

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

April 2018

Joyful Easter Blessing to You All!

Holy Week is on the horizon. Lent is coming to its gut-wrenching and soul-searing climax. Christians around the world will once again joyfully welcome the news of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning. Devotionals will have been read; palms waved; the stone rolled away; special worship services will be over; life will go on, Praise God!

'Life will go on' ...a phrase often tossed around casually. Yet, life as we know it is changing at lightning speed. Change, though so essential for life itself, is not always welcome. It can bring with it much confusion, pain and fear as the heinous deeds humankind is so adept at meting out upon itself continue to be perpetrated, perhaps evoking similar emotions as were evoked before, during and after the crucifixion of Christ, in a world that was as troubled as our own.

We wonder about our future, our children's, and the world. We are on the receiving end of constant information and fear mongering, with rapid-fire, detailed reports of seemingly *everything* horrible that goes on in the world – more than our human brains and emotions can process. How do we cope? How do we not lose hope?

Our Lenten series, "Crossing the Road with Christ: Cultivating a Changing Worldview" is about life and how we know and see our neighbors. It is about taking time out to listen to each other; to be there for each other; to live out the Gospel of caring for the least of these. These moments provide opportunity for revelation in other human beings' experiences, who have overcome formidable, sometimes unimaginable, situations and come out the other side, changed, but intact in new ways – from old life to new life.

These communal experiences have been profound. We have been enriched by the amazing testimonies we have heard about addiction and recovery, gender and sexuality and mental illness. All have been stories of survival, resilience and yes, one might say, resurrection. These shared testimonies underscore our common humanity. In these times, it is more important than ever that we try to reach across lines, boundaries, and walls of all types to increase our knowledge of each other's journeys and burdens; to offer understanding and compassion; to remember we have deep wells of spirit – our own hearts - and strength, from which to draw the living water of peace and understanding.

A very wise clergy person I was privileged to work with during my chaplain residency once said these words to me, "Isn't it amazing how God gave human beings such resilient spirits?"

Yes, friends, we have been blessed by God with resiliency! It is this message of resiliency and resurgence of life that we prepare now to receive once again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ – a sea-change that was misunderstood, caused confusion and pain, yet...again, brings resiliency, new life and hope.

May you be blest with resiliency of spirit this Eastertide.

Prayerfully,

Nina



Church Committee

*Jean
Church Clerk*

Highlights from March 20, 2018 Church Committee meeting:

- Treasurer - Income for February is \$13,685.46. Expenses are \$14,937.76. Cash on hand is \$877.75. Deficit for the month is \$1,252.30. Deficit year-to-date is \$10,298.09. Income was high due to \$10,000.00 from the trust fund to cover expenses.
- Investments - the account decreased approximately \$125,001.57 in February. In addition, \$10,000.00 was withdrawn to cover monthly expenses. The end value for February is \$1,837,607.51.
- Next meeting of the Church Committee is April 10, 2018. All are invited to attend, whether or not you serve on a committee or board.
- "Together, As One," materials for the proposed UCC CT/MA/RI Conference Associations merger were distributed. Delegate Mary Crittenden needs feed back before the UCC Annual Meeting June 15.
- A motion was passed to research the UCC Open and Affirming covenanting process.

Bylaws Review Committee

Jean and Mary

As part of our review of our By Laws and research into best practices, we want to bring your attention to the following:

- The church's legal name is First Congregational Church of South Windsor with United Church of Christ to appear below the church's name.
- Minutes of board/committee meetings and financial reports are considered legal documents by auditors, IRS and courts should we ever need to produce them. At a minimum, the name of the board/committee, the date of the meeting or report and any motions should also be included along with the name of the person preparing the report.



**Church
Constitution
& Bylaws**

UCW Spring Dinner

The Spring UCW Dinner and Elections will be held on **Wednesday, May 24th** at the South Windsor Pizza. Menu and cost will be forthcoming. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Join
Us
For
Dinner!



Christian Education News

Edie, CE Director

Thank you! - Christian Educators took special time to have our children make thank you notes for the Rev. Kent Siladi, UCC CT Conference Minister which were presented to him after church on March 11. Rev. Siladi loved them and sends his appreciation.

March 18 the children were again treated to a traditional Seder meal by our CE volunteers. They do a beautiful presentation. The Seder meal is the beginning of the Jewish faith's observance of Passover marking the anniversary of the Israelites freedom from slavery in Egypt. There are six traditional elements to the meal: The children were served a modified version, with hard boiled eggs and little meatballs. This observance helps the children understand their shared Judeo-Christian heritage and they enjoy it a lot. For more information on the traditional Seder meal and meanings, go to: https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/1751/jewish/What-Is-a-Seder.htm.

CE's current project is making posters about the Ten Commandments, as a follow up to their study since January.



Our own Jim has agreed to become an occasional CE volunteer to work on special projects with the children. Welcome and thank you, Jim!

Palm Procession - Children are invited to join the Palm procession during the first hymn this Palm Sunday. Please meet in the Narthex at 9:45 before church, **March 25**.

Remember there is no Church School, Easter **Sunday, April 1**. Please bring your children to worship and enjoy the egg hunt afterwards. Parents, please remind your children to bring their mite boxes (One Great Hour of Sharing green boxes) to church on Easter Sunday! Thank you.

UCW Scholarship Tag Sale

The United Church Women's Scholarship Tag Sale date has been set for **Saturday, May 5th**. Please mark your calendars. Start collecting your donations of clean, working items. You may bring your donations to the church during the week of April 29th. Large items should be dropped off on Thursday, 5/3, or Friday, 5/4. Please do not leave anything outside the building. Please have items in good, clean and useable order. We will need people on the previous Sunday afternoon, **April 29th**, to move items from Dalpe's warehouse to the church. And we will need people during the week to come in and help set up and organize the items for sale. We will need many hands to organize, mark during the week and assist shoppers on Saturday. If you have any questions please contact Mary Anne, Jean, or Linda. The signup sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall the week of April 8th.



Deacon's News

Mary

At the March Deacon's meeting we planned the March 11 luncheon with Rev. Kent Siladi, UCC CT Conference Minister; Easter flowers, Maundy Thursday Service and Easter celebration plans. Our next meeting is April 8th following the worship service.



We will have an Usher education session at **8:45 a.m. on May 6.**

Missions News

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Our offering date for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is April 22, 2018. Make your check payable to



First Congregational Church with OGHS on the memo line. To give securely online go to https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/one_great_hour_of_sharing or mail your gift today to: One Great Hour of Sharing - United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship (OPS) 2nd Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

The Church School has gotten off to a good start with their mite boxes. They will be bringing these in on Easter.

UCW News

The United Church Women of the First



NOMINATIONS

Congregational Church (UCW) met on March 18th. Among the items discussed were recruiting for the slate of officers for the 2018-2019 program year. For more information about the positions contact Diane or Linda.

On February 25th, UCW hosted the Jasper Quartet reception following the South Windsor Cultural Arts Commission Concert. Thank you for all that helped to make the reception a success. The concert and reception were well attended.

Holiday Fair Workshops

Wanted: Please watch tag sales for:

- * wire wreath frames
- * 2", 3" and 4" burlap ribbon
- * gently used picture frames with glass
- * interesting wine glasses for jelly
- * scrap book punches
- * artificial greens
- * large baskets
- * broken or unwanted jewelry - especially things with rhinestones, jewelry findings. Buttons, charms, or beads

We are under way with our fair planning! New ideas are always welcome. We will be spending time sorting through materials that have been donated to see what is usable and what should be moved to our tag sale merchandise. Our workshops will continue on **Monday evenings (04/02, 9, 16, 23, and 30)** at the "warehouse" at 1090 Main Street, South Windsor.

Raffle basket themes will be announced in the next newsletter. Our popular UCONN basket, *Staycation* and *Time for Me* baskets will be back!



State gaming requirements have changed. It is imperative that we have all of our basket items that must be listed and approved by Sept. 15th. We also have to pay attention that gift certificates are dated for the Dec. 2018-2019 year. Help to fill these baskets is always very appreciated!

Items have started to come in to be sorted for the scholarship tag sale, Gramma's Attic, and Treasure Trove. Let Linda (860-289-8101) know if you have something to be donated.

Our Fourth Meeting House: Part 2

Mary

The Hallowell family lived just north of the meeting house. Ruth tells of a time around 1946 when her sister, Barbara and friend, Patty were missing for several hours. People looked everywhere for the preschoolers without any luck. That evening when Rose Stoughton was going for a walk, she heard their cries and found them inside the outside entrance to the church basement. When playing they had let themselves in but when ready to leave could not open the door as they were too short to reach the door knob from the stairway.

During the 1950's the Rev. Dr. Metzger came to First Church as our minister. It was during his time here that the congregation planned to add the addition. The plan called for building it in two phases. They were going to build the lower level and later add the second floor. The sudden and unexpected death of Rev. Metzger put the plans on hold for a time. When the church was ready to add the addition the zoning had



Rev. Dr. Metzger
by Albertus E. Jones

changed and they had to build the whole addition at one time. In the chapel that is named for Rev. Metzger hang two pictures of interest. The first is a painting of this minister and the second is an architects' rendering of what the proposed addition would look like when added to the building. If you look closely at this picture you can see where the addition differs from the original plans. The addition was finished in 1957.

The addition included the removal of a building behind the church. It had been for the protection of horses that had brought members of the congregation to the services. It was no longer used for that by the 1950's. However, it had become a storage area. There were extra pews, pew doors, parts of lighting fixtures, etc. there. Joe found boys dropping stuff into a barrel that held glass light fixture parts and causing breakage. He stopped them and rescued the one that is in the Memorial Cabinet.



5th Annual Sewing for Servicemen 2nd Session

Mary n posted on Facebook "You should see the Fellowship Hall filled with tables and people with sewing machines, ironing boards, etc. It is a very friendly, productive beehive of activity." It truly was a beehive filled to capacity with 20 stitchers, 1 cutter, 2 quilt sandwich makers, 6 pressers and 2 young "gofers" who came from many parts of the state. Sewing techniques and tips often were shared between the participants as exhibited by Vicky's mentoring of Lilly and Emily (pictured to the right). We are helping to teach our youth the value of community service and honoring our veterans.

The next session will be on Saturday, March 24th from 10 am to 4 pm. The final session will be April 28th.



Vicky Marigott with Emily Dalpe and
Lilly Morse

BLANKETS OF HOPE



I would like to purchase blanket/blankets at \$5.00 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 6th**. You may return the form along with your check by placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to First Congregational Church, PO Box 165, South Windsor, CT 06074.

Number of blankets: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

Total Donation: _____

(Make checks out to First Congregational Church)



Easter Flowers



It's time to order plants to decorate our Sanctuary for Easter Service on April 16th. Or, you may make a donation to the Deacon's Fund. Please complete the order form below and return it with your remittance to the church office no later than **March 25th**. (You may use the Administrator mailbox).

6" Easter Lilies (\$5.75)

**Please complete the following
as you wish it to appear in the Easter Bulletin (PRINT)**

My flowers are: *(Please check box and fill in as appropriate)*

Given by _____

- In Memory of _____
- To the Glory of God _____
- Other _____

- In Memory of _____
- To the Glory of God _____
- Other _____

Contact person: Sue Larsen (860-644-8859). Leave name and phone #.

I wish to donate to the Deacon's Fund _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Number of Plants Total = _____

Please make checks payable to: First Congregational Church.

Mail to: First Congregational Church; Deacon's Fund, Plant; P.O. Box 165; South Windsor, CT 06074

Church Family News



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Gloria Stone, who entered eternal life on Thursday, March 1st. The service celebrating her life was held at Samsel and Carmon Funeral Home, South Windsor on March 8th. She was interred at Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill. Please keep the Stone family in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.



Michael	04/02
Pam	04/06
James	04/07
Lynda	04/07
Rachel	04/15
Donna	04/16
Diane	04/17
Jacob	04/20
Lilly	04/20
Caty	04/22
Justin	04/23
Colin	04/25
Erica	04/25
Megan	04/26
Destany	04/29



Joyce and Wayne	Lorraine
Bev	Shirley
Doris	Vibert
Bruce	Avis
Cliff McClellan	


 Remember Our Homebound Members
 Send them a note today!

Bev	Wayne & Joyce
58 Pleasant Valley Road	Arbors at Hopbrook
South Windsor, CT 06074	403 W Center Street; Apt. 316
	Manchester, CT 06040

Lorraine
1693 John Fitch Blvd

South Windsor, CT 06074

Lunch Bunch

The lunch bunch meets September to June on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. This month they will meet on **April 19th**. Founded as a gathering for retired men, it is open to anyone who wants to visit over a brown bag lunch.



Scholarship Applications

Applications for the UCW Scholarship (see Diane) and the Edward C. and Doris M. Rockwell Scholarship (see Rachel) are available. Application deadline for both scholarships is **May 15th**.



Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**April 8th**) we collect items for a food pantry. Suggested items for April are: cereal, tuna, jarred spaghetti sauce, kid snacks (pretzels, cheese and crackers, fruit cups, dried fruit, granola bars), jelly, paper goods (napkins, paper towels, sandwich bags, facial tissue, foil, plastic wrap, etc.) and toiletries (hand soap, body wash, shaving cream, disposable razors, feminine products, tooth paste, floss, shampoo, conditioner, etc.). These donations are appreciated greatly.



Our Shared History: Old Main Street

We will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of East Windsor in collaboration with Wood Memorial, the South Windsor Historical Society, and Ellsworth School, for a special one day *Our Shared History: Old Main Street* event on **Saturday, April 28th** from 10am to 2pm! We will be open for tours to share our rich history. See Mary if you would like to assist with this opportunity.



April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Deacon's Fund Collection 6:30am Sunrise Service @ Wapping Community Church 10:00am Worship 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt	2 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	3 7:00pm NA	4 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	5 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 Food Ingathering 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour 11:15am Diaconate Meeting	9 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	10 6:30pm Church Committee 7:00pm NA	11 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	12 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Kitchen Cleanup?
15 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour	16 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	17 7:00pm NA	18 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	19 11:00am Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Kitchen Cleanup?
22 One Great Hour of Sharing Collection 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour	23 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	24 7:00pm NA	25 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	26 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm 4-H Camp Board of Directors	27	28 10am -2pm Our Shared History 10am SewIn4 Servicemen
29 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour	30 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St		Office Hours, unless otherwise noted Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid – Drop In Office Hours are: Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:30 pm, other times by appointment Claudia Steele, Administrative Assistant – Tuesday through Thursday 9:00am to 2:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon			

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Staff:

Minister: Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid
Organist: Kamilla Mammedova
Administrative Assistant: Claudia Steele
Sexton: (needed)

1.

SAVE THE DATE

Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm..... 3/29
Good Friday Reflection, Noon -3pm 3/30
Easter Service, 10am 4/1
Easter Egg Hunt 4/1
Deacon's Fund Collection 4/1
Choir Rehearsals.....4/5, 12, 19, 26
Creative Hands4/4, 11, 18, 25
Photo Archive Team.....4/4, 11, 18, 25
Food Ingathering..... 4/8
Church Committee 4/10
Newsletter Article Deadline 4/17
Lunch Bunch 4/19
OGHS Collection 4/22
Book Group TBD
SewIn4Servicemen..... 4/28
Our Shared History 4/28

TO:



www.firstchurch.org

firstchurchsw@gmail.com

860-528-7992

South Windsor, CT 06074-0165

PO Box 165

993 Main Street



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

“The resurrection ... was only the beginning of a great, grand and vast outreach that has never ended and will not end until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.”
 —A.W. Tozer