

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



September 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." ECC 3: 1. The bible book of Ecclesiastes speaks of time as being a cycle. We see that clearly in New England with the changing of the seasons. Today, Aug. 27, we are on the cusp of moving from Summer to Autumn. The weather is not the only thing that changes. Our church season, which parallels the school calendar, increases its activities. This year I am aware of the passing of time as I make decisions and commitments.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you over the summer months. I have extended my contract with the Diaconate (and therefore the church) to continue as a bridge minister throughout the fall. If needed, I am willing to stay through Christmas time. The Diaconate and I reviewed some of the questions raised at the recent church committee meeting. A Bridge Ministry is an appropriate time to experiment and try out some new things or return to some older practices. During the month of September there will be a gradual tweaking of minor order of worship practices. The changes will be minor ones and the appropriate boards will be consulted as needed. Please know that asking questions and learning together is a normal expectation of a time of transition. All feedback will be listened to and then discussed. Thanks for caring about the church and its worship.

In Christian Love,

Rev. Linda Huff.

Right: Reverend Eugene Young was our Supply Pastor for Sunday August 20, 2023. Rev. Young currently serves as a friend to the Pastors at The First Cathedral in Bloomfield, CT.



Left: A baptism was held in the First Church Sanctuary on Friday, August 4, 2023 and officiated by Rev. Linda Huff. We welcomed Aria and Shyla to the First Church Family.



Trustees News

Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair

Since no one came forward to fill the Treasurer position, the ad hoc team presented the following plan which was approved by the Trustees and Church Committee. We will outsource payroll and bill paying duties to the Don Brooks Agency at a cost of approximately \$400/month. In addition to her Financial Secretary duties, Sue Larsen will take on the remaining tasks. She will be the liaison between the Church and the Agency and her new duties will include monthly income and expense reports, review and approval of bills to be paid before sending them to the Agency for payment and assisting the Trustees with the preparation of the annual budget. Sue and Lee will be working together for the rest of the year to transition all of Lee's duties to either Sue or the Don Brooks Agency, with the goal of having this completed by year end.

My thanks to those on the ad hoc committee who worked on putting this solution together: Bob Starr, Judy Borre, Lee Anderson and Sue Larsen.

Christian Education

Vicky Margiott



We will begin Christian Education this year starting September 17th for all children interested. Per usual, the students will spend the first portion of the day in the church service and leave after the Childrens Moment. For those unable to attend, we will continue to try to meet students where they are via “take away” packets. Come join us!

Instruments of Connection



Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled “The Hug”:

“The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them.”

Crop Walk: Save the Date!

Vicky Margiott

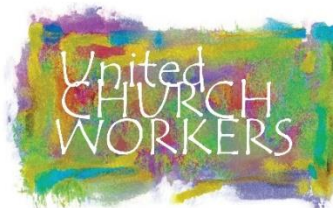
The annual Crop Walk will be held on October 15th. We will be posting information on the bulletin board in the lower hall with additional details shortly.

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



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. On **Sunday, Sept 10th** there will be an after church UCW meeting/coffee hour to briefly confirm your commitment to helping with the fair details such as baking, greens week, projects that you are working on at home, talents you want to share and availability to work the fair. We will also be discussing the future of UCW in terms of desire for programs to be scheduled, how we can support the work of the church and other concerns of our members.

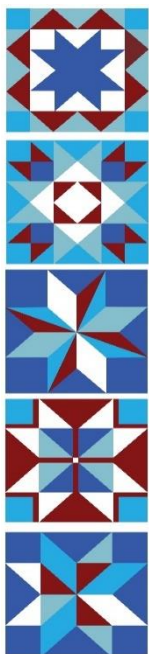
We are still looking for upscale items for Treasure Trove, as well as jewelry -broken or not. The Jewelry Booth and Treasure Trove are a huge hit at our fair! Fall is always a great time to do that "cleaning" out of things that no longer "bring you joy". Call Linda Dalpe (860-528-1936) to arrange for 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. We love to be able to start showcasing our work on our website starting in early November.



Lap Quilt Presentation

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.

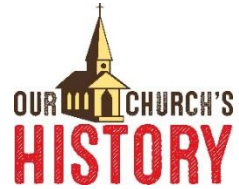


Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

Part 2

Last month we learned that when East Windsor was incorporated, our name changed to the First Ecclesiastical Society of South Windsor. We held that name from 1846 -1898. Our name did not give an accurate picture of what we had become. Our name was not changed in 1818 as it should have been in response to the state constitution of that time. The state constitution changed the relationship between church and state. For background about the change that made our name obsolete, we need to remember the major changes in this country. Ah, yes, we were no longer a colony but rather a country. Representatives wrote the Articles of Confederation. The need for a stronger Federal Government soon became apparent and eventually led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787.



In our colonial days, the use of the term Ecclesiastical in the name reflected the relationship of church and state. In colonies like Connecticut, the people living in a town paid a tax to support that both church and town. Usually, there was one building which served as the meeting house for both. The name reflected that there was no separation of church and state.

The United States Constitution's first amendment, states that Congress will make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. Connecticut wrote its first state constitution in 1818. It had simply been using the amended colonial constitution.

The CT Constitution of 1818 addressed issues of religion in two different ways. First, Section 3 of the Declaration of Rights provided that the "exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship without discrimination, shall forever be free to all persons in this state" [but that right] "shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state." Second, Article 7 addressed taxpayer support of churches.

In 1898, the Ecclesiastical Society of South Windsor was dissolved and the property transferred to the organization incorporating as First Congregational Church of South Windsor. Oh Wow! A new name and a new organization ready for a new century with the same people and the same buildings.

A rose is a rose assumes that we are still naming a rose. What if the rose has been transformed into something different just as our religious organization? I think the church congregation stopped us as an Ecclesiastical Society long before the formal change. It probably changed when they had to start supporting the town and the church separately. Throughout the church notes from 1850 on I have found little use of the name of the church. The Church Notes records for the annual meetings simply started with "The Annual Meeting of the Church,." and continued by stating time and place. After the Wolcott Memorial Chapel was built for the church. the annual meetings were often held there.

So, are we still a rose?

SW Community Chorus Concert

A very special concert will take place in our First Church sanctuary on Friday, September 1st at 7pm. The incredibly

talented South Windsor Community Chorus will perform their latest selections for us all to enjoy. They have been hard at work practicing this summer on Monday evenings in lower Fellowship Hall and they are excited to share their amazing music. We are honored to have them perform here. The concert is FREE and open to the public! Please spread the word. A reception will follow in lower Fellowship Hall.



God is watching



In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."

The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God's sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!



—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Silver Lake 2023

Three very lucky kids attended Silver Lake this year through camperships given from Christian Education. Emily Dalpe, Eden Dalpe, and Lilly Morse attended the July conference and had the most amazing time. They look forward to sharing their wonderful experiences with the congregation during Rally Sunday on September 17.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to join the Silver Lake Community, this will be such a fun memory as I look forward to going back next year!

I was nervous at first to be away from home for so long but all the people at Silver Lake comforted me and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. I tried new things and made some life-long friendships, I'm very grateful for this experience.

Love,
Eden Dalpe

Dear Church

I really appreciate the opportunity given to me to attend Silverlake this summer. It truly was an eye-opening and amazing experience. The Silverlake Community is so kind and welcoming, I made so many new friends and got to experience a lot of new things. I'm so excited to go back next summer, thank you for sharing this experience with the kids at the Church.

Love,
Emily Dalpe



July 26, 2023

Dear First Church Family,

We wanted to thank you all for giving Lilly the amazing opportunity to attend Silver Lake again this year. She loved every minute of it! The weather was beautiful - just one drizzly part of a day. We heard about all of the new friends she made and the old friends from last year that she saw again. The one common thread woven throughout all of her stories was how kind, accepting and friendly everyone at Silver Lake is. Much different from high school, she says. She wanted to stay longer! She is already talking about wanting to find out more information about volunteering as a camp counselor for the whole summer next year. This experience is something she will always remember and carry with her and we are so grateful. It has given her so much confidence. Thank you so much!

The Morse Family

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend Silver Lake again. I had an amazing time and made lots of new friends.

Much Love, Lilly



Church Family News

Marty Zaugg 09/06
 Stefan Klein 09/13
 Silvia Mikkola 09/19
 Olivia Pelton 09/19
 Landon Soares 09/20
 Chipper Woolam 09/21
 Lauren Horsfield 09/23
 Allison Hastings 09/27
 Jenifer Gossett 09/30
 Kamilla Mammedova 09/30



Lisa & Scott Horsfield 09/15
 Caitlin & Roger Cote 09/18
 Lauren & Steven Clarke 09/30



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

Heritage Day Fair

Jean Trotman, Mary Crittenden, Judy Borré

Heritage Day is once again happening and is scheduled for Sept.30th. This is one way we can make our Church more visible to the community, but it also means we need the congregation's support for set-up, take-down and manning our display during the event. Please mark your calendars. More information should be coming soon.



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. 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 **October 2023**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **September 15th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com
Thank you.



New Church Directory Available



The new Church Directory is here! Please email the church office at 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.

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TO: