

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



April 2025

A New Habit, I Give You!

Good habits are hard to create often because our bad habits have greater control over us. One habit we should cultivate is the habit of being more compassionate, loving, and forgiving. Jesus gives us a new commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you!" (John 13:34-35).



Notice this is not a suggestion; it is a command. So, making it a habit is our only aim. But fulfilling this command is a tall order. We are often distracted by the day-to-day concerns of life and our culture of rushing, grasping, and multitasking. It makes it hard to cultivate better habits.

How do we break the cycle of negative habits and place a greater focus on good habits? Not easy, but it's not impossible. Consider this:

A man walks down a sidewalk.
He sees a big hole in the sidewalk.
He falls in, it's hard to get out
But after a long time he gets out.

The next day the same man is walking
Down the same sidewalk, he sees
The same hole, pretends he does not
See it – he falls in, he says, "man...
How did I get in this place again?"
He got out quickly.

Next day same man walks down same
Sidewalk, sees same hole, says
“I see the hole, my eyes are open,
I know where I’m at,” he falls in
The hole and knows how to get out.

Next day same man walks down same side walk.
Sees the hole...
Goes Around It!!

We can break the habit by simply avoiding it. It may take some time, some trials and, yes, many failures, but eventually we get it. Just choose another sidewalk or go around the hole (habit).

I hope all of us can replace the holes in our sidewalks with new awareness of Jesus’s love for us and our love for one another. The best way to break bad habits is to replace them with good ones. Jesus gives us a way around the holes in our lives. We see them, we of our own fault, fall in them! With our attention on the new command to be more compassionate, we can avoid the pain and create a new habit which benefits others.

Whatever joy there is in this world

All comes from desiring others to be
happy

And whatever suffering there is in this
world

All comes from desiring myself to be
happy.

-Shantideva

Get in the habit of putting love and
compassion first and our bad habits
(karma) will fade away. Shalom.

Pastor Dean

“By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another.”

JOHN 13:35, ESV



Pastor Dean’s Spring Hours & Office Schedule:
Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 1:30pm; Monday: Off



First Church Lent and Easter Schedule 2025



**Worship
Schedule
For Lent**

Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, April 13th 10:00AM

Pancake Breakfast to follow! *Sign up/Register for the Pancake Breakfast: Sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall or contact church office at firstchurchsw@gmail.com or (860) 528-7992.

**Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 17th
Service of Shadows and Communion, 7:00PM in person or on Zoom.**

**Good Friday, Friday, April 18th 9:00AM-Noon
Church will be open for quiet prayer and**

reflection.

Easter Sunday Service, Sunday, April 20th 10:00AM in person or on Zoom.



**More
Than
Soup...**

**First Church
Lenten
Suppers
& Chats**

The Final Soup Supper of the Season:

Soup & bread... April 9th, 6:30PM

Discussion: Was the last supper or communion as Passover meal?



Help Wanted! Elsie Woolam donated 9 candle-wicked squares that Jean Jackson sewed into a lap-size quilt top to be sold at the Holiday Fair in December. CE said "yes" to using a room in the Wolcott Bldg. to set up a frame for hand-quilting. This involves hand-sewing measured

stitches through the top, batting, and backing to hold the quilt together. Once the quilting is completed, Jean will add the binding to finish the quilt for the fair. If you can help with this project, let Jean or Elsie know. Date and time to be determined, but most likely during the summer. Join us for an old-fashioned quilting bee!

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held March 11, 2025 -

- Treasurer's report - Income for February was \$29,696.50. Expenses were \$15,161.48. Deficit for February was \$348.48; deficit year-to-date is \$10,246.64.
- Investments - The brokerage account saw an increase of \$25,875.47 in February, which includes \$2,708.73 in dividends and interest. A total of \$9,000 was withdrawn to cover expenses. The ending balance for February is \$2,234,973.54.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.



Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

The organ will be tuned March 16.

Trustees News

Jean Trotman

We met with all the contractors involved in the floor repair project. We reviewed the preparation tasks that were needed for each and established a work schedule. Starting the first week in June, doors will be taken down and all items in the area moved to pods or the coffee hour area. Barring problems, the work will be finished the last week in July or the first week in August. There are carpet sample books on the tables by the accordion divider, larger samples scattered on the floor. Take a look and let me know if you like/dislike any. There will be a church clean-up day on Saturday, May 10th, from 9-2. Please bring your own lunch.

Unitech is doing some research into a number of things, including improvements to the sound in the sanctuary and on zoom and options for improving our WiFi.



The March 9th Vision Forward Meeting was full of great ideas about how to grow and continue the good work of First Congregational Church. The next meeting will be Sunday, April 6th following worship. Join us!



More than Soup!

First Church Lenten Supper and Discussion #1

After Pastor Dean's delightful goulash, an interesting discussion was led about which day of the week Jesus was crucified. Come April 9th at 6:30 PM for the final discussion of the series: *Was the last supper or communion the Passover meal?* Bob and Julie Reynolds will make potato leek soup to share. It's always an evening full of fun and fellowship!





Thank you to
Pastor Dean,
Scott Horsfield,
and all of the
folks who helped or brought
something to share to make
the first soup supper of this
Lenten season a
tremendous and delicious
success!



Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

I've read in other historian reports that there were several petitions from the settlers on the east side of the river seeking their own church. In 1672, there was a move to try to separate the east side as a distinct town. In May, 1680, a petition to make the east side a distinct town, (the one copied in last month's article and the following one from April 9, 1694), are found in the colonial records. It appeared in the church bulletin for the celebration of the 250th Anniversary, as well as Stiles Vol. 1 p. 552.

'April 9, 1694: We whose names are under written, bring the inhabitants of Windsor on the east side, Connecticut River, do earnestly desire that we may have liberty to procure and settle a minister among us to be maintained by the present inhabitants and those that shall inhabit with us hereafter.'

This is followed by 44 signatures. Permission was granted May 10. 1694:

Whereas the inhabitants of Windsor on the east side of the Great River have petitioned this court that (they) may have liberty to procure and settle a minister amongst them to be maintained by the present inhabitants and those that shall inhabit there hereafter, provided that all those that live on the east side of the river shall be at liberty to continue and repair to the ministry on the west side and there to pay their dues and duties, and all those on the west side of the river and have estate, in land or otherwise, on the east side their estate shall be rated to the ministry of the west side, and this order to take no place til they on the east side have a minister settled among them, and to continue no longer than they do keep a minister here."

At last, they had permission to hire a minister! Six months later they called Mr. Timothy Edwards as a candidate for the ministry. He gave his first sermon on Nov. 14, 1694. He and his bride had wed only 8 days before on Nov. 6, 1694. Timothy's father purchased a farm and built a house for them. Neither the house nor the church building were finished at that time.

The frame of the meeting house was built on a sandy knoll facing the "Street" (as the road was known). This site would become the northwest corner of the Edwards Cemetery and across a ravine from the "palisado" (sic) or fort.



Easter Dedications

The Deacons have decided to purchase Easter Flowers for the church sanctuary again this year. They would still like for you to be able to include your dedications for loved ones that will appear in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. If

you are interested in making a dedication, please complete the order form below and return it to the church office no later than April 17th. (You may also use the Admin. Asst. church mailbox). Carrie must have your dedication by that date to get it in the bulletin.

Name: _____

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

My bulletin dedication is: *(Please check box and fill in as appropriate)*

☐ In Memory of _____

☐ To the Glory of God _____

☐ Other _____

☐ In Memory of _____

☐ To the Glory of God _____

☐ Other _____

OPTIONAL: If you would like to make a donation to the Deacons' Fund please include your donation with your dedication. A donation to the Deacons' Fund is not required to make an Easter Dedication. For more info please contact: Terry Belknap (860)798-9166.

I wish to donate to the Deacons' Fund ☐

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Please make checks payable to: First Congregational Church *please note for Deacons' Fund
Mail to: First Congregational Church; Deacon's Fund for Easter; P.O. Box 165;
South Windsor, CT 06074*

Church Family News



Pam Michaud 04/06
James Belknap 04/07
Lynda Jones 04/07
Rachel Anderson 04/15
Donna Woolam 04/16
Jacob Charette 04/20

Lilly Morse 04/20
Caty Ventura 04/22
Justin Clark 04/23
Colin Neary 04/25
Megan McClellan 04/26



Doris Burgdorf
Della Mitchell
Cliff McClellan
The Cox Family
The Zaugg Family

Iva Burnham
Joyce Coon
Bob Woodward
Carol Mattera
The Burnham Family



Church Office Hours

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

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **April 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **March 14th** for inclusion:
firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thanks!



Updated **Church Directories** can be found in Fellowship Hall. If you would like a copy emailed, please contact Carrie in the church office.

Silver Lake Summer Camp Registration is now open



Left: Pastor Dean and the Sunday School Children continue to learn about the Ten Commandments. Below center: Lay Leader Scott Horsfield listens to the message. Bottom: Acolytes light the candles to prepare the sanctuary for worship.



Lights and Heat

The Trustees

Please help us keep our expenses down by checking that the heat (Fellowship Hall, ladies' room) and lights (north and south entries, lift foyer, restrooms, kitchen) are turned off when you leave. Also, please ensure that there is someone who will enable the burglar alarm when everyone leaves the building.

Missions

Rachel Anderson

The Missions Committee thanks everyone for their generous donations of non-perishable food items for the South Windsor Food Bank. Palm Sunday, we will have a disposable diaper drive for MACC. They are especially in need of larger sizes, such as 4. 5 or 6.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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TO: