

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

August 2026

Common tables and needs create community and simplicity.

None of us exist for ourselves alone. We need connections that sustain and lead to purpose and meaning in our lives. The church is by nature a community within a larger community. It has a vision and a mission to offer greater meaning and purpose in people's lives. In our internet connected world and lives we have at our finger tips a plethora of choices which present as social media. Yet, with this endless array of options, we live in a time where people feel profoundly alone. We have lost what it means at our core to be human and to relate as people without having to have our phones and technology do everything for us. We need to get back to healthy face to face communication and feel the depth of human emotion and expression which is lacking in our society today. We, the church, can offer simplicity. Simplicity is freedom from unnecessary clutter and noise in our lives. Simplicity paves the way for clarity and clarity brings inner peace.

The church as a community stands above the superficial and seeks to offer a larger vision. One that calls people to reclaim the basic needs of all; to feel loved... to be a place to belong... to simplify our lives. Clutter free space creates a clutter free mind, which aids in our vision of a higher purpose than to merely to exist, pay bills, and do the same thing over and over again. What does First Church offer? What motivates our mission and what shapes our vision? How do we stand out? And what do we want people to see in our community of faith seekers? We may be hammering these challenges out even still.... but we know that above all else it is our beloved community we

are drawn to again and again. May our desire to be for others here at First Church ever remind us that we serve not ourselves alone, but the larger community. At First Church we have two opportunities to serve: on August 8th we have our tag sale and on September 10th we will have an open pot luck gathering we will open our doors to our community to share our space but more importantly to share our faith and our vision for deeper more meaningful community. Join us on the 10th of September.... bring a dish to pass.... but more importantly, come out and be the church, present and visible, to greet our neighbors and strangers. Let First Church be a catalyst for community service. We are reminded that, at our core, the mission and vision of our community is, in part, to example what giving to others means..... without asking for anything in return. May we prepare ourselves to greet the larger community of which we are a part and show others a way to greater meaning and purpose. Come out and join us. Common tables, open tables create healthy community for both church and the broader community we serve.

Shalom
P. Dean

Pastor Dean's Hours & Office Schedule:
Tuesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm; Monday: Off

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held July 14, 2026 -

- Treasurer's report - Jean Trotman noted Local Missions income of \$6,090 which was from Gifts & Memorials to pay for the sound system. She noted \$12,000 in Trust income to cover monthly expenses. For the month of June, income was \$18,211. Expenses were \$17,538.36. Surplus for the month of June was 672.64. Surplus year-to-date is \$4,888.56.
- Investments - Jean Trotman pointed out a loss of approximately \$25,000 in the month of June. Balance at the end of June was \$2,243,457.01.
- The next meeting will be held August 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.

A sacrament of holy baptism was held in our First Church sanctuary in July where we welcomed this beautiful child of blessing. Thank you to the First Church deacons for providing the cake for this special occasion.



Parish Nurse News

Parish Nurse, Melody Treadwell, will not be holding office hours for the month of August. She will be available by appointment, however. Please contact the church office to coordinate.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

Dianne Rechel was the guest organist for the July 12th service. Nancy Gagne was the guest organist for the July 19th service. Kamilla is enjoying some time off.

Jean suggested that a line for 'Offertory' be added back into the bulletin. Without it, any guest organist is left wondering when to play the offertory. This will be brought to the Deacons for consideration.

First Church Tag Sale



The First Church will hold a tag sale on **Saturday, August 8th** from **9-3**, in conjunction with the town-wide tag sale event. Interested in helping out? All hands-on deck for this fun event! We are setting up now in Fellowship Hall. We are also looking for donations of clean, ready-to-sell items for our sale. Please contact the church office if you can participate.

Potluck Supper

First Church will hold a Potluck Supper on **Thursday, September 10th** at **6:00 PM** in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. All are welcome -members, friends, neighbors, and members of the community. Invite a friend and join us! Just let the office know what you'll be bringing and how many to expect. We can't wait to see you!



Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

What Who When and Where?

As your historian, those are the questions that I am always trying to answer. Each time I pick up something, I first look for the facts that answer these questions. The next question, is this important to our church history? If so, where should it be stored and documented?

Usually, the next step in handling the paper is to put the page(s) into a working file folder and fill out a work slip for data entry with the information to go into the computer. The file with the pages and work slip goes into an in-basket. The data entry person enters the information into the appropriate file and moves the file folder into the out basket. Then the file is ready to be filed. If there is already an appropriate file folder for the document, the page(s) are added. If a file folder is needed, one is labeled and filed with the page(s) inserted.

This should be simple and work should proceed smoothly. However, some papers lack basic information. For example, on my worktable are several lists of members without dates of when they were created. After some of the names are important notes regarding death, etc. One list does have "1940" written in pencil added to the side of the list on page 1. Why were these lists important? How were they used? The voting at the Annual Meeting and the determination of a quorum depends on an accurate count of members. Many of the notes for Annual Meetings give the number of members responding to the roll call, which tells us that the list of members was read and those present responded.

Many of these lists are handwritten. One typed list was dated Dec. 5, 1943. One list had 6 numbered pages; however, we do not have page 1. I have not tried to give dates to these, but am trying to put them into chronological order by looking at what names are missing from different lists, added to them, or the added notes. If the added note said, "Died Sept. 2, 1940," the list was probably made in 1940 and the note helped in creating the one for 1941.

Before the member list that we have, the church printed "Manuals." These were small booklets that included The Church History,

Confession of Faith, Covenant and the Officers, etc. and a list of Members. The ones in our files are for 1898 and 1928. To my delight, another one showed up: same size, different color cover and the cover was plainer. The title page said 1847. Then I read and reread the title page. It was for the Rockville Congregational church.

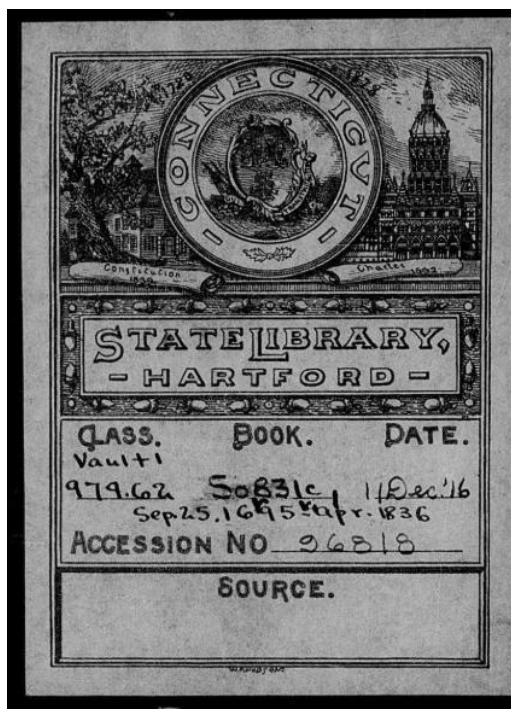
Online, I found a file that is a scan of our manual from 1843, so it has been printed and added to our files.

Oh, by the way; you cannot believe everything you read. In the Historical Notes found in the 1928 Manual is this paragraph:

“The records of the church during the ministry of Messrs. Edwards and Perry and part of Mr. Whelpley, are lost.”

We know where these are. In 1916, the early church records were given to the Connecticut State Library. The reason the state collected early church records is that during the colonial years there was no separation between Church and State. The early church records were also the early town records. Several things changed when the two were separated. Since the early records belonged to both, Connecticut Governmental action gathered the old records for safe keeping and protection from loss, putting them in the hands of the Connecticut State Library.

Our records held by the Connecticut State Library were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, 15 February 1954. Since then, the images have been made available online.



‘We Are South Windsor’ Volunteers Extraordinaire



By Jan Tarr

Photo Courtesy of the Fraizes, circa 2000

Ingrid and Bill Fraize learned they shared a love of Neil Diamond and attended several of his concerts.

Towns rely on volunteers to fill numerous roles that government cannot or doesn't want to spend taxpayers' money on. Volunteers like Ingrid and Bill Fraize, are the back bone of towns, especially small towns such as South Windsor, although some dispute if it is still a small town.

Certainly, it's different than when the Fraizes first knew each other and 9-year-old Ingrid came to the 'country' from Manchester for 4-H activities at the Woolams' or to visit relatives. No Route 5 or I-291 or big supermarket or huge schools. Bill recalled the population was about 2,000 versus around 27,000 today.

Both were born in Hartford. She lived in Manchester; he in East Hartford until he was about 3, when his family – he had 2 sisters – moved about a mile to South Windsor. His dad was a tool & die maker, an engraver, and a "gentleman farmer" who raised tobacco. Bill joined the Boy Scouts, played basketball. He attended Wapping, Pleasant Valley and Ellsworth schools before becoming part of South Windsor High School's first graduating class in 1961. He attended various schools to learn computers – now known as information technology.

Ingrid became involved in 4-H when she was 9 as did her parents who helped build the 4-H camp in Marlborough in the 1960s. Elsie and Dick Woolam were among the leaders; she became the camp

administrator. Ingrid recalled the she babysat for the Woolam youngsters who, in turn babysat for her two.

Ingrid's wanted to be an artist. She remembers making cards when she was about 4, "I turned it over and wrote Hallmark on the back." Her avocation is art and she has taken some decorative art classes. "I'm always doing crafts for the church," but her career was as a licensed practical nurse. She worked at various locations – private duty, hospitals. When she worked at Hartford Hospital, Bill worked there in IT so their paths crossed occasionally.

Each married, had children – she a boy and a girl; he, 3 sons – and divorced. Ingrid was determined not to remarry.

Ingrid said, "Elsie Woolam was determined to fix us up. She said, 'Bill, you have vacation time ... You need to be useful so come to camp.'" It just so happened that Ingrid was the camp nurse that year. The Woolams always had a New Year's Eve party and, of course, Elsie made sure Ingrid and Bill were there. Bill is still a trustee on the camp board. Locally he started a computer club believed to be the only one in 4-H anywhere.

'We Are South Windsor'

Ingrid and Bill Fraize

In the summer, Bill asked if she and all their kids would like to go to a drive-in movie on a Friday night. Her 9-year-old son, Jeff, got into some kind of a scrape and decided to run away on that fateful day. He went to Woolam's barn where he hid in the hay loft. Needless to say, an intensive search was underway. When it started to get dark, he knew he better head for home, which was near Manchester Community College. He was found on Pleasant Valley Road. No movie that night.

Ingrid and Bill learned they shared a love of Neil Diamond and attended several of his concerts.

Bill asked her dad for her hand in marriage. "He told me I had the pick of the litter," he said, grinning. She insisted on a year-long engagement. They were married – where else? The 4-H Camp's Inspiration Point. The officiant was the Rev. Art Dunham, who was a long-time pastor at South Windsor's First Congregational Church.

Ingrid said “my lucky number is 13. Got married on June 13 [1980] off Exit 13 on Route 2 on my cousin’s 13th birthday.” They went to the Hopkins Inn for their honeymoon and when they went to church on Sundays, they sat in pew #13.

At first, they lived in her duplex in Manchester until they bought former high school principal Henry Adams’ 1830 house at 1810 Main St. They lived there about 20 years but “it was too big,” Bill said. “Not good for my knees,” Ingrid said. They moved a bit south to a house that’s way newer – built in 1916, according to town records. It has plenty of area for Ingrid to practice her master gardener skills and is all on one floor. She is a member of the Down-to-Earth Garden Club and has been program chairman for several organizations including the Wednesday Afternoon Club.

Over the years their volunteer interests varied. Bill was a volunteer firefighter, involved with the cemetery association, and an active Mason (the Masonic Hall is conveniently across the street from their current home). He has a ham radio license. They are both active in the South Windsor and Manchester historical societies as well as First Congregational Church.

Ingrid is working on creating an Edwards’ Room in honor of the famous ministers, the church’s first the Rev. Timothy Edwards and father of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, who is known for his connection to the Great Awakening. Bill helped renovate a former school on Cedar Street into the Old Manchester Museum, “working until 12, 1 in the morning after work.”

Their living room shelves are crowded with books, many on historical topics.

They are friendly and generous with their time. Bill was offered IT positions in places as far-flung as Buffalo, N.Y. and Texas. He spent his time in the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas so he had enough of Texas. Fortunately for South Windsor, they chose to stay here. It is home and they are New Englanders through and through.

This article was originally published in the South Windsor Historical Society newsletter, July 2026. Reprinted with permission from author and subjects.

Tagging Pew Bears



If you have been to church recently, you were likely greeted by a teddy bear sitting in your pew. It began about a year or so ago and has been a great success. A recent memorial service saw many bears adopted as a source of comfort during a time of tremendous grief. They were so deeply appreciated. During the June 'Ladies Who Lunch' meet-up, new bears were adorned with ribbon and placed back in the pews, each with a tag reading, "This bear has sat among the congregation of the First Congregational Church of South

Windsor, CT. Rev. Dr. Dean M. Kucera, Designated Term Minister. It has heard the Word read, prayers prayed, songs of praise sung, testimony given, and the sermon preached. It has been given love, and loved others. Now it comes to you with the blessing of worship, love and the prayers of our congregation. If we can do more to serve your needs, please call our church office, 860.528-7992."



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

We were overjoyed to celebrate the sacrament of holy baptism in July. Family, friends and members of our congregation joined us in welcoming this sweet little one into our church community with God's abundance, love, and endless blessings.



Church Family News

AUGUST

Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

Terry Belknap	08/04
Mary Crittenden	08/09
Elsie Woolam	08/23
Jen Graham	08/23
Iva Burnham	08/31



Happy 100th Birthday to
Josephine McGilvary on June 28th!



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Doris Burgdorf
Iva Burnham
Joyce Coon
The Charette Family
Della Mitchell



Bob Woodward
The Anderson Family
The Sharp Family
The Senger Family
The Starr Family
The Zaugg Family

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **September, 2026**. Please send your submissions and photos to the church office by **August 14th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thank you!

Church Office Hours

Hours are normally Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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