

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



February 2024

Now the Lord said to Abram,

“Go from your country and your kindred and you fathers house to a land I will show you. 2. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” ***Genesis 12: 1-2***

Uprooting ourselves is a stressful and frightening task. This is what God called Abram to do; uproot and go forth. Leave your land, your father’s house and go to a land I will show you. Abram had no idea what was in store for him. And God only promised that Abram would be a blessing and would be blessed. Because of Abram’s faith and obedience, He became the Father of many peoples and nations.

I left my home back in the Midwest to follow God’s call to serve this church in Connecticut. I did not know what was in store for me and all of you had no idea what was in store for you, thus we both moved out of our familiar and comfortable environs, in faith, trusting that God was preparing something good for both myself and this church. Our task is to discern together the future of this grand old church. Even so, none of us can know the outcome of that future. All we can do is be faithful to our task, God, and one another. What we may be certain of is, like Abram, our obedience will bring a blessing upon us and our ministry to this community. All the great tasks recorded in the Bible began with uncertainty and much fear, we are a part of the larger dialogue that has been going on for centuries. This dialogue is important and, as we say in the UCC, God is Still Speaking



and that's good, as it keeps us centered and focused on our task, which is to keep our eyes upon Jesus and God.

The task of discernment was a task Abram engaged in and was the tasks which all who were called to follow have had to engage in. And, it is our task as well. It is a long-term commitment and engagement which leads to many paths that we will travel and many questions we will, no doubt, ask along the way. Yet we glimpse our identity and our future along these paths and while they are not always smooth and easy to trek, they are what helps us find our way with God's help as we navigate through uncharted territory, even as Abram did and as so many others in the Bible did as we well.

Along our way, we are happy to know that we are not the first and shall not be the last to travel this path. Others have gone before us and others will come after us and they will forge their vision as we did ours and will discern their future as we were called to discern ours. As I begin my work among you, I want to invite each of you to walk this path with me. We all need help along the way and none of us are called to do this alone. We share the work and our vision for the future and health of this church. I am open to your insights and suggestions along the way, realizing that each of us have a part of the larger puzzle that, when the pieces are gathered and put in place, begin to reveal a picture that we can recognize. I am happy to be with you. Let's work together to be mindful of the gifts each bear and bring to this task before us. May we also have fun and some laughs along the way. Keeping a sense of humor is vital to the well-being of each of us. Thank you for embracing me as I embark on a journey that, although filled with uncertain and uncharted paths, is nevertheless open to new and exciting possibilities. Like Abram who hearkened to the call of God, and like so many who heard Jesus' call, 'follow me', we are in good company as we begin our ministry. We will be a blessing to others and we will be blessed as we move along this exciting path to which Gods has called us and in which we are now engaged.



Blessings,

Rev Dr Dean Michael Kucera

Thank You Note



To all the members of the First Congregational Church of South Windsor. I send greetings of gratitude. I will long cherish the six months of Bridge Ministry as your pastor. I found many talented people, significant and interesting history, and a willingness to learn and be open

to the unknown future. Thank you for letting me try some new activities in worship and education.

I was very surprised and touched by the Christmas Bonus. It was very generous. I enjoyed our post-Christmas worship service on Dec.30th. It was a good day to complete the Christmas – Epiphany season. Thanks for the tasty and home-made brunch and the homemade gifts. I chose “maple” as my kitchen cabinets this week and the charcuterie board will look very nice together. I love the wood burning saying, “To everything there is a season”. The quilt will also have a special place in my new home.

My Maine trip was delayed two weeks by health concerns and the weather. Yet all is ready for the new date of Jan. 28, 2024. Thanks again to all of you and the very best to you and Pastor Dean on your next new chapter.



Rev Linda Huff and Barbara Wright

With Christian Love,
Linda Huff

Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

A Plea from the Historian



At the 2012 Church Annual Meeting I was elected as the Assistant Historian. My activity in this position was primarily caring for an acumination of photos and eventually filling the position of historian. At the 2019 Annual Meeting, I was elected Historian. At that time, a great deal of material came into our possession. We had only one file cabinet in the church workroom. The archive moved into an upper room in the Wolcott Memorial Chapel. In the 5 years as sole historian, I have worked with the help of a few volunteers at trying to incorporated the materials collected from 25 to 30 years into our archive. Various church leaders moved materials from their holdings into the archive room in bags and boxes. The Rev. Arthur Dunham left organized files for us. His files have been entered into our data base and filed.

Several volunteers have helped with these tasks at various times.

Currently, Rod Johnson is working a couple hours a week doing data entry. There is still much to be done - far more than one person can accomplish while volunteering one day a week. I do not want to pass this backlog of work on to a new Historian. We need to clear the floor of the archive room and make sure that our materials are preserved and accessible.



We have a volunteer planning to help take a new inventory of what we have, where it is stored and condition. A large chunk of the tasks that are waiting to be done have been defined and the want ads for volunteer help are below. To volunteer, contact the Historian by note, phone call or in person.

Volunteers Wanted

Person with window display ability to select, rotate and arrange the artifacts in our Memorial Cabinet.	A 2-person team to organize and preserve books of Church Notes including 3 old bound volumes.
Someone to organize & shelve UCW materials and write a brief history of UCW.	A Person to assist the Historian preserve material from planning our Tricentennial Celebration.
Several people to work together viewing and selecting slides to be digitalized.	A booklover to shelve and care for the lounge library next to the Archive Room
Someone to co-write with the historian parts of our history; incorporating what is written with new material.	A few people to work together to select recordings of Worship Services for preservation.
Writer to create concise, accurate, booklet giving detailed history of our collection of memorabilia	A congregation to celebrate who we are and where we are going!

I feel that our former Historian got caught in the trap that I am trying to avoid. In the very active year of our Tricentennial, a committee was created to write the church history, however, only the beginning was completed. We have that. I do not envision us publishing a book, but rather documenting pieces and making our materials available. Back to the trap. There is too much accumulated material and work for one person. I do not want to pass all that on to another. Our former Historian, Lorraine Clapp, took care to study our history and share it with the congregation. She collected and saved copious amounts of paper related to the activity of the church. We thank her for that. Now let's make these resources of our archived history usable.

Remember we are the Edwards Church. People want to know about the Edwards Family, Jonathan, and the church that nurtured him and us today.

Church Family News

Nancy Stearns	02/06
Amanda McNulty	02/09
Caitlin Connelly	02/11
Caroline Klein	02/12
Samantha McNulty	02/12
Cliff McClellan	02/13
Marilyn Senger	02/15
Beverly Zaugg	02/21
Ruth Bombara	02/22

IN OUR

Thoughts and Prayers

Doris Burgdorf
 The Peck Family
 Della Mitchell
 Cliff McClellan
 Edie & Bob Starr
 The Wright Family
 Patty & Billy Cox
 Joyce Coon
 The Klein Family
 The Dinse Family
 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 **March 2024**. Please send your submissions and **photos** to the church office by **February 16th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com Thank you.



Church Office Hours

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



The South Windsor Community Chorus held their winter concert, *Always Believe*, in the First Church sanctuary on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 7:00pm. Over 125 people attended this wonderful event. The concert was followed by a coffee hour in fellowship hall hosted by First Church. A great time was had by all!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

993 Main Street

PO Box 165

South Windsor, CT 06074-0165

860-528-7992

firstchurchsw@gmail.com

www.firstchurchsw.org



TO: