. Homespun yarn for the shawls is in the closet next to the north hallway in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Nancy Stearns with any questions at nancycstearns@yahoo.com.

Nancy Stearns



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **May 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos!** to the church office by **April 14th** for inclusion. Thank you.

firstchurchsw@gmail.com

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

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

***Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot cross buns!
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons!
One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!***

Here is a recipe for this Lenten favorite, believed to have been first made by a 12th c. English monk for consumption on Good Friday:

¼ C shortening
¾ C sugar
2 eggs
4-6 C whole wheat flour
2 C scalded milk
1 Cake yeast
¼ C lukewarm water
1 C currants or raisins or other dried fruits

Scald and cool milk. Add shortening, sugar and eggs. When lukewarm, add yeast that has been dissolved in one-half cup lukewarm water. Stir in four cups flour, and beat hard. Add enough flour to make a soft dough. Stir in raisins. Keep in refrigerator until ready to use. Shape in to buns and cut with cross; let rise 60 minutes. Bake in hot oven (425 Degrees) for 15 minutes. Brush with melted butter and mark with icing cross.

(Berger, Florence. *Cooking For Christ the liturgical year in the kitchen*. P. 4-50) National Catholic Rural Life Conference. 1949: Des Moines.



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United Church of Christ

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TO: