

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



March 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

It is a joy to be settled in, loving my apartment, and loving being with all of you. As we are now in the season of Lent, we are mindful of many great events still on the horizon. I hope you enjoyed the goulash we shared at our lenten dinner on February 28th. Thank you to Scott Horsfield for his participation in this fun, fellowship event and congregational discussion.

Palm Sunday, March 24th 10:00AM – we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus with palms, singing, and shouts of hosanna! The service ends on a somber note with the darkening of the altar.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th 7:00PM – we gather to commemorate the institution of the Lord's Supper (passover meal) as Jesus gathers his disciples before his passion and death on the cross.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, March 31st 6:30AM – the sunrise service will be held in the First Church parking lot and will be a joint service with our friends from Wapping Community Church. A continental breakfast will follow.

Easter Sunday Service, March 31st 10:00AM – Easter Sunday we will have a beautiful Service of Resurrection in our beautiful sanctuary.



Also, please be reminded that Daylight Saving Time is March 10! Don't forget to change your clocks and spring ahead.

If you would like a visit from the Pastor, please fill out the visit card in your pew. Also if you have a prayer need, mark that need and place it in the offering plate. Of course, you may stop by the office anytime to

visit. To make sure the pastor is in, please call the office to arrange a visit. The office hours are Tuesday-Friday from 9AM-2PM.

Blessings,

Rev Dr Dean Michael Kucera



The covenant liturgy for Pastor Dean was celebrated on Sunday, Feb 11, 2024. Rev. Isaac Lawson from the SNEUCC was on hand to share in this very special occasion with us. Welcome Pastor Dean!



Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden



We have diligent researchers learning more about both Timothy and Jonathan Edwards. Occasionally, items found add to what I have observed in our history: lessons from our past about the resilience and attributes of our congregation. We are searching and learning from many sources of the history of our church organization: the actions, deeds and beliefs of members. Moments in history that have given shape to how we worship: lessons that can guide us as we continue into the future. Just to cite a few from our earlier years appear below.

- In 1694 the Government of the River Colony granted permission to the families east of the river to have their own church. **Faith and persistence** had carried them through multiple petitions.
- 1703 Jonathan was born. Along with seeing Timothy and Esther educate their daughters, seeing how Jonathan was being educated and Timothy's teaching and tutoring the sons of others as preparation for them to go to Yale had to have strengthened how others saw how **education was to be valued.**
- 1716 Jonathan entered Yale, **deepening feelings of satisfaction or pride** in his accomplishment.
- The church hired a music instructor. They accepted and **embraced a new form of worship** in moving past the lining out of the psalms to singing from hymnals and even eventually buying an organ.
- The advent of the separation of church and state that came from our new United States of America meant that taxes then only funded the government. Our church **survived the change** and found that we **could be self supporting.**

Today, our church will draw on these and other attributes as we move into the future. Discernment of where we are and what we want to be will draw on these and others. It will take persistence and steadfastness in doing the hard work. We can draw on the tenacity of our membership past and present to achieve a firm continuance in determining what we are to become.

As we work to discern where we are going, I believe that we will save some of the practices we have cherished in our present and past

while also embracing new ways of being. Our members are intelligent, industrious and have a high level of education while also being practical. The virtues of persistence and tenacity enable the effort required to do the work of discernment and find our way into the future.

Our diligent researchers are finding the information that will position us in a way to proclaim what the sign on the front of our church claims: that we are the Timothy Edwards Church. We are finding that the lessons of the past are gifts handed down to us.

Studying the past motivates and helps prepare us for the future.



Above: Getting ready for the start of the 326th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of South Windsor held on January 28, 2024 following worship. The meeting was held both in person and on zoom.

Right: Pastor Dean delivers his children's message during a Sunday worship service.



Deacons

Barbara Wright



The Deacons have been busy finalizing plans for Lent and the Easter Services.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, we will be having a pancake breakfast following the church service.

Thursday, March 28, will be the traditional service of Shadows & Communion at 7:00 pm.

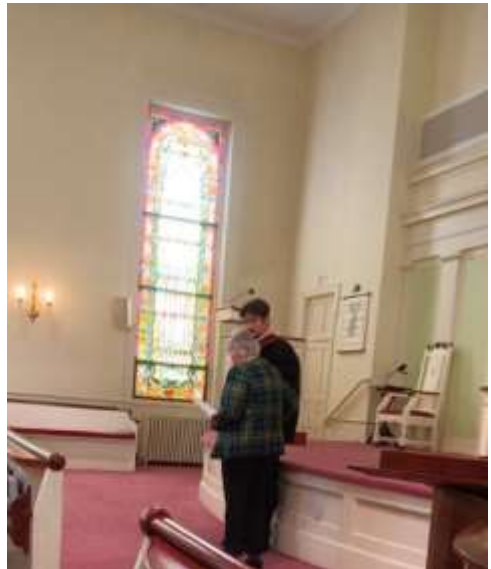
We will again be having a sunrise service, combining with Wapping, at 6:30 am Easter morning in our church driveway, followed by a continental breakfast. The regular service will be at 10:00 with no coffee hour following.

We are making a change to the communion service. Beginning in March, we will consume the bread together as well as the cup.

We have put prayer and visitor cards in the pews. They can be filled out and put in the collection plate and the ushers will bring them up to Pastor Dean to include in the prayers. To accommodate this, the offering has been moved to earlier in the service.

Little library – A sign-up sheet is in the lower hall if you would like to be responsible for a period of time to check and replenish the library. If you have any appropriate books to put in there, please bring them in – no more than two at a time, please. We don't have room to store them.

Deacon Barbara Wright reads the new member liturgy for our new member and Designated Term Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Dean M. Kucera. Welcome Pastor Dean!



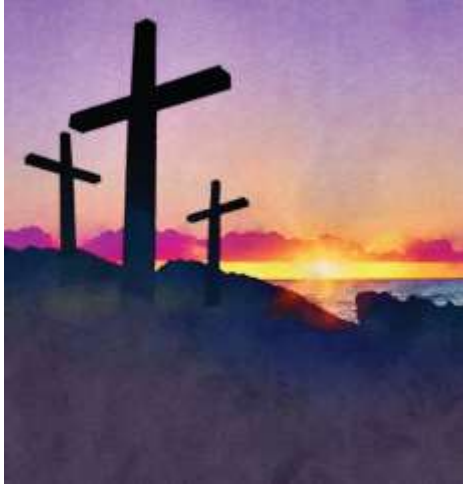
*Lenten Services***First Congregational Church of South Windsor**

993 Main Street South Windsor, CT. 06074

(860)528-7992

firstchurchsw@gmail.com

All Sunday 10:00am Services offered in person and on zoom. Please contact us for more information.

**Holy Week****Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday****10:00 am worship**

Followed by Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday**Service of Shadows and Communion****7:00 pm****Friday, March 29: Good Friday****Sanctuary Open for Silent Meditation and Prayer****12 Noon – 3:00 pm****Easter Sunday****Easter Sunday, March 31****Sunrise Service 6:30 am with our friends from Wapping Community Church**

993 Main Street, South Windsor

The service will be held in the First Church parking lot.

Continental breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall between services.

Easter Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 am**First Congregational Church Sanctuary**

Missions Committee

Rachel Anderson

The Missions Committee will be holding a special Palm Sunday collection to benefit MACC charities outreach program. They have a need for children's lightweight jackets and zippered sweatshirts, pants or leggings, underwear, and warm weather short socks. If you prefer to give cash, we can shop for you. Items can be brought in between now and Palm Sunday (March 24th) or dropped at church during office hours (Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9AM-2PM).

UCW Corner

Linda Dalpe

Fair news - We have begun working on items for the 2024 fair! Come join us Fridays 1:00-4:00 at 1090 Main St. warehouse. Bring a project that you want help with, a new idea, or want to work on a current project underway. You don't need a lot of talent. We can find a job for you. Contact Linda @ 860-528-1936 or lindald001@aol.com to let her know you are coming to join us.

When you are doing spring cleaning or tag sale-ing, please watch for the following items that we can recycle into some interesting things for our 2024 fair.

- jewelry that you no longer wear (even if repairs needed)
- blue (and red) dessert plates or saucers with blue onion, willow blue patterns, scenic designs patterns (like Johnson brothers)
- scrabble games that still have the letters
- puzzles with missing pieces
- very large baskets
- Christmas cards



***UCW to Host Workshop: Sunday March 17, 2024 11:30 AM
I'm Dead Now What?***



While most people have made a will and signed other legal documents at some point in their lives, there are many kinds of decisions left to be made upon your demise that are not covered in those legal documents. Keeping in mind those that are responsible to deal with what happens next, the purpose of this workshop is to provide a reference guide to help them through this very difficult time. It has been designed to have you consider many questions that will need to be answered if you have not already written them down. The objective is to create a thought provoking and motivating session for

you to reflect upon those important decisions and help you organize them into a reference guide. While it is easy to just “let someone else take care of it”, the stress of doing it “right” is putting an unfair burden on that person. If there are multiple decision makers on your behalf, it helps to avoid conflict because these are your stated wishes.

There will be a time for questions, table discussions and reflections. Each family will be given a workbook to take home to complete as your gift to your loved ones. Additional copies will be available for purchase.

Please be sure to sign up for this session so that we have sufficient copies available. Contact Linda Dalpe with any questions: (860)289-8101.

***UCW to Host Workshop: Sunday, April 14, 2024 11:30 AM
Releasing Negative Thought Patterns: The Labels We Carry***

Christine Rapp Dombrowski, PhD
finding dharma LLC

Everyone carries labels they use to define who they are - like, for example, mother/father, artist, caretaker, teacher, athlete, daughter/son, volunteer, leader, etc. So often, however, they do not realize how these labels are given to them, how they unconsciously accept and live by them, and how they impact so many aspects of their lives, and not always in beneficial ways (like by creating feelings of guilt or inadequacy).



By beginning to connect with your true self and embracing self-compassion, self-reflection, self-advocacy, and self-empowerment, you can consciously use labels so that they work for you, instead of limiting yourself or creating negative self-beliefs.

In this workshop, you will have the opportunity to:

1. explore the labels you use to describe who you are, what you do, and what you feel you are obligated to do;
2. examine how each of these labels comes with defined expectations - those placed on you by others and those you place on yourself;
3. reflect on how these expectations impact your well-being; and
4. consciously work with labels that align with who you are in a flexible and loving way.

A sign-up sheet for this workshop is in Fellowship Hall. We would love for you to join us! Contact Linda Dalpe with any questions: (860)289-8101.

First Church Welcomes New Members

Pastor Dean recently became an official First Church member when he arrived in January. In February, we received Jo McGilvary into the First Church family. Jo is the mom of member, Vicky Margiott and has recently relocated to South Windsor. Welcome!



The Deacons, consisting of Terry Belknap, Rachel Anderson, Deacon Chair Barbara Wright, and Scott Horsfield along with Pastor Dean took part in the service to welcome Jo.





Might you be interested in becoming a member of First Church?

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of First Congregational Church, please attend the Deacons meeting on Sunday, **April 7th** following worship to let them know. A new member reception will be held April 28th.



A Moment for All God's Children

Most Sunday services include a moment for all God's children. Here are some fun moments we shared during recent services.



***I can't hear the music,
how do I listen? You
need the right equipment.***





***What's the difference
between real and fake?***





Jean Jackson and Sheila McIntosh work on their quilt pieces during the January Sewin4Servicemen event. Consider joining us for the next sewin' on March 23rd – full of fellowship and a truly meaningful event. If you can't make it in March, mark your calendar for April 27th!

Church Family News



Jean Jackson	03/03	Jim McGuire	03/16
Lee Anderson	03/07	Liz Smith	03/18
Liam Senatro	03/07	Ingrid Fraize	03/24
Lisa Horsfield	03/08	Michael McClellan	03/24
Caitlin Cote	03/12	Joyce Coon	03/26
Dashiel Cote	03/14	Karen Smith	03/31

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Doris Burgdorf
 Della Mitchell
 Cliff McClellan
 Edie & Bob Starr
 Patty & Billy Cox
 Joyce Coon
 Lisa Horsfield
 Bob Woodward

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



Church Office Hours

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

Save the Date: *Paper Flower Craft Night*,
Thursday April 11, 2024 at 6:30PM in
Fellowship Hall. All materials will be provided.
A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship
Hall as the event gets closer.

Hosted by Carrie Morse & Mary Crittenden



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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TO: