

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



October 2023

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Fall and the busy Advent season is fast approaching in the church year. I sense that I have many new and interesting church events to witness. I am hearing stories about Heritage Weekend and the Church Fair. I am interested in learning more about the history of the church and the town of South Windsor. I am very appreciative to the people who have made me feel welcome by being my teacher around the local history.

I want to add one more important event to the church calendar. It will be the extended Coffee Hour of **Oct. 15, 2023**. It is the next step in the transition conversations. I will be working with the church leaders as we plan conversations around **"Who are We as a Church Community?" We will be sharing stories.** The stories will be about times with the **church people**, and stories about church **worship** and, yes, **stories around the church building**. These three areas of Church life overlap and are intermingled and yet they are also separate! We will be looking at people's passions and their values as a church community. Come to worship and stay for the program afterwards in the Coffee Hour area. It is helpful to have a scripture to focus our attention. The one I share is 1 Corinthians 13:12-13: **"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love."** We can only know dimly, vaguely about the future. God provides clues about the soul of the church family. Yet, only in time will it become clear what is God's intention for the Church's future.



God Bless you all,  
Pastor Linda

## *Heritage Day Fair*

Jean Trotman and Judy Borré



We have support for set up and coverage for Saturday morning but still need help for the 12-2 pm timeslot as well as packing up. If you are able to help, please contact Jean T. or Judy B.

## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

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

- Apologies to all who attempted to join us via Zoom. Due to technical difficulties with the internet connection, Zoom was not available.
- Treasurer's report - Expenses for August were \$9,671. Income was \$11,674, which includes \$9,000 from Trust principal. Balance on hand is \$2,245. Surplus for the month is \$2,003; deficit year-to-date is \$10,367.
- Investments - The account saw a decrease of \$38,489 in August. \$29,489 was a decrease in the portfolio itself; \$9,000 was withdrawn from the Trust principal. Balance at the end of August is \$1,960,487. Jim Belknap mentioned that for the year-to-date, the portfolio has increased in value.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 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.



## *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair

The overgrown shrubs surrounding the Wolcott building have been removed. We haven't yet decided on replacements. The Wolcott ramp has been power washed. Once it dries and we can find a dry period in the weather, we will paint it. Linda Dalpe is heading up this effort. Speak to her if you would like to help. The committee voted to accept Unitech's proposal for a burglar alarm. They will also take over monitoring and testing the fire alarm system. Unitech is already taking care of the sound system in the sanctuary.



## *Missions Committee*

Rachel Anderson, Nancy Stearns and Marilyn Senger



The Missions Committee wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations of socks. Our sock drive was a huge success and will be greatly appreciated. **In all, we collected 231 pairs of socks!**

Missions looks forward to the special collection for Neighbors in Need, which will be accepted during the worship offering on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> as part of World Communion Sunday.

## *God's Helpers*

God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."

—George Buttrick

*UCW*

Linda Dalpe



Our UCW has quietly been making a number of new products for the fair to be held **Friday and Saturday Dec. 1,2.** While there have been many

meetings to work on the current affairs of the church, reducing the number of hours spent on creating, none the less we are

excited about showcasing some new ideas that we have finished or are working on.

We are still looking for upscale items for Treasure Trove, as well as jewelry - broken or not. The Jewelry Booth and Treasure Trove are a huge hit at our fair! Fall is always a great time to do that "cleaning" out of things that no longer "bring you joy". Call Linda Dalpe (860-528-1936) to arrange for pick up or drop off.



Our Friday workshops continue from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at the warehouse (1090 Main St.) Bring a project that you are working on and would like some extra hands to help. Or, if it's ready to be tagged, priced, photographed, and inventoried, we can take it in and store it. We love to be able to start showcasing our work on our website starting in early November.



## *Lap Quilt Presentations*

The lap quilt presentations have continued, honoring some very special local veterans. These quilts were made during the Sewin4Servicemen events, held here at the church and hosted and organized by our own Judy Borré. Judy, along with some First Church members, presented the quilts and thanked each person for their service to our country. The joy these quilts bring to the honorees is so touching.



## *Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden



We have been tracing the name changes that our church has had and why. We have named almost all of the changes. About 60 years from our name change of 1898, the United Church of Christ was formed when three Protestant churches, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the General

Council of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Afro Christian Convention united on June 25, 1957.

Looking at records of the Connecticut Missions Society (our state conference), we find that they voted to join with the UCC in 1960. In the past, the Congregational Church as a denomination would make changes, but the individual churches could vote to accept or reject those policies. We have churches like ours that agreed to the uniting with the United Congregational Church. Churches like the one in Wethersfield did not. This sent me looking for the exact time when our own church voted to become part of the UCC. I knew where to look, but doing so was not easy.<sup>1</sup>

In the 1961 Church Notes, we find that a special committee was asked to read and bring back a report on the By Laws of the United Church of Christ. When they had completed their assigned task, a special church meeting was called by President Kenneth Nichols for April 30, 1961 following the morning church service for voting by secret ballot to “accept the proposed constitution for the United Church of Christ and thereby become a member of the fellowship.” A total of 103 votes were cast, of which 89 voted “yes,” 13 voted:” no” and one person left a question mark on the ballot.

The By Laws written after that gives our name as “The First Congregational Church, South Windsor CT United Church of Christ.” The name reflects that the church became part of the new denomination (organized 1957) and with that we had another name change. This is our current name. Will there be changes in it in the future? No one knows.

We have been likening the church to a rose, think of the years when the church name had ‘Ecclesiastical Society’ in it as the era with the old Garden Roses (wild roses and their hybrids): then came the Modern Roses. The Modern Rose is quite a mix with 11 different

groups. I don't know the number of protestant denominations. However, Pew Research tells us that, American Protestantism is diverse, encompassing more than a dozen major denominational families – such as Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans and Pentecostals – all with unique beliefs, practices and histories. These denominational families, in turn, are made up of a host of different denominations,

We can use the phrase 'A rose by any other name would smell as sweet' today to indicate that things are what they are, no matter what name you give them.

#### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> To explore the church notes, I needed to go into two loose-leaf binders with rings that were too small for the number of pages in them. I've been reluctant to try to read these minutes. I decided that the only way to read the notes while protecting these pages was to move the contents into a larger binder. What a chore. One notebook has been emptied, with the pages now in page protectors in a larger notebook. This book contains the written records of the Church Meetings for one ten-year period. A few pages moved into a second notebook. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the pages in the second stuffed book will have been transferred.

### *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson & Lisa Horsfield

The choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 24 at 9:00 am in the sanctuary.



### *Crop Walk 2023: Join Us to Help Fight Hunger!*

Vicky Margiott

The annual Crop Walk will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be posting information on the bulletin board in the lower hall with additional updates.



### *SW Community Chorus Concert*

On Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, we hosted a concert for the incredibly talented South Windsor Community Chorus in our church sanctuary. What a special treat! Members of First Church put on an amazing reception in lower Fellowship Hall following the concert. A great time was had by all!







## *Church Family News*



Kevin Woolam	10/12
Liesl Dalpe	10/19
Jerry Dalpe	10/19
Edie Starr	10/20



Terry & James Belknap 10/27



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

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



First Congregational Church of South Windsor extends deepest sympathies to the Dinse family for the recent passing of Merle Dinse, September 6, 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 **November 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **October 13<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 will be Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm, unless otherwise noted.

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: