

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



December 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

I am beginning with a word of Thanksgiving to God and to the church family. Many positive things are happening. Thanks to all who came to the Extended Coffee Hour on Nov. 5th, 2023.

It was a positive time to wrap up my formal opportunity to guide a facilitated conversation about future ideas of ministry. We looked at the combined rating chart from last month and had both Aha Moments and good laughs. Then a quick tally of the skills and talents represented by this congregation. It was even more impressive than I had expected. You are rich in the Gifts of the Spirit. This will be so helpful going forward. Lastly, we had a simple list of brainstormed ideas from a variety of places. There was positive discussion and some additions.

I was asked about the formal “trainings” that the UCC offers. There are at least 8 and all listed on the UCC website as Just World Covenant Programs: 1. Open and Affirming, 2. Accessible2All, 3. WISE (Mental Health Network), 4. Refugee and Migration Immigrant Welcoming, 5. Creation Justice Churches – Environment, 6. Just Peace Churches, 7. Economic Justice, and 8. Global Mission Churches. There are many resources of how to respond during a crisis and/or disaster. Ministry has endless possibilities.

My time with you is getting short. I have enjoyed meeting you all and walking with you during this Bridge Ministry time. I look forward to spending time over the holiday season of Thanking and Christmas which includes the Christmas Fair and Christmas Walk. It is a season of celebration and Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

In Christian faith,

Rev. Linda Huff

Designated Term Pastor: Candidate Weekend



Important News!!

The leadership team, along with the Diaconate are excited to present the Reverend Dr. Dean Kucera as a prime candidate for the position of

Designated Term Pastor at First Congregational Church. We have scheduled a weekend to have him out to meet us. The weekend will include a Meet and Greet dinner on Saturday, December 16 from 4-7pm with dinner at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. He will lead our worship service and preach on Sunday, December 17th, after which we will hold an official church meeting to vote on the calling of Pastor Dean as our DTP. Please come and meet Pastor Dean. Also, please keep in mind that as an official church meeting, we need a minimum of 25 members for a quorum.

Diaconate Ditties

Scott Horsfield

Good day everyone. We have had another busy month. We assisted the "Leadership Team" and Carrie Morse with another discussion with our Designated Term Pastor Candidate and set up a



"Candidate Weekend" in December. The logistics have been worked out and Pastor Dean will be arriving on December 14, 2023 with meetings, tours, a Meet and Greet ending with him preaching on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Please plan on attending the Meet and Greet and the Service on Sunday. Also, please wear your name tag!

We have decided to purchase several poinsettias for the church and are asking the Congregation to donate to the UCC's Veterans of the Cross program in lieu of purchasing flowers. There is a chart included in the newsletter for donating. Please make checks payable to The Deacons Fund and put Veterans of the Cross in the memo line. Please have these dedications in the church office no later than Sunday, December 17, 2023. Additionally, the offering on Christmas Eve, will be donated to this program.

WARNING

Official notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in South Windsor, Connecticut, will be held in the sanctuary immediately after the service on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

For the purpose of:

- 1. Determining whether to issue a call to the Reverend Dr. Dean M. Kucera to become the Designated Term Pastor of First Congregational Church.**
- 2. Enacting any other business that may legally come before this meeting.**

**Jean Jackson, Clerk
Scott Horsfield, Diaconate Chair**

Trustees News

Jean Trotman, Trustee Chair

The Wolcott ramp received a quick primer coat to protect the bare spots that resulted from the power washing. It will be sanded and painted in the spring. We are planning a test period for the Burglar Alarm system. If you have a key fob please see Carrie ASAP to get another fob for the Burglar Alarm system so you can arm/disarm it as needed if you enter the main building when no one else is there. The north door has been repaired. The plumbing under the kitchen sink has reached the end of its useful life. Although the clog has been relieved somewhat, water drains very slowly. We are in the process of getting an estimate for a repair/replacement of the pipes. In the interim, please use the other sink (between the ovens).



Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held November 14, 2023 -



- Treasurer's report - Expenses for October were \$16,598.37. Income was \$11,121.00, which includes \$7,000 from the Trust account. Deficit for the month is \$5,477.37; deficit year-to-date is \$8,775.65.
- Investments - The account saw a decrease of \$24,249 in October. Two checks totaling \$8,804 were drawn to cover expenses. Balance at the end of October is \$1,825,488. Jim Belknap shared that year to date, while the investment value has increased approximately \$88,084, withdrawals have totaled \$112,131.
- The Annual Meeting date was set for Sunday, January 28, 2024.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 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.



An invitation - South United Methodist Church on Main Street in Manchester, invites all to attend their annual holiday candlelight concert on Sunday, December 10 at 4:30 pm.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson & Lisa Horsfield

- Kamilla will be on vacation December 31, 2023 and January 7, 2024.
- A chime group will be recruited for Sunday, December 17.





First Congregational Church 76th Heritage Holiday Fair

993 Main Street
South Windsor, Connecticut
www.firstchurchsw.org



Booths include:

Homemade Fudge
Home Baked Treats
Vintage Jewelry
Ornaments and Decorations
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip
Rada Cutlery
Cemetery Boxes
Fresh Green Arrangements
Artificial Greens & Wreaths
Treasure Trove and MORE!



Friday, Dec. 1st

5pm - 8pm

Saturday, Dec. 2nd

9am - 2pm

Free Admission Both Days!



*Sewin4Servicemen Lap Quilt Dedication for
Veteran's Day 2023*



On Sunday
November
19th, we
honored our
veterans and
dedicated the
lap quilts that
will soon be
passed out to
local veterans
in area
retirement
homes and
assisted living



centers. A huge thank you to Judy Borré, who chairs the Sewin4Servicemen group. We are honored to host this wonderful sewing group here at First Church.



Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden



How are clergy addressed? There are formal times and ways for address and also less formal. I'll start with the formal as when introducing a speaker. Who is this person? Are we talking of someone who is ordained? Do they hold a doctoral degree?

Reverend is a title of respect. It has been used since the fifteenth century and as a title prefixed to the clergy's name since the seventeenth century. When it is written, "the" is usually put in front. Thus, in a news article it would be "the Rev. Mr. Brown" or "the Rev. Ms. Smith". Ah, what about the doctoral degree? In that case the Dr. is inserted after the Rev. Thus, we would write or say, "The Rev. Dr. Jones."

Going to the less formal, there are regional variations that we usually do not hear in New England such as brother (or sister) or preacher. However, Pastor is prevailing in our area and many other parts of the country. Pastor comes from the meaning of the word "Shepherd".

In many areas of the country, church members refer to the pastor as "the minister"; however, that is a bit confusing as all Church Members by virtue of being called into baptism share in being part of "Christ's royal priesthood." To call the clergy person THE minister tends to reduce the role of everyone else.

Using "Pastor" or "Rev." as a title or prefix conveys a distinctive role of the ordained person within the church community and recognizes their distinctive calling. In our church, we usually use what the individual prefers.

In summary, "the Reverend" is a term of address that you would or could use in writing to clergy or in introducing them. "Pastor" is a more intimate term of relationship and it may be used as a single word or in combination with the first or last name of the pastor.

Church Family News



Wedding Announcement

November 11, 2023

*Congratulations to
Lauren Horsfield and
Anthony Litwin who
were married on
November 11, 2023. A
big congratulations
also to the parents of
the bride, Scott and
Lisa Horsfield.*

Best Wishes to Mr & Mrs. Lauren & Anthony Litwin!



| | | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Chris Bombara | 12/03 | Katelyn Whitin | 12/16 |
| Linda Dalpe | 12/07 | Judy Borré | 12/20 |
| Christine Virr | 12/08 | Carol Mattera | 12/21 |
| Tim Nicholson | 12/11 | Wyatt Cote | 12/22 |
| Liisa Whitin | 12/12 | Jade Paul | 12/23 |
| David Anderson | 12/14 | Jean Trotman | 12/25 |
| Erin Jones | 12/15 | Byron Smith | 12/26 |
| Bruce Burnham | 12/16 | Aaron Kurtzman | 12/31 |



Beverly & Ray Zaugg

12/22

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

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

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 **January 2024**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **December 15th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com
Thank you.



Church Office Hours

Hours are Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm, unless otherwise noted.





The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

“Grace upon Grace.” John 1:16

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

This year the Diaconate will be supplying the poinsettias for the sanctuary. In lieu of the purchase of poinsettias, we are asking that donations are made to the Veterans of the Cross Fund. We will be listing the dedications in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Please use the following form for donations:

2023 Veterans of the Cross Fund

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 17, 2023

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Celebration Of: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church and Please note Veterans of the Cross in the memo section.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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firstchurchsw@gmail.com

www.firstchurchsw.org



TO: