

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

January 2019

Warm Greetings of the New Year to You!

This edition of our newsletter will make its way to you between Christmas and the coming New Year, so Happy and Healthy New Year to all of you! I do hope the services, events and fellowship here at First Congregational Church of South Windsor enhanced your Advent and Christmas experience. Welcoming the Christ Child takes many faithful servants! Thank you to all who gave of themselves in any or many ways during the season and throughout the year.

New elements were incorporated in our worship and celebrations along with the traditional. Families and friends enjoyed a Saturday morning decorating the sanctuary while caroling, followed by a pizza lunch. Many hands made light work – and festive hearts! The introduction of four “The Skit Guys” Advent candle-lighting skits were well received. These light-hearted venues provided a simple, humorous and accessible approach to God’s messages. The Klein, Belknap, McNulty and Kip Dalpe families were well cast and stellar thespians! Another simple, but rich, addition was the revival of our choir’s choral responses following the benediction. And speaking of revivals, our choir is experiencing a beautiful one with some new members and faithful stalwarts combined under Music Director Kamilla Mammedova’s leadership. Our own Church Chimers, under the direction of Jean Jackson, Kamilla Mammedova on piano, along with guest musicians Debbie Vinick and Rick Sylvester rounded out our worship.

Our Christmas tableau never fails to inspire wonder and joy with its spontaneity. Who will be Jesus?? This year Landon Soares and his mother, Jan, came through at the last minute as Mother and child. John Mitchell had already been ‘requisitioned’ as Joseph. Again, simplicity, but Holy Spirit reigned for the largest gathering of animals, shepherd and kings in the past several years!

This year’s Christmas Fair generated a special energy which delighted all who came. A packed dining room, sell-out on all greens and a new venue for Santa and Mrs. Claus at ‘The Sweet Shoppe’ in the chapel were all resounding successes. The reception for participants of the annual nationwide Wreaths Across America event has become a popular finale to the laying of wreaths in all of South Windsor’s cemeteries. The first American Red Cross blood drive in many years was held here December 19.

Something else new is coming with the light of Epiphany Sunday, January 6: Star Gift Sunday! The Magi bring gifts to the Christ Child and you will receive one, too! Randomly choose a brightly colored paper star from the basket of stars which will have your very own special ‘star word’ on it. (No peaking first!). These ‘Star Gifts’ symbolize “God’s generosity in our lives” and offer a chance to “ponder these words in our hearts” as we search for how the word manifests in our life and how we can connect to and reflect on it throughout the year. Keep it where you can see it: in your car, by your desk, on the refrigerator! The Star Gift word often uncannily resounds with the person who has chosen it. Star Gift Sunday has been rumored to proffer conversation, relationship and most of all, contemplation of the role God has for us in the world. There will be opportunities throughout the year for those who wish to share thoughts on how their star word has manifested in their lives. Be sure to come and receive your Star Gift on Sunday, January 6 at 10 a.m. worship!

By the way, my trip to Israel was a multi-layered, over-the-top, unbelievably spiritual (and fun!), life event. To borrow from the 13th c. Sufi mystic and poet Rumi, “My amazement was amazed.” Divine providence moments (“hashgachat pratit” in Hebrew) abounded. I treasure the fellowship that grew out of this precious time spent with our Temple Beth Hillel friends I will be delighted to share my experiences with you during the New Year. A travelogue-style presentation will be announced at a later date. I have already incorporated some elements and will be highlighting the past and present-day geography of Jesus’ journey to the cross during our Lenten program in March/April.

As in Advent, we continue to look back, ponder today and look ahead, to what was, is and will always be, God-with-us, Emmanuel. Amen.

Joyfully,

Nina





Church Committee Jean Jackson Church Clerk

December 11, 2018 Church Committee Highlights -

- Treasurer - November income was \$17,015.00. Expenses were \$20,966.02. Cash on hand is \$1,299.13. Deficit for November is \$3,951.02; year-to-date is \$9,876.71.
- Investments - In November, the account decreased \$44,728.00. \$9,000.00 was withdrawn to cover expenses. The net decrease for November was \$53,728.00. The end value for November is \$1,732,427.80. Thanks were expressed for Jim Belknap's management of the brokerage account.
- Next meetings: Annual Meeting, January 27, 2019 following the service and Church Committee Meeting, February 12, 2019 at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend these meetings, whether or not you serve on a committee or board.

Trustees News

Carroll Stearns

Winter is upon us and the snow and ice cannot be far behind. We are fortunate again this year to have the services of Kevin Charette to do our church plowing. Kevin has handled this responsibility for a number of years with no fanfare and little or no remuneration. We are truly grateful



for his many contributions to our congregation. This year, Colin Neary has answered our call for someone to shovel the walks and steps at both the church and Wolcott building. Colin will respond as soon as practicable following each storm, seven days a week,

and will both shovel and apply ice melt as necessary. We thank them both for their efforts to keep the members of our congregation safe.

The Trustees are in the final stages of the preparation of the church budget for 2019 in advance of the Annual Meeting. Any member with a suggestion or question may bring it to any board member now or at the meeting. The Board of Trustees welcomes new members to help with our work. Please contact any trustee for more information.

WARNING

Official notice is hereby given that the 321st Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in South Windsor, Connecticut, will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 27th, 2019 after the Morning Service.

For the purpose of:

1. *Accepting the Board and Committee Reports for 2018.*
2. *Electing church officers/board/committees and personnel for 2019.*
3. *Enacting any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

*Jean Jackson, Clerk
Terry Belknap, Moderator*

A luncheon will be enjoyed after the Service.

Annual Reports Due

All boards and committees are asked to have their annual reports to the church office by **January 6th**. Copies of the annual reports will be available on Sunday, January 20th. The Annual Meeting is scheduled **January 27th** following the worship service.



Stewardship Campaign for 2018



A reminder from Terry Belknap and Kip Dalpe.

Thank you to all of you that have returned your completed pledge cards. As of December 16, 2018, we have received 38 pledges for a total of \$41,504. Thank you letters and follow-up letters will be in the mail shortly.

UCW News

Gratitude goes to everyone that helped to make our Church Fair such a success. On January 16, 2019 we will gather at Lena's Restaurant at 6:30 PM to enjoy our "Fair Helper" banquet. The cost of the dinner is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Please sign up in Fellowship Hall by January 6th so we can accommodate the restaurant reservation deadline. Everyone ---



ladies and gentlemen, alike are invited to attend. If you have questions or are unable to sign up at the church please call Ingrid Fraize (860)528-8366 or Rachel Anderson (860)644-2157.

We will be holding a "Fair Review" meeting at the church on January 23rd at 6:30 PM. The meeting is open to all men and women of the church to discuss comments, suggestions, questions and changes that we may consider for the fair. We are always striving to make our fair better each year.

Please think ahead to our scholarship auction to be held in May. We will be looking for better items that you might be thinking of divesting your household of, cooking talents (make a dinner for someone), gardening talents, sharing a special talent (teach crochet or knitting), etc. If you know of a business that would be willing to donate a gift certificate or service....that would be a great auction item! Have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Holiday Fair Update

Linda Dalpe, Jean Trotman

Our 2018 annual holiday fair was another huge success thanks to all of our church family and friends. The many hands, backs, brains, brawn, talent, time and generous gifts were not only appreciated but **very much valued!** We incredibly surpassed our goal from last year! Final reporting will be in the next newsletter.

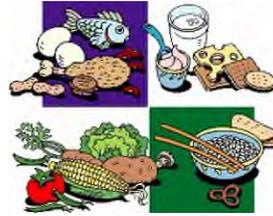


Thank you to all who made this fair so outstanding and the "event to be talked about". Lots of planning coming up as we look for new ideas and shop the sales for our greens before they

are packed away. Watch for details in the newsletter and church bulletins as we start our planning for our 74th church fair.

Food Safety Course

In an effort to keep our church up to date with the town and state Food Safety regulations, we will be hosting a workshop in January for anyone interested in attending. Several individuals will be taking the exam after the workshop so that we have a number of people trained and certified as Qualified Food Operators. Watch for details in the church bulletin as we finalize them with a certified educator and approved exam proctor.



Kamilla's Kolumn

What a start we had for the coming Holidays. For those of you who missed it:

- * On December 2- the choir was joined by acoustic guitar player Rick Sylvester.
- * On December 16th-we welcomed back harpist Debbie Thalberg-Vinick, who brought her musical talents joining the choir and the worship's hymns.
- * On Christmas Eve- December 24th - I performed a Christmas Medley on the piano.



It is wonderful to see you all and celebrate this magic and special time of the Year!

Mission News

Mary Anne Novak

We wrapped up the year in December with donations to hawkwing, The Bridge, MACC, FISH, South Windsor Food and Fuel as well as gift cards and bus passes for Interval House.



Thank you to everyone that donated to these organizations! Collectively, we are making a difference in our communities!

In the News

Easter States Exposition's Director of Agriculture, Donna Woolam of South Windsor, received the Honorary American FFA Degree, given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment. Donna is a member here and the daughter--in-law of Elsie Woolam.



Music Committee Notes

Jean Jackson



Music Committee Notes -

- The Church Chimers took part in the service on December 23, 2018.
- The organ pipes were returned to their rank on December 9, 2018.
- Kamilla has been trying other organ stops. Sounds good!

Book Group

The book under discussion will be *Us Against You* by Frederik Backman, sequel to *Bear Town*. We will be meeting on **January 16th** at noon. Bring a bag lunch.

“A small community tucked deep in the forest, Beartown is home to tough, hardworking people who don't expect life to be easy or fair. No matter how difficult times get, they've always been able to take pride in their local ice hockey team. So it's a cruel blow when they hear that their town's ice hockey club might soon be disbanded. What makes it worse is the obvious satisfaction that all the former Beartown players, who now play for a rival team in the neighboring town of Hed, take in that fact. But the arrival of a newcomer gives Beartown hockey a chance at a comeback.



Soon a team starts to take shape around Amat, the fastest player you'll ever see; Benji, the intense lone wolf; always dutiful and eager-to-please Bobo; and Vidar, a born-to-be-bad troublemaker. But bringing this team together proves to be a huge challenge, especially as the town's enmity with Hed grows more and more acute as the big game approaches.”

How do you want to receive the Newsletter?

If you would like to receive the *Main Street Musing* via email, please email the church office at firstchurchsw@gmail.com. This will help in production and mailing costs. Thank you. As an added bonus, you will see the graphics in color.



Christian Education News Our Annual Christmas Tableau

Edie Starr

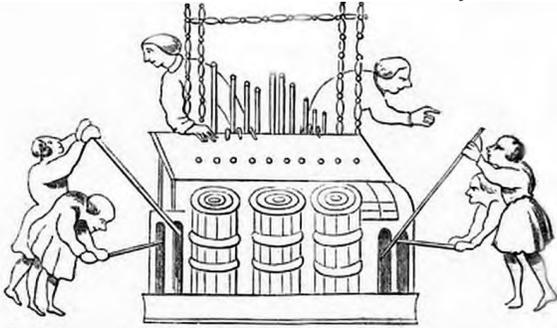


John Mitchell, Jan & Landon Soares

Just a few of the photos of our annual Christmas Tableau

Archivist Column

Mary Crittenden



Now what is a tracker pipe organ? The term tracker action is used in reference to both pipe organs and steam calliopes to indicate a mechanical linkage between keys or pedals pressed by the organist and the valve that allows air to flow into pipe(s) of the corresponding note. Thus, it is the action of the mechanical parts that connect keys, pedals and stops to control the air flow to the pipes to produce sound. The pipes that produce the music are hidden behind the decorative gold pipes. The console must be near to the pipes.

The air to the pipes comes from a windchest. And what supplies the air to it? Before electricity the air was supplied by using bellows that were pumped by foot or arm action.

With electricity, organ makers were able to replace the bellows with an electrical blower. For our organ, the blower is in the attic above the organ.

The pipes are blown by means of a tracker action windchest. Air is admitted into the interior of the windchest, by means of springs, pallets (or valves) held against the openings leading from the windchest to the feet of the pipes. The pallet is drawn down by means of a wire (known as a "pull down") which passes through small holes in a brass plate attached to the bottom of the windchest. This wire is connected with the keyboard through a short dowel ("sticker") which is pinned to a long strip of wood known as the tracker. This in turn connects to the end of the key. (Quoted from our church history files, written by Jean Clark Jackson.)

There are disadvantages to a tracker organ. The organist needs a strong hand and much attention to fingering for accurate rendition for our music; however many think the sound produced is superior.

Sewin4Servicemen Lap Quilt Dedication November 18, 2018



November is the time of year we thank our veterans for their service to and sacrifice for our country. Last year (2017) as we dedicated 85 quilts, I challenged the participants to create enough quilts to hang from the choir loft. As usual, 50 participants (Kip and his daughters and women) rose to the occasion working on 120+ quilts. On November 18th, the congregation along with the Sewin' participants and members of American Legion Post #133 blessed over 100 of these quilts. After the New Year, these quilts will be distributed to local veterans with the help of the American Legion.

On January 26, 2019, the 6th Annual Sewin4Servicemen will start. We will be meeting on the 4th Saturday of January, February, March and April from 10 am to 4 pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact Judy Borre or the Church Office.

Worship Service and Event Cancellations

If the weather is bad, you can check for cancellation notices of our events, including Sunday morning worship service and church school, by watching WFSB TV (CBS, channel 3) or listening to WTIC (1080 AM). Notices are also posted on both the websites for WFSB news and the WTIC Storm Center. Generally, a decision to cancel worship will be made on Sunday morning around 7am. Every effort will also be made to update the church answering machine.



Church Family News



Mary Pelton	01/04
Leilani Dinse	01/06
Chenoa Anderson	01/07
Chris Kurtzman	01/11
Jennifer Slater	01/19
Jay Samsel	01/21
Jared Clarke	01/25
Nancy Shaffer	01/26
Lauren Clarke	01/27
Tracy Margiott	01/27
Brad Case	01/30
Jonathan Whitin	01/30
Aimee Bombara	01/31
Morgan Gobin	01/31

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Joyce and Wayne Coon	Shirley Lawton
Bev Nielsen	Vibert Deane
Doris Burgdorf	Bruce Burnham
Gail & Jim Jackson	John Mitchell



Send them a note today!

Bev Nielsen	Wayne & Joyce Coon
58 Pleasant Valley Road	Arbors at Hopbrook
South Windsor, CT 06074	403 W Center Street; Apt. 316
	Manchester, CT 06040

Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**January 13th**) we collect items for a food pantry. When asked what was needed, Andrea Cofrancesco, Director for the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank answered: "My crystal ball says Paper goods(especially paper towels are needed)! Cleaning products! Toiletries!" These items are distributed to the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank, Manchester Area Conference of Churches and Interval House. These donations are greatly appreciated.



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January abridged edition of the newsletter is **Tuesday, January 15th**. It will be printed on January 30th.

This issue will be very limited in length. Think announcement style.



2019 Flower Chart

The 2019 Flower Chart will be posted after December 15th. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up for flowers. Please note how the acknowledgement is to be made. Donors are responsible for ordering and arranging for flowers to be in church on Sunday. Donors may take their arrangements home following service or deliver them to one of our homebound members and friends.



Lunch Bunch

The lunch bunch meets September to June on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. This month they will meet on **January 17th**. Founded as a gathering for retired men, it is open to anyone who wants to visit over a brown bag lunch.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

There is a need for Coffee Hour hosts for most of January and all of February. Please check your calendar when you are able to host. The calendar for Coffee Hour Hosts for the first six months of 2019 has been posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen window. Please consult your calendar and sign up for a Sunday. If you have not hosted before, but would like to host and need some guidance, please feel free to ask one of the "regulars" to mentor you.



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SAVE THE DATE

Annual Reports Due..... 1/6
Choir Rehearsal.... 1/10 Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Creative HandsWednesdays at 10 a.m.
Photo Archive Team.....Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.
Fair Helpers Dinner 1/16
Financial Annual Reports Due..... 1/20
Fair Review 1/23
Annual Meeting 1/27
Committee Night 2/12

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Minister: Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid
Organist: Kamilla Mammedova
Administrative Assistant: Claudia Steele
Sexton: Katie Graham

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

“Once we have seen [Jesus] in a stable,
 we can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or
 to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of men.”
 —Frederick Buechner