

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



November 2023

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

I thank everyone who was able to attend the extended Coffee Hour on Oct. 15, 2023. There was a good crowd of approximately 19 people who stayed and more who had wanted to come but circumstances did not allow it. It was one more step along the journey of helping to define the mission and ministry of this church.

There was time to share in small groups about the connection and significant events of belonging to the First Church of South Windsor. The same question was asked three times in slightly different ways.

What is your connection to the people of the church? What is your connection to the location and the building of the church family? Thirdly, what are the special connections and memories surrounding worship? There was also a rating scale looking at values. There was much good-natured conversation and laughter.

There was one clear learning: People appreciated the intimate and caring relationships that are central to a small church.

There will be one more coffee hour conversation session on Nov. 5, 2023. This session will be a combined theme of transition and stewardship. Your future and your understanding of the nature of stewardship are connected.

The theme of the Stewardship program is "Because of YOU, our church changes Lives." The sermon and worship questions around November also have a similar message. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan, we will be asking "Who is My Neighbor?" Hope to see you there on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Remember, we turn the clocks back an hour!

Rev. Linda Huff

*Designated Term Pastor: Candidate Weekend  
Important News!!*



The Diaconate, with additional leadership assistance, recently interviewed a Designated Term Pastor candidate, Pastor Dean Kucera and have invited him to spend a weekend with us in December. Please Save the Date! While the details

are still being worked out, the general idea will be to have Pastor Dean visit the weekend of December 15-17. We hope to schedule a meet and greet and church dinner with the church family on Saturday, December 16. On Sunday, December 17, we will invite Pastor Dean deliver the Sunday sermon in our pulpit, after which, we will take a vote and determine if we would like to make the call. Please join us for this very important weekend. More details will follow via email once the details are confirmed.

*Diaconate Ditties*

Scott Horsfield



Greetings from Your Diaconate. We wanted to let everyone know what we have been doing these past couple of months. We've been working closely with Pastor Linda on several things.

We have made a few changes to the Order of Worship (did you notice?). We've been working with our UCC Conference Minister, Rev. Isaac Lawson, to finish our profile and have it placed on the UCC website. To date we have had two respondents. One was interviewed by the Diaconate and our Moderator on October 12, 2023, and the second will be interviewed on October 17, 2023. We are looking forward to continuing our conversations after church on October 15, 2023. We are putting together plans for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Some changes there too. Come to church and see!!

## *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair

After the recent spate of vandalism in local churches, the Trustees were asked to investigate options for improving the church's security. We talked to 2 vendors about options and settled on installing a burglar alarm system provided by Unitech. The system was installed the week of October 9th and will require anyone entering the church to disarm the system, if needed. As of this writing, the training and assigning of fobs has not yet happened. More to come.



Thanks to Jim and Terry Belknap for power washing the Wolcott ramp. We had intended to paint it this fall but issues with contractors make this unlikely until spring. For the same reasons, power washing the church will also be delayed until spring.

The transition to the Don Brooks Agency for payroll and paying bills is well under way.

## *Missions Committee*

Rachel Anderson, Nancy Stearns and Marilyn Senger



The Missions Committee will once again be holding a Thanksgiving food drive for South Windsor Food Bank and Family Services. The food bank is in need of food and

papergoods of any kind. Please bring any food items to the church through Sunday November 12. You are also welcome to stop by the church during business hours during the week to drop off your donations. Help us help our neighbors have a blessed Thanksgiving! Missions also wishes to thank everyone who so generously participated in the Neighbors in Need collection during October as part of World Communion Sunday. We raised \$278!

## *Heritage Day Fair*

Jean Trotman and Judy Borré



Unfortunately, the Heritage Day Fair that was supposed to take place on Saturday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled due to rain and field conditions. Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare and to those who had volunteered to help with the event.

## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held October 10, 2023 -

- Treasurer's report - This was a first look at the report compiled by The Brooks Agency. Some discrepancies were noted, which may alter the figures slightly. Expenses for September were \$10,094.12. Income was \$17,143.03, which includes \$11,816.03 from the Trust account. Balance on hand is \$7,048.91. Deficit year-to-date is \$3,318.28. These figures are subject to change, pending a closer review.
- Investments - The account saw a decrease of \$101,946 in September, which includes the withdrawal of \$11,816.03 to cover payroll and expenses. Stock was sold to go into the core account. Balance at the end of September is \$1,858,541.25. Jim Belknap mentioned that in spite of withdrawals, the account is up \$9,000 for the year-to-date.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 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.



## *Holiday Church Fair*

Linda Dalpe



It's time to start thinking about set up for our church fair – Fri. and Sat. Dec 1&2. Here are the important dates. Any and all help will be appreciated. Please contact Linda or Jean T. to let us know how you can help.

**Sat. Nov 4th** - set up tables, and put on tablecloths 9:00-12:00?

**Sun. Nov 5<sup>th</sup>**- The BIG MOVE - 1:00 Everything from the Wolcott, and everything from the warehouse moved to Fellowship Hall.

Set up will continue during the next weeks from 9-3ish... to include decorating the front of the church

**Sunday Nov. 26 - 1:00 - begin greens work - 9:00-9:00 daily**

Order your cemetery boxes in advance - forms will be available in the church office and in the lower hall.

Based on last year's cookie sales - a large variety is needed (minimum of 3 dozen). We still need chocolate chip with and without nuts, peanut butter kisses, sugar cookies, and whatever else you are willing to make. Sign-up sheet will be in the lower hall to finalize the count.

Help is needed **Friday morning Dec. 1** to move all of the greens work back to the warehouse, and to wash the floor in order to prepare for opening night.

Please look at the sign-up sheets in the lower hall to help keep us up to date as to who is willing to help and with what.



## First Congregational Church 76<sup>th</sup> Heritage Holiday Fair

993 Main Street  
South Windsor, Connecticut  
[www.firstchurchsw.org](http://www.firstchurchsw.org)



### Booths include:

Homemade Fudge  
Home Baked Treats  
Vintage Jewelry  
Ornaments and Decorations  
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip  
Rada Cutlery  
Cemetery Boxes  
Fresh Green Arrangements  
Artificial Greens & Wreaths  
Treasure Trove and MORE!



Friday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

5pm - 8pm

Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

9am - 2pm

Free Admission Both Days!



## *Greens for the Holiday Fair*

Jean Trotman

We will once again be creating cemetery 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 cemetery 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 cemetery boxes beginning Sunday afternoon, November 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm. to 5pm. The rest of the week, we will work Monday through Thursday from 9am to 9pm. We will be cleaning up in the morning on Friday and setting up the work area for fair opening at 5:00pm. Please bring your own clippers, gloves, and food.

Greens, bows, and embellishments will be provided.

Please contact me, Vicky Margiott, or Terry Belknap if you have fresh greens to contribute. In particular, we are looking for white pine.

If you have any questions, contact Jean Trotman at  
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](mailto:jtrotman3@cox.net)

## *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson & Lisa Horsfield

- The choir participated in the October 8 Sunday service. Participation in services will be on the second and fourth Sundays each month.
- Deb Vinick, harpist, will join us for the Christmas Eve service.
- The organ and sanctuary piano will be tuned once the sanctuary transitions from A/C to heat.





## *Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden

Three months ago, I started the Historian's column by quoting an adage drawn from William Shakespeare's play, "Romeo and Juliet." It has taken three columns to cover our name changes. My plan today is to cover my new topic in one.



Our church started 329 years ago as an Ecclesiastical Society. One of the big differences to be found is the change from being such a society to what made that old name obsolete. When our new nation wrote our national constitution the financial structure changed due to the separation of church and state. This change left the church needing to be self-supporting. Our church weathered the change from paying one tax to paying a tax to the town and a separate payment for the support of the church.

I do not have all the details of how our church adapted to having the members pledge and pay what would have been as our portion of the old, combined church-town leaved tax. We are a small church. Our membership maybe small in numbers but is strong in spirit. Historically we have done many things well. What is known comes from the Church Notes which are a combination of church committee minutes and the annual reports. These give references to the all-church canvas. What is that?

What is an 'Every Member Canvas'?

It is a stewardship campaign that invites every member of the parish to make a pledge for the upcoming year. The campaign may urge the parishioners to offer their time, talent, and treasure. Members of the parish pledge to give a certain amount of money to the church. The campaign may encourage parishioners to tithe as an expression of Christian generosity and commitment. Parishioners may also pledge to participate in specific forms of Christian service and ministry. The campaign emphasizes the importance of inviting each member to make a pledge to the parish. Members of the stewardship or every member canvas committee may seek to contact all parish members by home visits or telephone. All



members of the parish are urged to participate in stewardship as an expression of Christian generosity. -- An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church.

Stewardship campaigns have changed from the canvas to the annual pledge drive. It can be more. In some churches the stewardship team is active year-round. The purpose is the same: Pay the Bills! Some churches encourage tithing.

### **What is a tithe?**

A tithe is a one-tenth part of something, paid as a contribution to a religious organization or compulsory tax to government. Today, tithes are normally voluntary and paid in cash or cheques (sic) or more recently via online giving, whereas historically tithes were required and paid in kind, such as agricultural produce. Wikipedia

Since the days of all member canvases, up to 1957 and perhaps longer, we have primarily had Pledge Drives that were one month long. Some years that has included a survey of what each member can give in the way of time and talents.

Nowhere in the New Testament is tithing mentioned when commands are found. When Christians are instructed to give to the poor, they aren't commanded to give "the poor tithe." Instead, they are instructed to be generous in helping those in need. However, it is easy to speak of trying to get all members to tithe as a goal.

There are church members who pledge and donate regularly. There are those that budget what is paid to the church along with the landlord, the Grocer and the Candlestick maker. Some pay with whatever is left over, and those who do not pledge and pay little to support the budget.

### *Crop Walk 2023*

Vicky Margiott

The First Church team was represented by Paul and Vicky Margiott. Small but mighty, the team raised almost \$800 to fight hunger in our community.



## *Church Family News*



Kevin Greco	11/03	Carroll Stearns	11/18
Benjamin Lopata	11/04	Emily Dalpe	11/26
Becca Clark	11/09	Les Clapp	11/27
Oscar Soares	11/09	Noah Chaponis	11/30
Owen Soares	11/09		



Linda & Jerry Dalpe 11/20



Doris Burgdorf  
Joyce Coon  
The Klein Family  
The Dinse Family  
Lisa Horsfield  
Bob Woodward

The Peck Family  
Della Mitchell  
Cliff McClellan  
Edie & Bob Starr  
The Wright Family  
Patty & Billy Cox



*First Congregational Church extends deepest sympathies to Barbara Wright and family for the recent passing of Brad Wright on October 18, 2023.*

## *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 **December 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **November 17<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion: [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) Thank you.



## *New Church Directory Available*

The new Church Directory is here! Please email the church office at [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) or call Carrie at (860) 528-7992 during office hours: Tues-Fri 9am-2pm if you need a copy. Let's keep our church family connected!

## *Church Office Hours*

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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

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TO: