

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



January 2024

## *Diaconate Ditties*

*Important News!!: Welcome The Rev. Dr. Dean M. Kucera, Designated Term Pastor*

Scott Horsfield



Your Diaconate has been very busy this past month. Hopefully, the rest of the Deacons are taking a few hours to rest and recharge the batteries. We worked closely with Pastor Linda on the Advent Sunday Services. Actually, she did a lot of the work and we all say THANK YOU! The Christmas Eve Service was well attended, 50 or so in church and

### **WARNING**

Official notice is hereby given that the 326th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in South Windsor, Connecticut, will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 28th, 2024 after the Morning Service, as well as via Zoom.

For the purpose of:

1. Accepting the Board and Committee Reports for 2023.
2. Electing church officers/board/committees and personnel for 2024.
3. Approving the Operating Budget for 2024.
4. Enacting any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Judy Borre, Moderator

several on Zoom. The previous weekend was the Candidate Weekend. We showed Pastor Dean around town on the way from Bradley Airport to his hotel. A special thank you to Linda Dalpe for pinch hitting for Terry Belknap who somehow contracted Covid. Pastor Dean went on the Christmas House Tour Friday evening and it has been reported that he had a good time. He went to the Wreathes Across America ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, then it was on to the church for a meeting with the Leadership Team. Saturday afternoon and evening saw many members coming out for the "Meet and Greet" we hosted with dinner from Geissler's. After dinner, we all sat down informally and listened as he shared a brief talk on his faith journey and answered more questions from the members. Sunday morning brought us to the culmination of the weekend. Pastor Dean provided us with a sermon on thriving versus surviving. A special thanks to Pat Jones and Carrie Morse for keeping him company (driving up and down Main Street as we did not turn the sound off in the Chapel or Fellowship Hall) while the congregation discussed his being called to serve our Church as a Designated Term Pastor (DTP). The vote was favorable and we called him (literally) to come serve as our DTP. The Diaconate would like to remind our church family that he was called to provide leadership and guidance over the next few years as we proceed forward into and through the Discernment Process. Now, we would like to say a special thank you to Pastor Linda Huff for her service over these past few



months as our bridge minister. Personally, I want to thank her for the words of encouragement and showing me some different ways to look at some of the situations that arose while she was here. I think I speak for the vast majority of the members of our church, we will miss you and wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors. Also, you are welcome back anytime to visit. Good Luck and God Bless You.

*Father and son duo, Scott Horsfield and Eric Horsfield light the Advent candle wreath during Advent in December, 2023.*

*Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden

In recent months, I've been asked a few questions that has set me to thinking along a path that I want to share with you. As I write this during the week before Christmas, I am thinking about these questions, our church, and my life.



We are in a time and space that calls for these thoughts. Our church is in a time of transition. One minister has left. We've had a bridge minister who has helped us prepare for our next pastor. For me, working with her has been very helpful. I have been enjoying learning about our church's history and how it fits in with the history of the area and our country's history. There is much more to learn and I still am able to climb the stairs to the second floor of the Wolcott Building. I'm not ready to pass this job off to another. Also, the position is not ready for me to leave it in another's hands.

That brings us to the first question: Who would you suggest as our next historian? I answered with the names of the people who have helped in the archive. I do not know who would like to have the position. I do need to be grooming people. At this point in the organization of our archive we could use a committee or at least an assistant historian. We are a historic church in transition. Knowing our history gives us a foundation to build on as we shape our future.

I want to move on to another question. It was asked by Pastor Dean as I gave a brief tour of Main Street: Why did the colonist come to Connecticut? Yes, we need to know a bit of the history that laid the ground for the settlers who braved coming to Connecticut and then choosing to live on this side of the river. They had options. The land was parceled out by lottery. Each family received more than one parcel. The land on the flood plain on this side of the river was so rich and fertile that they choose to center their efforts here. Everyone had a garden and raised their own food or at least part of it during the early years.

On the front of our church building a is small sign that proclaims that we are the Timothy Edwards Church. That begs for us to ask, "How does that matter to us today? How has it mattered?" One tangible thing comes to mind: In 1969, a teenaged congregant suggested the

name for the middle school be the Timothy Edwards Middle School. To see what is posted by the South Windsor Schools about our first pastor go to <https://readourstory.wordpress.com/2021/09/04/timothy-edwards-the-man-honored-by-our-middle-school/>

My question to you is “Who wants to be involved in gathering more information for our congregation to learn our history?”

### *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson & Lisa Horsfield

- The sanctuary piano will be tuned Tuesday, December 19.
- The organ will be tuned Sunday, Dec. 17.
- Kamilla will be on vacation December 31, 2023 and January 7, 2024. Jean Jackson will fill in.
- A chime group will take part in the Sunday service on December 17.



### *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held December 12, 2023 -

- Treasurer's report - not available
- Investments - not available
- The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, following the morning service. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee. A quorum of 25 is needed to vote on the budget for 2024 and committee reports.
- Committee reports for the Annual Report are due NO LATER than Friday, January 12, 2024.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 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.



*Hanging of the Chrismons 2023*



*Church Family News*

Mary Pelton	1/04	Lauren Clarke	1/27
Everett Cote	1/04	Tracy McCarthy	1/27
Leilani Dinse	1/06	Stephen Johnson	1/28
Chenoa Anderson	1/07	Carolyn Stearns	1/28
Chris Kurtzman	1/11	Brad Case	1/30
Jay Samsel	1/21	Jonathan Whitin	1/30
Jared Clarke	1/25	Aimee Bombara	1/31
Ryan Zaugg	1/26	Morgan Gobin	1/31
Rebecca Zaugg	1/26		

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

Doris Burgdorf  
 The Peck Family  
 Della Mitchell  
 Cliff McClellan  
 Edie & Bob Starr  
 The Wright Family  
 Patty & Billy Cox  
 Joyce Coon  
 The Klein Family  
 The Dinse Family  
 Lisa Horsfield  
 Bob Woodward



*Decorating  
the outside  
tree*

### *Prayer Chain*

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.

Rachel Anderson



### *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **February 2024**. Please send your submissions and **photos** to the church office by **January 12<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion: [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) Thank you.



### *Church Office Hours*

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

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TO: