

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

July 2026

Broken pots

One of my favorite stories that help me understand the power of imperfection is the broken pot.

Simply....

A broken pot felt bad about its Flaws. It saw the perfect pot and felt ashamed it was so flawed. It leaked water along the path and felt it was a total failure. The perfect pot quietly said:

Have you noticed the flowers on your side of the path?... the flawed pot said ...no.

Seeds were planted there. Every day you were carried from the well you leaked water on the seeds... u watered the path with your cracks and now beautiful flowers adorn the path for all to enjoy! So, u see your imperfection was not a flaw, but a blessing.

From that time on, the flawed pot embraced its imperfection proudly.

Our minor flaws and imperfections can be a blessing when we learn to embrace who we are as the Creator made and formed us.

Besides... no one is ever perfect. It's just human to have rough edges. Let's learn to live with ourselves and others with greater understanding.

Peace and shalom

Pastor Dean

Pastor Dean's Hours & Office

Schedule:

Tuesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm;

Monday: Off

Trustees News

Jean Trotman

The Town Fire Marshall has been in and inspected the building. We are in the process of fixing things he highlighted: Exit signs not lit, emergency lights with no battery backup and items stored in cardboard boxes in the space under the narthex stairs to Fellowship Hall. Gifts and Memorials has given \$8,400 to the church to help offset the cost of the new sound system. We have found a local carpenter who will do small jobs. He has fixed problems with sliding doors in the chapel, sound system closet, sanctuary and north doors. He will also be fixing the triple sliding doors in Fellowship Hall. Linda Dalpe will backup Jean Trotman while she is on vacation the last 2 weeks in June.

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held on June 9, 2026 -

- Treasurer's report - no report was available.
- Investments - the account increased \$46,780.43 in May and \$17,000 was withdrawn. Balance at the end of May was \$2,279,835.68. Jean Trotman noted that the end balance is still up despite the withdrawal of funds.
- The next meeting will be held July 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall or the Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

- The spinet piano in Fellowship Hall and the baby grand piano in the sanctuary were both tuned June 9th.
- A tuning of the organ will be scheduled soon.
- Kamilla will take 2 vacation days - July 12 and July 19. Jean is working on lining up substitutes.

Save the Dates

Guest organists will be filling in while Kamilla takes some time off in July.

July 12 - Dianne Rechel

July 19 - Nancy Gagne



Lillian Morse sends sunny greetings from the beautiful Silver Lake Retreat & Conference Center in Sharon, CT. She will again spend her summer working on staff. She has just completed her lifeguarding re-certification and is looking forward to welcoming campers next week. The conference plans to wind down operations at Silver Lake following camp this summer.

The Quiet Power of Faithfulness

The greatest forces in the universe are rarely spectacular. Gentle summer showers often do more lasting good than hurricanes, though they draw little attention. The world depends on the faithfulness, loyalty and dedication of countless people whose names are never known.

Every life, no matter how humble, has a role in shaping a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow. It is easy to overvalue what seems impressive and underestimate what appears ordinary. Yet, lasting change is most often built through quiet commitment, patient service and faithful hearts doing what matters most, day after day.

Stewardship

Lisa Horsfield and Jean Jackson

Its summertime . . .

Many of us look forward to a vacation during these months. Relax and rest up, but don't forget about the financial needs of our church. Please continue to meet your pledge or make a donation so we can meet the ongoing ministries of First Congregational Church of South Windsor.

Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

The year Without a Summer (Poverty Year)

The year 1816 was unusual. The summer was the coldest recorded between 1766 and 2000 in New England and Atlantic Canada, while in Europe, it was the coldest of any year on record. Evidence suggests that this was a volcanic winter caused by the massive eruption of *Mount Tambora* (in modern day Indonesia), in April 1815 and today's scientists agree.

Records tell us that the eruption was the largest in at least 1,300 years when a theorized eruption caused the volcanic winter of 536. The 1815 eruption was preceded in 1814 by an eruption of *Mayor* in the Philippines. There were also volcanic eruptions in 1808, 2 in 1812, 1813, and 1814. These other eruptions would all have generated a substantial amount of air born dust, ash, and material that, along with that from Mount Tabor, would block the sunlight and result in a temporary drop in the earth's temperature of 6 to 7 degrees Fahrenheit.

While the airborne material spewed out had heavier material that fell to the earth and ocean surfaces, there were lightweight particulates that traveled high above the earth. In 1815, they reached the stratosphere. There, they spread out, forming an aerosol cloud the size of Australia. There was a persistent "fog" which Clive Obenheimer described as a "stratospheric sulfate aerosol veil. This reddened and dimmed sunlight."

This translated to widely fluctuating weather, with temperatures changing widely and unseasonally. Six inches of snow fell in New England in June and there was hard frost every month. In Connecticut, July and August temperatures fell as low as 40 degrees.

The Rev. Thomas Robins wrote in his diary in late spring that the “vegetation does not seem to advance at all.”

On June 6, 1816, Plymouth, CT clockmaker Chauncey Jerome recorded in his diary that he walked to work wearing a heavy wool overcoat and mittens. Six inches of snow fell that day.

People made their spring planting; crops started to grow and then died; they replanted. Winter survival depended on food grown in the spring and summer. The one thing that did well that year was Vermont maple syrup. The syrup could be exchanged for fish. Locally, the year 1816 became known as the “Mackerel Year.”

The Congress did not show sympathy. They voted to double their own salaries. The population voted nearly 70 percent out of office.

Thousands of families, discouraged by the harsh reality of 1816, left New England and moved west, settling in what would become Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

Sources used in this article: <https://newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/1816-year-without-a-summer/New-England-Historical-Society> <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/1816-the-year-without-summer.htm> The National Park Service: 1816 - The Year Without Summer <https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/history/year-without-summer-1816-mount-tambora-eruption-weather-history/291-2f9b4283-bf2e-4be1-a753-deaa5f549f6a>
The year summer never came: How a volcano helped change America Author: Evan Stewart

Christian Symbol



SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.



Out on Loan!

Have you noticed there are some empty spots in our Memorial Cabinet? A few things are out on loan. The South Windsor Historical Society has put a display in the South Windsor Library highlighting the town's history.

Pictured is the portion of the display that has our properties. They will be there for the months of July and August.

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



Church Family News



Rick Whitin	07/04	Scott Horsfield	07/18
Barbara Wright	07/07	Marlena Klein	07/20
Laura Klein	07/08	Sheila McIntosh	07/21
Alex Margiott	07/09	Adrienne Andrews	07/30

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



Bob Woodward
 The McIntosh Family
 The Anderson Family
 The Sharp Family
 The Senger Family
 The Starr Family
 The Zaugg Family

With deep sadness, we share the passing of long-time church member and friend to many, Beverly Zaugg on June 6, 2026.

Please keep the Zaugg family in your prayers.

<https://www.carmonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Beverly-Lorraine-Zaugg?obId=48616926>

Congratulations to Becca Clark and Karli Smith on their marriage. The ceremony took place at Harbor Park in Middletown on June 6th. Becca is the daughter of Jean Jackson.

just married!

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **August, 2026**. Please send your submissions and photos to the church office by **July 17th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thank you!

Church Office Hours

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

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United Church of Christ

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TO: