

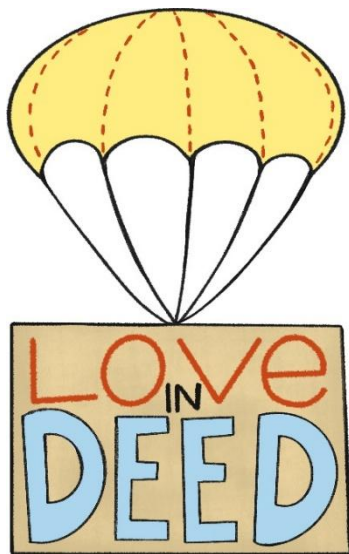
# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



December 2025

It's the season of giving. There is so much need out there. This season, let's put a face on our giving. There are several opportunities to do this: Volunteer at a soup kitchen. MACC is always looking for volunteers! Cornerstone Foundation may need volunteers to help out. Our giving to local missions is great, but it's a good idea to put a face (the face of First Congregational South Windsor, UCC) on our giving – a personal touch. Get involved with cooking a meal or serving one; help sort items for their thrift shops. Donate food AND a few hours helping to sort and shelve it! Let others see our actions and give thanks to the God we serve. If you are interested in volunteering your time at a local charity, let Pastor know and he will work with you finding where you can put your talents into action. Let's make this season of giving truly thankful for others in need – let's put a face on our contributions and live out our mission to make the call of Jesus to serve others real and tangible.



Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Dean

Pastor Dean's Hours & Office Schedule:  
Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm; Monday: Off

## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Clerk

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

- Treasurer's report - not available
- Investments - not available
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:30 pm in Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend, in person or via Zoom, whether or not you serve on a committee.



## *Music Committee*

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield



The sanctuary piano and the Fellowship Hall piano were tuned on November 13 at 9:00 am. A group of chimers took part in the service on November 16. While not a music committee endeavor per se, Jean brought up the *Take*

*Note!* concert is coming in March 2026 as a fundraiser for the floor. Details available so far were shared.

## *Save the Dates!*

Sunday, December 14, 2025 - South United Methodist Church on Main Street in Manchester will present its Christmas Candlelight Concert at 4:30 pm. You will hear seasonal music from the Chancel Concert Choir, the Wesley Ringers (handbells), and their Wildfire Praise Band. More to come, so stay tuned!

Sunday, March 22, 2026, *Take Note!* will present a fundraising concert here at First Church, at 3:00 pm. *Take Note!* is an a capella group from the Mansfield area. The concert will raise funds for the floor project in Fellowship Hall. Their services are at no cost to us. A donation toward the project will be requested of attendees. Please spread the word!

See Jean Jackson with questions about either of these events.

## *Parish Nurse*

Melody Treadwell

Look To This Day

For it is the life – the very life of life

In its brief course lie all  
the realities and trusts of existence  
the joy of growth  
the glory of action  
the splendor of beauty.

For yesterday is already a memory  
and tomorrow is only a vision  
but today well lived makes every  
yesterday a memory of happiness  
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this day.

Ancient Sanskrit Poem

Below: Pastor Dean and Melody visit some members of our church family. Lee Anderson is in good spirits and getting stronger every day at rehab. Marilyn Senger enjoyed some company and her First Church prayer shawl.



## *Growing in God's Love*

We are grateful to be growing in God's love here at First Church. In 2025, we welcomed four new members:

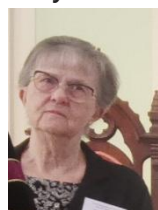


Vera Berizkina

Amy Cerasoli

JoJo Hulsart

Wendy Leonard



*Silver Lake isn't just a place to me*

Lilly Morse

I remember when my parents first dropped me off at camp and I was super scared to go; I even cried my eyes out. But once I got there, it felt like my whole life had changed in just a week. I thank my parents and the church every single day for sending me to camp. I thank my church for letting me have an amazing opportunity to go and learn about Silver Lake. I couldn't stop talking about camp and I knew that I had to go back again as a camper. I returned to camp in 2023; the conference I attended was called Carry the Torch. I talked to some people who were on staff that summer about their experience on staff. I knew that I always wanted to be on staff at Silver Lake, so when staff applications came out, I applied. I ended up getting hired for the job. I was so excited, I couldn't stop talking about how I was spending two whole months at a place I love. Once I got to camp that summer, I was very nervous that I wasn't going to make any friends. But I told myself that everything happens for a reason and I will be okay. I ended up making many friends for a lifetime that summer and had so much fun. I loved spending my days down by the lake, lifeguarding and even prepping food for meals in the kitchen. I thank God every day for sending me to a place that I absolutely love. I ended up applying for staff 2025 and got the job! Unfortunately, I had to decline the offer to work on staff last summer because I had some different opportunities arise, such as being on an All-Star cheerleading team. I did go up once in August during the summer as a volunteer to help out. I went for Fall Action Nov. 14-16 and spent my time stacking wood, matching bed linens and helping with the overall cleaning of camp. Being at camp makes my heart feel amazing. I honestly don't know how to express how camp feels in words. But it made me feel like myself again. I love how everybody is nonjudgmental, loves everybody, and always makes sure everybody's included. Once I heard the news that Silver Lake was closing down, my heart was broken. But we will never forget Silver Lake. It's a place I will forever call Home.











## *Church Historian*

Mary Crittenden

### ***When, How and Why Did We Go Away from the Common Cup for Communion?***

I would guess that most of you would object to going back to a common cup for communion.

I remember that in the 1940's, we had a common cup for communion at church and at school a water dipper that all students drank from. Around 1948, that school still used a large crock filled each day with freshly drawn well-water, but did away with drinking from the dipper. The reason was the fear of Polio and knowledge that a virus caused the disease. Looking back to the early years of our church, members did not have such fears as that was before the discovery of what causes communicable illnesses.

In the 1860s, Pasteur proved that specific germs caused specific diseases. In 1865, the French military doctor Jean-Antoine Villemin single-handedly demonstrated that consumption (Tuberculosis) could be passed from humans to cattle and from cattle to rabbits. He postulated that a specific microorganism was the cause of the disease, finally laying to rest the centuries-old belief that consumption arose spontaneously in each affected organism. Robert Koch built on Pasteur's work. The work of these scientists led to successful identification of the bacteria causes for anthrax, tuberculosis, and cholera. A cure for tuberculosis did not come until 1944.

When Jesus served the bread and wine at the last supper, He used unleavened bread and a cup of wine. Early communion used a common cup. In the early days of our church, a popular practice was to have all men sit on one side of the meeting house with the women sitting on the other side. A cup was then passed down each side. Eventually, it would be the use of more than one cup that made the adoption of individual cups easier to accept. After all, if you can use more than one, then you can use as many as you might like to use, and that certainly became the case.

On July 17, 1910, our church first served communion with the Individual Communion Service given to the church by Deacon E. A Farnham. The "wine" was served from the two trays that held individual cups. Each tray held forty small glasses similar to those in our large round trays.





*Visitors Return to First Church*

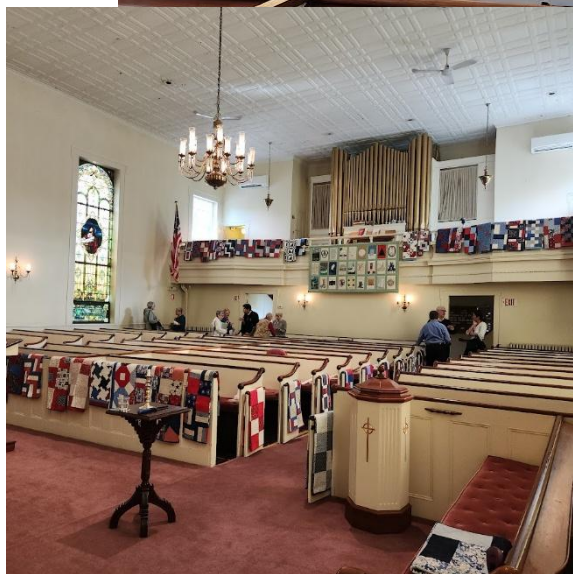
First Church had a return visit from our friend, Yong Kyupark, from Korea on a recent November Friday afternoon. He surprised us by bringing visitors from Canada. Carrie welcomed them and did her best to answer their questions. They really enjoyed seeing and hearing about the Sewin4Servicemen quilts hanging in the sanctuary, waiting to be blessed before distribution to deserving veterans in our community. Our visitors left with fond memories, photos, some church history packets, and a promise to visit again.

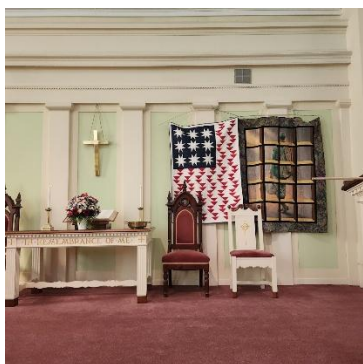




## *Sewin4Servicemen Lap Quilt Dedication Service*

First Church honored our Veterans with a special patriotic quilt dedication service on November 9, 2025. Sewin4Servicemen is a group of dedicated sewers and quilters organized by First Church member Judy Borré. They have been gathering in our church basement for years during the winter, meeting 4 times each year for all-day sewing projects. The patriotic lap quilts are made for and distributed to deserving veterans residing in assisted living and nursing homes in our town and surrounding towns as a special thank you for their service to our country. The quilts are all blessed before being distributed to local veterans. Members of the American Legion Abe E. Miller Post 133 were our special guests. We also recognized all of the volunteer sewers and quilters who make this special project possible.





*Dates for the 2026 Sewin4Servicemen: Sewins*

*Saturday, January 24, 2026*

*Saturday, February 28, 2026*

*Saturday, March 28, 2026*

*Saturday, April 25, 2026*

*Interested in participating? Contact the church office  
or Judy Borré for details.*



### *The Lunch Bunch*

The Lunch Bunch is the men's group that meets on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM for conversation and lunch with friends. The date for December is December 18. Everyone brings their lunch and there is usually great coffee served. The group meets in Fellowship Hall.



### *Ladies Who Lunch*

Linda Dalpe



The Ladies Lunch Bunch in Fellowship Hall typically meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, however, they have had to adjust their schedule due to the holidays. They will meet Thursday, Dec. 11. All are welcome! No agenda...just fellowship! Bring your lunch and a friend. We will be there from 11:30 AM -1:00 PM.

### *Missions Committee*

Nancy Stearns

The Missions Committee thanks the congregation for their very generous contributions during the challenging month of November. While members of our community temporarily lost their SNAP benefits, our congregation stepped up and donated bags of food to MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches) that filled a small SUV. We also collected many bags of food for The Cornerstone Foundation, which was distributed to needy families for their Thanksgiving dinners. And we collected gift cards for families served by MACC for Christmas gifts and food for their Christmas dinners.



During December, we will be collecting for The Christmas Fund, a UCC initiative that helps retired ministers and their families who are experiencing hardship.

MACC is in need of volunteers in their Thrift Shop, Kitchen, and Food Pantry. If you have a few spare hours and are looking for an opportunity to make a difference in our community, you can find an



application on the MACC website or call Patti Thurlow at (860) 647-8003, ext. 112.

We are discussing Missions projects for next year. If you have any ideas you would like us to pursue, please speak to a member of the Missions Committee.

### *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman



The Fellowship Hall Floor project is complete. We are in the process of installing curtain rods and rehanging curtains. I don't yet have the final cost, as final payment invoices are still coming in.

We are still working out issues with our new sound system. Some are related to retraining on the use of mics. We did discover we needed another receiver so that the handheld mic and the Pastor's wearable can be used at the same time. It was installed on 11/14. Music remains an issue as Zoom does not handle music well. Special mics to capture the organ and the choir would be very expensive. We are exploring alternatives to Zoom to see if there is a better option. The video doorbell is again working; we did not need to replace it.

We are working with Kingston Wealth Management to work out the process for requesting funds and developing an investment policy.

We have approved 2 additional work quotes from THI (Tortora Home Improvement):

1. Install gutters on the lift housing to prevent water damage to the south wall.
2. Install beadboard in place of the wallpaper on the north stairwell from Fellowship Hall to the narthex, as there is a moisture problem that prevents the wallpaper from adhering to the wall.

*The Season of Advent*

# ADVENT

*a season of preparation*

**First Congregational Church of South Windsor,  
United Church of Christ  
Sundays - beginning Nov. 30 at 10:00 AM**

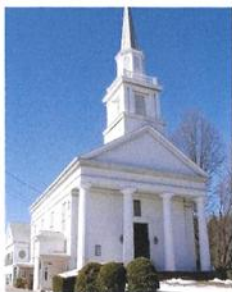
The four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve, also known as **Advent**, is a great time to set aside a bit of space each day to ready our hearts for Christmas — the entrance of Christ into the world. May your heart be captured by the ultimate gift — Jesus — this Christmas season.



**993 Main St | South Windsor | CT  
860-528-7992  
firstchurchsw.org  
Join us in person or on Zoom**

# First Congregational Church

## 78<sup>th</sup> Heritage Holiday Fair



993 Main Street  
South Windsor, Connecticut

### Booths include:

Homemade Fudge  
Home Baked Treats  
Vintage Jewelry  
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip  
Rada Cutlery

Handmade Ornaments & Decorations

Hand-painted Gifts

Cemetery Boxes

Fresh Greens Arrangements

Artificial Greens & Wreaths

plus

Treasure Trove and *MORE!*

### Fair Hours:

**Friday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

5 pm – 8 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

9 am – 2 pm

**AND returning this year:**

**Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

1 pm - 4 pm

Free Admission *ALL* Days!



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





*Candlelight Christmas Eve*

# Candlelight SERVICE

Join us to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will feature a return of the talented Deb Vinick on the harp.

December 24, 2025

8:00 PM

First Congregational Church  
of South Windsor,

United Church of Christ

993 Main Street, South Windsor, CT 06074

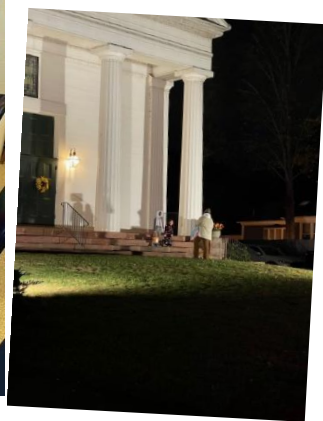
[www.firstchurchsw.org](http://www.firstchurchsw.org)

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome at First Church of South Windsor.



## *Halloween on Main Street 2025*

Halloween on Main Street is always so fun and also a nice way to engage with our community and neighbors. The festivities began on Sunday before Halloween as volunteers prepared by stuffed treat bags for trick-or-treaters after church. Thank you to Judy Borre for heading up this annual activity and to all of those who came out to take part in the fun. Wagons, golf carts, and tractors...oh my!



*Halloween on Main Street 2025, continued.*





Baking Marathon for the Heritage Holiday Fair. Mary Crittenden, Nancy Stearns, Terry Belknap, Linda Dalpe, Sheila McIntosh and Carrie Morse all took part.



Left: Thanks to our generous members and friends, our Missions' Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Cornerstone in Vernon filled two small SUVs. Below: Thanks to Terry Belknap for setting the beautiful cornucopia for the communion table.



Give thanks unto  
the Lord



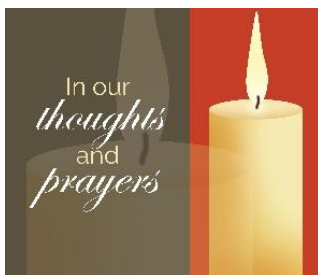
## *Church Family News*



### *Birthdays*

Chris Bombara 12/03  
 Linda Dalpe 12/07  
 Tim Nicholson 12/11  
 Liisa Whitin 12/12  
 David Anderson 12/14  
 Katelyn Whitin 12/16

Judy Borré 12/20  
 Carol Mattera 12/21  
 Wyatt Cote 12/22  
 Jade Paul 12/23  
 Jean Trotman 12/25  
 Byron Smith 12/26



The Addington Family  
 The Belknap Family  
 Joyce Coon  
 The Charette Family  
 Doris Burgdorf  
 Della Mitchell

Iva Burnham  
 Bob Woodward  
 The McIntosh Family  
 Lee Anderson  
 Bill Fraize  
 The Sharp Family  
 Eric Horsfield

## *Church Office Hours*

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

## *Newsletter Deadline*



The next newsletter issue will be published in **January 2026**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **December 12<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion: [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com) ~ Thank you!

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TO: