

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



June 2024

As warmer weather approaches, many of us ... myself included, will alter our schedules in order to get some rest and relaxation in before fall comes around. Recreation is important for and to our mental well-being. For some, turning off the computer or cell phone and just lying by the pool in the sun can really help to boost our moods and put us in a better state of mind. But for some, the ability to zone out and do without the phone or internet for even a short period can ignite stress and anxiety. Yes...that's how addicted we can become to the offers of modern technology. Summer offers us a chance to find value in quiet time. It teaches us to be comfortable with... not doing... but simply being in a moment or the moment. These moments will not always present themselves to us, so it is important to grab them when they come along... they may not come calling again. When we realize how important it is to slow down and relax, we learn the lesson of mindful living... being aware of the many things that escape our attention. How often have we heard or said if only I had.... taken the time to.... now it's too late! Regret is the main culprit here. We realize we have let yet another opportunity for rest, renewal and happiness pass us by. This summer turn the phone off, go to the pool or take a walk in the forest... eat watermelon, enjoy friends, have BBQs... enjoy the sun... try being a beach bum for a while... the rush and whirl of the world will be there when you're done. I hope your summer is filled with great memories so that we may all come back in the fall recharged and ready for service in our church. Regrets? Or relax? Your choice. See you around this summer.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Dean Michael Kucera



**Pastor Dean's Summer Hours & Office Schedule:**  
**Tuesday - Friday 10am - 1:00pm**  
**Monday: Off**

## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held May 14, 2024 -

- Treasurer's report - April expenses were \$16,575.68. Income was \$17,757. Net income for the month is \$1,181.32. Year-to-date deficit is- \$2,014.91.
- Investments - The brokerage account saw a loss of \$82,088 in April. \$10,000 was withdrawn to cover expenses. The ending value for April is \$1,978,824.76. Jim Belknap noted that no changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:30PM. It will be held in the Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.



## *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman

Spring clean-up day was a success. ACs were put in windows and the windows in the pastor's office, chapel and office were washed. The south portico was scrubbed and power washed and the teak bench and chair by the lift cleaned. In the Wolcott building, the basement exit to the street was cleaned and the UCW storage sorted and organized. There were other smaller projects completed as well.

Jeff Virr has now removed all of the hedges by the front walks. He will be leveling and reseeding the front lawn. An AA group has asked for a place to hold weekly meetings. We are in the process of working out the details, but they will most likely be using the coffee hour space on Friday evenings.

We have received another rejection on a grant request we submitted but Linda Dalpe and Pat Jones continue to explore options. A number of fundraising projects are underway: collecting quarters, asking for or offering "talents" for "sale" (watch for the brochures that have been made containing details) and we are planning a large tag sale in August. We have also started discussions on a Capitol Plan.

## *All Church Tag Sale*

Linda Dalpe

Profits for this year's tag sale will go towards funding for the repairs we need on the Fellowship Hall floor.

Large tag sales are a lot of work and the better organized they are the more money they bring in. Therefore, we will be reaching out to **everyone** for help sometime during the set-up as well on sale day. The tag sale is scheduled for Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, as part of the townwide tag sale day.



To give us enough time to set-up and to properly organize donations, clean them as needed and price them, we will start 3 weeks before the sale like we have done the last couple of years for the Holiday Fair. Sign-up sheets will be available by mid-June. We will be working on one or two weekends and during the week to set up tables and display shelving, move all items stored in Dalpe's barn, and organize and price them. The day of the sale, we will need cashiers and people to help customers.

We are accepting anything in good condition, (except for clothing): books, household items, small appliances, games, children's toys, and smaller furniture items such as end tables, kitchen tables, chairs, small dressers, tools, etc. If you need a place to store items, contact Linda. However, since she will be storing things in her barn, they need to be in boxes with lids or wrapped to keep them clean.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Dalpe (860-528-1936) or Jean Trotman (860-690-9071).

## *Missions News*

Rachel Anderson, Terry Belknap, Nancy Stearns, & Marilyn Senger

We received \$710 for the Mother's Day collection for Blankets of Hope. Thanks to all who donated. We will once again be offering the chance to buy Tools of Hope for Father's Day. We will be taking a \$10 offering to honor your father or father figures on Father's Day. On that Sunday, we will have an insert in the bulletin with the names of those being honored. The deadline for inclusion will be June 10<sup>th</sup>.

# TOOLS OF HOPE 2024

We will once again be participating in the Church World Service (CWS) Tools of Hope program. Whether someone is rebuilding after a disaster or fleeing their home, when neighbors have access to life-changing tools, unbelievable things can happen. Now it is time to think about honoring our fathers and friends with a remembrance on Father's Day. The Missions Committee has decided to take donations to CWS Tools for remembering or honoring them. Be a Partner in the Heavy



Lifting with gifts of concrete blocks, shovels and other tools used in rebuilding structures lost to floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other disasters. The cost for each donation will be \$10.00. Order forms will be included with the June newsletter, and Sunday bulletins. Order forms are also in the narthex and fellowship

hall. Your dedications will be included in the Sunday worship bulletin on Father's Day, June 16. Please have all orders into the office by June 10 for inclusion. By supporting CWS Tools you can show our neighbors that they are not alone during these difficult times. Your generosity means that CWS can respond quickly with joy and compassion when disasters strike. In many ways these tools are a symbol of hope and comfort to families.

*For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*

- Psalms 107:9



## TOOLS OF HOPE

We are participating in the Church World Service Tools of Hope program.



### TOOLS OF HOPE

A donation of \$10.00 will purchase a Tool and we will dedicate them on Father's Day in honor of or in memory of fathers or father figures. An order form will be included in the June newsletter and will also be included in a few upcoming Sunday bulletins. Please make checks out to First Congregational Church. This program provides tools to people around the globe and teaches skills necessary for people to sustain themselves.



I/We would like to purchase Tools at \$10.00 each in honor of or in memory of a father or father figures for Church World Service to send to people in need of skills training and implements. Orders must be received by the church office by Monday, June 10th. Make your check payable to First Congregational Church with Tools of Hope in the memo portion. Place this order form along with your payment in the offering plate or mail to First Congregational Church, PO Box 165, South Windsor, CT 06074.

Number of tools: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Donation:

*UCW Corner*

Linda Dalpe

The annual meeting was held on May 5th at Oscars Restaurant with several orders of business to include the election of officers, award of scholarship to Caroline Klein, and acceptance of proposed budget. The sharing our talent initiative was presented to support the capital fund drive to begin June 1-Oct 31. To learn more about this initiative, check in with Linda or Carrie.



Items for the all church tag sale will be stored at the Dalpe barn. Contact her for drop off arrangements at 860-528-1936 or [lindald001@aol.com](mailto:lindald001@aol.com).

The spring programs "I'm Dead Now What" (a listing of all the points discussed at this workshop to include in your books will be made available) and the "Labels and Expectations: A Mindfulness Workshop" were well attended.

Programming for fall is underway, as are workshops to prepare for the fair. UCW efforts will be geared to supporting the Capital Fund Drive.

**Officers for the 2024-25 year are :**

President - Linda Dalpe /Rachel Anderson  
 Vice President – Jean Trotman  
 Secretary - Terry Belknap  
 Treasurer - Judy Borré  
 Fair chair - Linda Dalpe  
 Fair treasurer – Jean Trotman

Watch the UCW bulletin board and the one next to the water fountain for the latest news and to find the talent tickets. Don't forget to keep collecting soda can tabs for the Shriners Hospital. There is a collection bin in the lower hall. Orders for Lee Anderson's fudge will be taken during the month of June. See the UCW talent board for your order form.

## *Sharing Our Talents*

Linda Dalpe

"We all have talent...this new fundraising strategy is to showcase a talent that you never really thought about..."

- Does everyone love a certain cake you make?
- Are you a great cook?
- Would you pull weeds for two hours in someone's garden?
- What about babysitting or "grandma" sitting?
- Would you be willing to run errands, or do grocery shopping?
- What about doing computer lessons, or teach other skills that you have?
- Do you like to clean house, organize things, wash windows, iron?
- Paint outside or inside?
- Are you good at repairing things?
- Do you like to repot plants? Grow cuttings?
- Will you take all of the bottles /cans back that have been accumulating for someone?
- Do you have a large garden and are willing to sell your extra vegetables or flowers?
- Would you be willing to work for several hours to help someone on a task that they need help with?
- Are you a woodworker who loves to build birdhouse, or ...love to paint?
- Other talent?????

### **Here's how it works**

You reserve a "ticket" for the item or work. Contact the person and arrange for the work/product. You decide if the product is to be picked up or delivered. Once the item is delivered/ talent received, the money earned is your donation into this project.

Here are some examples:

1) With 48 hours' notice, xxxx will make an agreed upon dinner for one/two at the cost of \$25? or \$39? (to be determined). The cook can take out the cost of the ingredients and then the remainder is deposited into the capital fund.

2) With advance notice, xxxx will come and work in your garden or ...for two (or 3) hours @ say \$16-18 an hour...or whatever fee you set.

Payment is then issued and turned into Sue Larsen to be earmarked for the capital fundraising project.

### Publicity

Ticket/Talents will be hung on the bulletin board in fellowship hall for members to access.

A “thermometer” will be created/displayed with the indicator rising as we reach each goal line.

Fill out the form on the next page, and give the information to:

Linda Dalpe

[Lindald001@aol.com](mailto:Lindald001@aol.com) or

call Linda at 860-528-1936

It can also be left in the UCW mailbox.

We will make your tickets!



**Indicate how many of the same tickets you want to post. Also, please let us know if this talent is ‘renewable’ after all of the tickets have been used.**

Example: I am willing to do 6 cakes.

Or ... I am willing to do (4) two-hour weeding sessions.

Or ... I will do 2 dinners ...

Or whatever your talent / share is...etc.

If you have more than one idea, we will create separate tickets.

We will then print them up and hang them on the board in the lower hall...They will be green. \$\$\$

If you need someone to do something, then we can move on to “I need help with.... Post hours, when, etc., and how much you will pay for the job. These will be pink.

Finally, turn in the money to Sue Larsen.



### ***Sharing Our Talents***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost for my Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of what it is:

---



---



---



---



---

Hours /days needed in advance notice:

---

Additional parameters...i.e. has to be on  
a weekend, etc.

---



---



---

Other Information:

Will Deliver \_\_\_\_\_ Must Pickup \_\_\_\_\_

Renewable: \_\_\_\_\_ # of times: \_\_\_\_\_



*Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden

**The History and Importance of First Church as a Third Place**

Are you familiar with the term “third Place”?

What is the meaning of third place?

The “third place” is a term coined by US sociologist Ray Oldenburg in his 1989 book *The Great Good Place*. It describes a place outside your home or work where you can relax and hang out. Your first place is your home, a private and domestic space.



While First Place is your home; Second Place is your work; Third Place is where you have regular social contact: informal social interaction. Attendance at church functions has been a place that meets this description. As I see it, it is not only satisfaction with the worship service, but also the informal social interaction that the other parishioners have before and after the service: especially during the time shared with others at coffee hour. The familiarity of the hymns, format of the service and sharing of companionship all contribute to the level of satisfaction.

Looking back at our early history, I see the long Sunday worship services as being a place that would service as a Third Place. The home must have often been both the First and Second Place as much of the work and time were spent there. Many had little interaction with others as the jobs involved in running a home, garden and farm or business would have taken most of their time. The Sabbath afforded a time for interacting with others from the community.

The church continues as a Third Place for some people; however, the numbers attending services has decreased and continues to do so. In 1997 our church school had 100 register pupils. That is no longer the case. Numbers of people in our pews have decreased also.

Carey Nieuwhol tells us in an article<sup>1</sup> that the reasons behind church attendance decline are varied and multi-layered, but a few main culprits include shifting cultural values, busier schedules, generational changes, lack of engagement, and scandal-plagued institutions.<sup>1</sup>

“I (Nieuwhol) first wrote about ways to respond to this trend a decade ago. And more recently, I wrote about why people stop going to church, particularly Millennials.”

Yes, we would like to see more parishioners in our pews, however, why is it important to be here? How does it affect us individually and what does attendance do for us? Ah yes, part of the definition of a Third Place is that it is a place where you can relax and hangout. COVID caused isolation and we should all be aware of some of the ways isolation hurts us.

Companionship and time with others contribute to our health, lessens or slows loss of mental acuity and increases satisfaction with one’s life. Time in community with others along with feeling that a person is a contributing member of the group builds health and feelings of well being. Small groups working or learning together form bonds of friendship. Coming together to learn how to make hymnbook roses or folded paper stars helps build bonds of friendship. Time spent working on fair items at Linda Dalpe’s Friday afternoon workshops, time chatting at coffee hour, or even in committee meetings all contribute to being part of a community.



<sup>1</sup> Carey Nieuwhol. <https://careynieuwhof.com/10-reasons-even-committed-church-attenders-attending-less-often/#:~:te>

Also see this article on the impact of third places contributing to quality of life

<sup>2</sup>

[https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=clcom\\_facp](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=clcom_facp)



## Church Family News



Sean Connelly	06/02	Patrick Jones	06/25
Julie Reynolds	06/05	Chevy Ricketts	06/25
James Burnham	06/09	Michael Stearns	06/25
Tyler Machowski	06/09	Jo McGilvray	06/28
Eden Dalpe	06/10	George Cox	06/29
Nathan Zaugg	06/12	Bob Reynolds	06/29
Carrie Morse	06/15	Steve Weismantel	06/30
Lauren Cummings	06/20	Tyler Clapp	06/30
Kristen Nielsen	06/23	Colby Senatro	06/30
Eric Horsfield	06/24		



Lee & Rachel Anderson	06/14
Marty & Lisa Zaugg	06/18



Doris Burgdorf	Patty & Billy Cox
Della Mitchell	Joyce Coon
Cliff McClellan	Lisa Horsfield
Edie & Bob Starr	Bob Woodward
	Rod Johnson



*Congratulations to Justin and Adrienne Clark on the birth of Charlotte Rowan Clark on May 6, 2024. Grandparents are Jean and Greg Jackson.*

*Congratulations to newlyweds Scott Larsen and Anne Brewka, who were married April 27, 2024 in New York. Congratulations to Sue and Jack Larsen, parents of the groom.*



### **Newsletter Deadline**

The next newsletter issue will be published in **July 2024**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **June 14<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.



Above: Bob and Julie Reynolds assist Pastor Dean with communion during worship in May. Below: Judy Borré gives the history of the poppy flower and the significance to Memorial Day during the May 26<sup>th</sup> worship service.





The United Church Workers (UCW) Annual Dinner was held at Oscar's Restaurant on Sullivan Avenue following worship on May 5. The Annual dinner is always a time of celebration and fellowship!





First Church welcomed 6 new members to the church family in April. Welcome to Patrick, Marc, Elizabeth, Howard, Marcus, & Katie!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

993 Main Street

PO Box 165

South Windsor, CT 06074-0165

860-528-7992

[firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchsw.org](http://www.firstchurchsw.org)



TO: