

# Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



June 2023

*We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore.*

– Andre Gide

Friends:

This will be my final newsletter article for the “Main Street Musing,” as I continue with preparations to set sail for other horizons, and you as a congregation begin to lean into a new chapter, both of us listening for God’s call to newer places.

Along with goodbyes and celebrations, a pastor and congregation engage in a ministry of leaving. This refers to grace-filled personal time with final pastoral visits, chats, and church meetings, creating an environment of spiritual safety, grace, good manners and appropriate boundaries. You’ll see more on the subject of boundaries a few pages into this newsletter in the Leadership Team update.

Boundaries are basically rules that tell you what the limits are. Think of the boundaries God set for the sea and sky. Or boundaries that landowners set as perimeters. The word ‘boundary’ is a key word to living well and “leaving well” as the SNEUCC encourages. You may have heard me mention that SNEUCC clergy gather from time to time for required ‘boundary training.’ While clergy and others have professional and ethical boundaries they have vowed to uphold, there are also relational boundaries that are suggested in the closing out of a ministry which need to be honored and received by the congregation.

In my former experiences as a church member, church leader and now as an ordained pastor, I have found that one of the most confounding and misunderstood parts of this ministry of leaving for a congregation of lay-folk is the ‘no-contact’ rule: the curtailment of any contact between the former pastor and their flock, whether in person, via phone, or social media.

“Why?” I’ve heard people ask over and over again. “I miss them. They married us. Or they buried my father. Or, “They baptized my children, I want to see how they are doing and keep in touch. I want them to do *my* funeral (wedding, confirmation, etc.)! Why can’t we be in touch, for goodness’ sake!”

While it would seem like a natural progression *to* remain in touch, a healthy congregation will honor this boundary of no-contact, if they truly want to support their new pastor and each other. Without honoring this boundary, their new pastor cannot form the appropriate pastoral relationships and perform ministerial roles needed to create genuine connection.

This is not a punishment, nor is it meant to be divisive. Rather, it is meant to be unifying. A congregation, with appropriate support from the denomination, its new pastor(s) and each other, can forge ahead as a healthy congregation, eager to form a new relationship with the incoming minister without the presence of the former pastor looming over their collective shoulders. Healthy boundaries=healthy congregations.

I will be remaining in the South Windsor area. That said, if we see each other in the grocery store, restaurant or at a community event, please remember that my reticence to converse is not because I do not wish to talk to you (DTIP – don’t take it personally’), but is necessary to honor this ‘no-contact’ rule. While I will ask after your well-being, smile, wave and wish you well, I cannot nor will I speak of First Congregational Church or what is going on there, nor will I ask. It is hard, I know, but necessary. I surely hope this is more of an explanation than you have received in the past, and that it helps you understand.

Remember this: I treasure that God called me to you and our times together. I will cherish memories of all of you as we go towards our separate shores. With the time of our goodbye close at hand, I offer you this blessing:

May your faith, the help of God, the love of Jesus and the wind of the Holy Spirit bring you down to where you ought to be. Amen and Amen.

*Rev. Nina*

## *Diaconate Ditties*

Scott Horsfield

The Diaconate has been pretty busy this past Easter Lenten Season. Now with Rev. Nina's resignation, things will get really busy. We accepted Rev. Nina's resignation at our last meeting. We have begun the search process by discussing our options with Rev. Isaac Lawson from Southern New England United Church of Christ (SNEUCC). As we announced at the recent Church Committee Meeting, we have opted for a Designated Term Pastor (DTP) then a Settled Pastor (SP), rather than the Interim Pastor to DTP to a SP. This also affords us the option of calling the DTP as a SP if we really think she/he is the right fit. The other item on the agenda we are dealing with is the "Legacy/Discernment" issues we are facing. We have invited Rev. Karen Ziel, Assistant Director of the Center for Transformational Leadership, SNEUCC, to join us for a "Second Hour" on June 11, 2023, oddly enough, just after our usual Sunday Service! This will be Zoomed as well, but I /we really hope that a lot of you will join us in person. The process will take time and will be asking/discussing some serious issues within the Church. This process will also assist with the Pastoral Search Process. As your Diaconate Chair, I am asking that each of you, friend of the church and/or member make a serious effort to attend this kick-off meeting. Oh yeah, there will be food!



### **"Boundaries for Departing Pastors and Congregations"**

As you are all aware, Reverend Nina Barlow Schmid submitted her resignation to our church on April 10, 2023. Her final Sunday sermon will be on May 28. If you haven't had a chance to personally wish her well, please try and catch her before then. She will still be in and out of the office on 'stay-cation' until June 10 to clean out her office, although she will not be leading worship or providing pastoral care after that date. You are welcome to stop in to say goodbye.

It is important that both we, the congregation, and Reverend Nina, set some boundaries to help us all move forward into a new future so that we can concentrate on our new paths separate from each other. To facilitate this, there are expectations that, upon departure, a pastor will not return to serve our congregation or our congregants in a pastoral capacity, for one to three years, and will observe a no-

contact boundary with us, and help us do the same. Reverend Nina has already been activating much of what is listed below as part of a departure plan that includes the pastor's boundaries with the congregation, the community, and social media. Here are items that need to be observed that will help us all make her departure and our transition smooth and successful, and which require the congregation's understanding of the 'why' behind the 'what:' to respect the boundaries of each minister(s) and enable new pastoral care relationships to develop and grow without the presence (real or symbolic) of the former pastor.

- One of the most important ways to help our church move forward into our new ministry is to remember that Reverend Nina will no longer be available to our congregation or affiliated persons for weddings, baptisms, funerals, church activities, pastoral care, hospital visitations, or emergency calls. The leadership team is working hard to engage pulpit supply, pastoral coverage and a designated term pastor to help us through our transition.
- It is also important that our congregation stop all church related communication, including any social media with Reverend Nina, so that we can both spend time moving into our new norms. Our congregation will be looking to begin our Discernment (Legacy) conversations that should help us determine where our future will lead us, and Reverend Nina will move forward in the next chapter of her life.
- A departing pastor has various contacts to inform of their departure from a congregation. These include area funeral homes, places within the community where she has a church-connected relationship, and resigning from any community boards or director positions held. The goal is to provide advance notice to various entities to eliminate confusion.

Maintaining healthy boundaries is an important part of our Pastor's and our congregation's next steps. As she embarks on the next chapter in her life, your leadership team is working hard to make a transition to the next chapter in our church life. More to come on that in the weeks to follow. Stay tuned.

Your Leadership Team: Judy Borré, Moderator, Scott Horsfield, Deacon Chair, Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair

## Where do we go from here?

June 11, 2023 "Second Hour" Presentation 11:30 am

In-person and Zoom

Karen Ziel of the Center for Transformational Leadership, Southern New England Conference, will help us start a discussion about "Discovering and exploring the essential elements of a successful process for Discerning your Church's Future".

Where are we now?

Where are we going?

Where is God leading us?

We've been through this before with "Beyond Beginnings" and "CAT Survey" you'll say. This is true. But we nod and agree but nothing is done. It is time to identify options available to us and make some decisions. This is a process of which this meeting will be just the beginning.

It is important that our members attend either in person or by zoom so you can share your ideas.

Lunch will be provided.

Judith Borré, Moderator

## *Church Committee*

Jean Jackson, Church Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held May 9, 2023 -

- Treasurer's report - Expenses for April were \$17,541.17. Income was \$16,382. Balance on hand is -\$1,871.90. Deficit for the month is \$1,159.17; deficit year-to-date is \$14,484.49. The negative balance on hand reflects expenses exceeding income. The Trust Fund was tapped into to cover the negative checkbook balance.



- Investments - Year-to-date, investments have increased. In April, the brokerage account increased \$30,839, while \$12,189.67 was withdrawn to cover expenses. Ending balance for April is \$1,915,419.29. No changes were made to the portfolio which is comprised of 19 stocks, 2 mutual funds, and 2 bonds.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 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.

### *Missions News*

Rachel Anderson

First of all, we would like to thank all of you who donated to Blankets of Hope in memory of or in honor of mothers and all who are mother figures. It was a wonderful showing and many people will be comforted by them. We raised \$600 to send to Church World Service (CWS).



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. 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. Please have orders to the church office

by Sunday June 11 for inclusion.



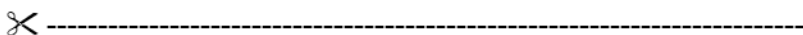
## TOOLS OF HOPE

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 Sunday, June 11th. 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:



*Little Library Dedication*

Our Little Church Library was handcrafted by Tim Starr and a very special dedication was held following worship on Sunday May 7, 2023. The library was dedicated in memory of Leona Dunham. We were honored to have the Dunham family join us for this very special day. The little library holds both books and snacks. Stop by and check out the incredibly beautiful and detailed craftsmanship!



*Tardif Baptism ~ May 2023*

A Sacrament of Christian Baptism was held on Sunday, May 21, 2023 for Xander Scott Tardif born January 5, 2023 to Melissa and Christopher Tardiff. Blessings to Xander!

## *Lap Quilt Presentation*



Lap Quilts made were recently dedicated to some very deserving 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 a few First Church members were on hand to thank them for their service.



### *Rev. Nina's Service of Release*

Sunday May 28, 2023 was the Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid's final day in the pulpit. We bid her a heartfelt farewell of gratitude during the service of release and renewal amongst members, guests and friends.



*Historian's Column*

Mary Crittenden



Over the years, the Wolcott building has had several alternations and refurnishing. Built in 1886 for a cost of \$2,000.00, the building sat on a stone foundation and did not have a basement. It was furnished by the women of the church.

In 1962, extensive work was performed. It was lifted off the stone foundation and a basement added with a new foundation. An article and photograph were published on August 21, 1962 in the South Windsor News. Headline above the photo and article was "Chapel 'Hovers' over Walls for Descent." The Picture is of the building a few feet above the new basement. There are busy workmen included in it.

There was a kitchen sink installed in a first-floor room. Additional improvements over the years included bathrooms. When there was a need for it, a ramp was built by Les Clapp, Talcott Clapp and Scott Horsfield. The help with painting was done by Deborah Dillon.

In 1997, we were faced with an immediate need to do extensive repair to the structure of the Wolcott Memorial Chapel. While this need was attended to promptly, it set into motion consideration as to the needs of the church school. A Committee was charged with exploring these needs and devising plans of satisfying them. Having obtained data from the church school director and teachers and the C.E. Committee, the building committee worked on defining the needs with the church school. The analysis called for 9 classrooms for the 100 enrolled students.

The committee made four different plans and presented them to a Church Committee Meeting after the morning service on November 16, 1997.

Plan 1 redesigned the floor plans for the 2 floors of the Wolcott Building.

Plan 2 added a two-story addition onto the building, extending the building toward the driveway.



Plan 3 and 4 added educational classrooms and office to the church building and either tearing down or moving the Wolcott Memorial Chapel and paving that area to gain 22 parking spaces.

That church committee meeting was lengthy, with multiple times of voting. The plan chosen was designed by Merle Dinse. This was for renovating the existing Wolcott Memorial Chapel building at the cost of \$80,000.00. The cost was to be raised by member subscription, fund raising and borrowing from invested funds. On December 8, 1997, RSK Kellco Co., Inc. began work. They poured the new porch and replaced the handicap ramp.

Rededication in front of its open welcoming doors was held at 11:00 a.m. with the whole church family gathered on the lawn.

*In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead. - Lisa Heckman*

### *Trustees News*

Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair



The water test was performed to find the leak affecting the East wall in Fellowship hall, but did not find a leak. We will continue to monitor the wall when we have bad rain storms, but for now we are on hold.

The Church Clean-up Day went well. We washed windows on the office level and on the lower level. The

chandelier and sconces in the sanctuary were cleaned as was the tri-centennial quilt. Multiple spot lights in the sanctuary were out, so the bulbs were replaced. And we installed four window ACs.

We talked about ways to increase protection against vandalism and are talking to several companies to get ideas. At our June meeting, we will make plans to repaint the Wolcott Building ramp.

*Church Family News*

Sean Connelly	06/02	Eric Horsfield	06/24
Julie Reynolds	06/05	Chevy Ricketts	06/25
James Burnham	06/09	Michael Stearns	06/25
Tyler Machowski	06/09	George Cox	06/29
Eden Dalpe	06/10	Deb Donaldson	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
Lee & Rachel Anderson		06/14	
Marty & Lisa Zaugg		06/18	



Doris Burgdorf	Cliff McClellan
Joyce Coon	Della Mitchell
Stefan & Laura Klein	Edie & Bob Starr
Merle & Leilani Dinse	Brad & Barb Wright
Lisa Horsfield	Patty & Billy Cox
Bob Peck	

## *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.



## *Wanted: A Copy of This Cookbook*



The members of First Congregational Church, South Windsor self-published an Apple Fest Cookbook 2007 during the time that we were doing the Apple Fest. We do not have a copy in our archive and I would like for us to have one. Hopefully, someone has a copy that they are willing to give to the church archive, we would love to have it. At an event of the South Windsor Historical Society, I saw the South Windsor Library's copy. In it is an apple cake recipe that Elsie Woolam had submitted.



## *Newsletter Deadline*

The next newsletter issue will be published in **July 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **June 16<sup>th</sup>** for inclusion. Thank you. [firstchurchsw@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchsw@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**  
**DEADLINE**

## *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: