

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

September 2018

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

God's blessings on this and all that awaits, as we jumpstart the program year for 2018-2019:

Rally Day! (September 9); Member Recognition Day! (September 23); South Windsor Heritage Day! (October 6); Professor J. Clinton McCann, Jr., Old Testament Scholar, Eden Theological Seminary, Guest Preacher and Second Hour Psalm Scholar! (October 14).

We opened our summer with a hymn sing. Requests were made the week before and enjoyed by all on Sunday, May 27. In addition, this summer has been rich with community fellowship. On June 24, First Congregational hosted a 'pit-stop' for Temples Beth Hillel and Beth Ahm on their pilgrimage to become one. Snacks, drinks, support and friendship were shared as we wished them *Shalom* on their journey down Main Street over to Baker Lane.

The sermon series based on the Rev. Dr. Laura Everett's *holyspokes: An Urban Spiritual Journey* was well received. This reflection on her experiences pedaling her bike to and fro through Boston provided food for thought on how we can expand our spiritual practices by everyday observations of our neighbors and our surroundings – and ourselves! Someone loaned us a bike for a prop and we collected the offering in bicycle helmets! We hope to perhaps have Rev. Everett visit in the future to share her motivating story.

Our children were so helpful during summer services, collecting the offering and handing out bulletins. We are blessed to have them and look forward to their ever-increasing involvement in worship.

Speaking of children, the Second Annual 'Bible Bites at Dari Delite' was enjoyed by those who attended, thanks to the generosity of Miss Julie, proprietor. We learned about Jesus' early life, and studied maps showing his preaching and teaching journey. The children were surprised to learn how young Jesus was when he was crucified. Miss Julie provided an ice cream cake for our final session and children decorated baseball caps in multi-colors and designs as mementos of the Bible Bites program!

Lt. Glenn Buonanducci of the South Windsor Police Department graciously spent time with us for a Second Hour on July 22, presenting his program, "Citizens' Response to Active Threats," an empowering, practical approach to being aware of our surroundings and assuring each other's safety, if needed.

We celebrated Bob Starr's book, *Pierre Starr – 39th Ohio Surgeon* – on August 8 here with Brad Quinlin, noted Civil War historian and transcriber. The event was very well attended. We thank Bob for allowing us to host this momentous occasion in his life and as a long-time church member.

The sacrament of baptism was joyfully celebrated for Eleanor Rae Senatro on August 12. The Bible Bites children paraded with their hats on and presented one they had decorated as a gift to Eleanor.

I enjoyed leading the first outdoors Vespers service on the evening of August 16 at the Belknaps. Ten stalwarts took part, despite the stifling heat and humidity. This short, informal reflective practice allows for a peaceful close to the day at sunset and was enjoyed by all.

Sunday, August 26, we circled back for another hymn sing of old favorites. We made a joyful noise unto the Lord!

We continue to lift up all who have suffered losses of loved ones in these days, especially the Addington, Dunham/Hart, Woods and Daley families. May the support of their church community continue to bring them comfort.

And may the love and peace of Christ surround this dear congregation, and the world, one and all!

Enjoy these late summer days, the Labor Day holidays and the anticipation that accompanies our church in the everlasting life promised through Jesus Christ.

Onward,

Nina



Church Committee

Jean Jackson
Church Clerk



Next meeting of the Church Committee is August 28, 2018. The purpose is to prepare for Fall events. No committee reports will be presented at this meeting. All are invited to attend, whether or not you serve on a committee or board.

Deacon's News

Mary Crittenden

Member Celebration!

We will be recognizing our members who joined the church at least 25 years ago. This celebration will be during the Sunday morning Worship Service on Sunday, September 23. Come help us recognize these members



Board of Deacons

At the diaconate meeting we made plans for our current services, the Vespers which took place on August 16th, member recognition, and started working on items that will go into a revised Deacons Handbook.

Book Launch

Over 135 people attended the book launch of "Pierre Starr: Surgeon," on the evening of August 8, with Brad Quinlin, Transcriber. Bob and Edie, thank you for allowing First Congregational Church of South Windsor to host this incredible event! We are so proud of you, Bob! Special thanks to Claudia Steele, Administrative Assistant for her over the top contributions to this event.



CONGRATULATIONS, BOB STARR!

Trustees News

Carroll Stearns

This spring Jim Senatro's report identified several elements of our environmental systems which he felt needed attention now in order to avoid possible problems in the future. Over the summer the Trustees, with Jim's assistance, have addressed these items as well as others. The following is our status update.

Replacement of one element of the church's heating system, a condensate tank/pump, was recommended due to its age. This was accomplished in July by Mitchell Fuel. While on site they also replaced the toilet on the first floor Of the Wolcott building which had not functioned properly for some time.



The need for regular inspection of the church chimney was noted. The report generated by the inspection that followed recommended that we install a lining, cleanout door and cap to the existing chimney. This proved more of a challenge than anticipated due to a partial blockage part way down. The work was completed after the contractor, with the assistance of the Trustees, gained access to the interior of the chimney at the proper level by breaking through from the addition attic. This work is now complete.

The Trustees were asked to consider increasing the church's electrical service in order to support both our current and future requirements. In June the Trustees voted to proceed with planning for this very significant change. In order to better understand both its potential cost and impact the board and Jim have met with a possible contractor who is currently working on a possible bid. It was noted during our discussions that completion of this upgrade would require that the church be without power for up to three days. We are working with Reverend Schmid on strategies to limit the impact of this outage when and if it occurs.

The improved fire alarm system under consideration for several months is now being installed. Painting in the pastor's office, chapel and administrator's office will be scheduled in the fall. The replacement of the toilet in the handicapped bathroom because of poor flushing performance is also under consideration.

Kamilla's Kolumn*Choir Resumes*

Choir rehearsals will be resuming on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on September 27th. We look forward to welcoming our long time voices being joined by a few new ones. If you are interested in joining the choir, please see Kamilla Mammedova.

*Christian Education News*

We will be welcoming back all of our students on Sunday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to a fun filled year of learning, and exploring as we continue our faith journey. We will resume our "back to basics" with focusing on the Lord's Prayer, doxologies, etc.

Besides food and fellowship, there will be registration for church school. Edie Starr will be available for questions and accept forms. We look forward to a great new year. A welcome letter to the parents of our current students will be going out shortly, if it hasn't already been mailed. It will include the 2018-2019 registration forms. It is important that a new registration form be completed for each student every year, so as to have an updated photo release and any changes in their status. Parents/guardians are asked to bring their completed forms to church on the 9th.

Heritage Day

Jean Trotman

Please mark your calendars for the next Heritage Day which is scheduled for Saturday, October 6. We will be looking for people to man our booth for 2 hour shifts from 9-3.

Archivist Column
Our Bell: Part 1

Mary Crittenden

Historically, bells have been associated with calling communities together for religious services and in colonial America for town meetings. In some communities before the general population had clocks, they were rung on the hour or at set times. In an emergency, they let the community know that something needed everyone's attention.



Our bell tower has two levels. The lower level houses the motor for the organ blower. The upper level houses the bell. To reach the upper level one has to climb a vertical ladder mounted to the wall after climbing up the stairs (there is no railing). Of note here: Dudley Clapp said that someone standing by the bell (floor of the upper level in the bell tower) is at the same altitude as if he were standing on the East Windsor Hill Post Office step. Ah, so East Windsor Hill is up a gradual grade from the church that is so gradual that most do not recognize it as a hill.

We have a bell that can be rung in two ways. It is hung so that it can swing giving us a ding and dong as the clapper hits one side then the other; however it can hang still and be struck by a tolling arm. For this two fold way of sounding the bell it is equipped with two ropes, one to swing the bell for services, and the other to control an exterior type mallet for tolling.

Photo Wanted

Mary Crittenden

Mary Crittenden understands that some confirmation classes got to go up into the bell tower and that there were some pictures taken. She has not seen any of these and we do not have any in our files. If you happen to own such a snapshot, may we copy it?

Holiday Fair Update

Linda Dalpe

Raffle Baskets

The following themes are being planned for our raffle baskets. If you have ideas or items to help make these baskets an amazing attraction to the fair contact MaryAnne Novak or Linda Dalpe. A tub will be available in Fellowship Hall to leave much appreciated donations. If you have a connection with a business, Claudia Steele, our Administrative Assistant, can give you a letter from the church to give to them for tax purposes if they are willing to donate an item or gift certificate for one of the themed baskets. We are also looking for silent auction items. To date we have a very interesting cat themed basket.



Time for Me	Family Fun
UConn Fan	Tool Time
Staycation	Car Talk
Garden Paradise	Dinner Delight

New product lines

During the summer, work continues on interesting items for the fair both in the workshop as well as at home. One particular theme that has garnered interest is the new "upcycled" and "green" corner with items that are protecting our environment. New products for our pet corner are being discussed and made. Painting, woodworking, crafting, knitting, sewing and crocheting projects



News from UCW

Ingrid Fraize & Rachel Anderson, Co-Presidents of United Church Women welcomes all! Please join us for a "potluck" supper on September 12 at 6PM in Fellowship Hall. There will be a signup sheet in the hall or you may call Ingrid Fraize (860-528-8366) with the type of dish you will bring.

Join
Us
For
Dinner!



We are planning an active year with some fun and interesting programs. Come to the potluck to

hear our plans and give us suggestions for others.

Meanwhile we continue to have fun and fellowship working on Christmas fair projects at Linda Dalpe's workshop on Monday evenings....join us!

are underway as we continue to look for new ideas that are currently in vogue.

Grandma's Attic & Treasure Trove

We will be taking in Grandma's Attic and Treasure Trove items over the next several months, but will not be taking in furniture. If you have something that you think would be an addition to these booths, let us know.

Projects & Workshops

All are welcome to come to the crafting nights held at 1090 Main St. Bring a friend, ideas, or something that you'd like to have help assembling. There is always much to do. It is however very helpful to know if you are coming so that table space and projects can be set out to be worked on. It is also very helpful to know if you are working on specific projects at home so that we don't duplicate efforts.

The work dates for September are **9/13, 9/20, and 9/27, Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** at 1090 Main Street. Should there be anyone who cannot attend during the evening sessions, there are some day projects that need to be worked on if you have the time in September. Contact Linda Dalpe to let her know of your availability at 860-528-1936 or email her at lindald001@aol.com.

Stay Informed and Talk It Up

There will be a fair meeting to finalize preparations for the fair towards the end of summer/early fall once a date can be finalized when it doesn't conflict with other events.

Thank you for all that you are doing to make our fair such a well talked about and attended event with products that showcase the talent in our church family.



Torah Walk Thank You

NINA,
YOUR CHURCH WAS SO
GRACIOUS TO US, AFTER
8 MILES CARRYING THE
TORAH + WEDDING CANOPY, THAT
DADIS CALLED FIRST CHURCH
REVIVED OUR SOULS,
THANK YOU!
RABBI G.



In the Mailbag!

South Windsor Haiti School

Dear Nancy and the members of the
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR.
Please accept our gratitude for a very
generous gift for the South Windsor
Haiti School (EN 27-395 8606)
of \$119⁰⁰/₁₀₀.
We are blessed to have your support.
Our school continues to function and provide
Pre-school to young girls for the
past 7 years.

Thank you again

Saud Anwar
South Windsor Haiti School

Dear Reverend Nina, Terry, and First Church
volunteers,

This note is to express my sincere gratitude for
your assistance with our Torah Walk on Sunday
(June 29th)! Your refreshments and goodwill were
exactly what was needed to help walkers finish out
the 10-mile trek! This was a very emotional and
meaningful day for the local Jewish community, and
we truly appreciated your support! So personally
and on behalf of Temple Beth Hillel, THANK YOU!

All the best,
Sarah Kaprove

Dear Reverend Schmid,
On behalf of the members
of Congregation Beth Ahm, I'd
like to thank the members of
your congregation who greeted
us during the Torah Walk.
We greatly appreciated their
warm fellowship, refreshing
drinks and snacks, and a
respite from the heat
outside.
We look forward to future
opportunities to interact
with your congregation.
Sincerely,
Marcia Kenson
Executive Committee
Congregation Beth Ahm

Mission Committee News

Dear Friends of First Congregational Church,
Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,002
to CWS Blankets and Tools!

Your gift enables CWS to provide
much needed blankets after disaster
strikes or to keep someone warm on a
cold night. It ensures families have
seeds and tools for a home garden or
nets to fish.

In peace,
Eiri Tuchenhill, CWS

Although summer months can be slower for
Missions, we continue to consider where we can
help. This year our focus will be on local
communities. As you all know we have been
assisting Interval House for a few years
now. Interval House is an
organization that works to
end domestic violence. We
were saddened to hear they
had a devastating flood, resulting in over \$200,000
in damage to their facility which insurance would
not cover. But we are pleased to announce that we
contributed \$1,000 to assist them with their
recovery! I am so grateful that we were in a
position to help them. It's through ALL of OUR
efforts that we could help! Thank you everyone!



In gratitude,
Mary Anne Novak, Missions Chair

2018 UCC "Together As One" Tri-Conference report

Pastor Nina, Mary Crittenden and Kip Dalpe attended the 151st annual Connecticut Conference, and the newly established 'Together As One' conference that will operate in tandem with the existing state conferences. The focus of unifying the three southern New England conferences centered on a celebration of our shared Christian values, while seeking innovative methods to share and network our individual church strengths so that others in the UCC family can benefit. Another key feature of the new unified conference will be inclusion of other religious and secular organizations to join in our ministry.

The Together As One conference stage highlighted a vibrant 'crossroads' theme. Using license plates and road signs, the conference visually communicated its message. On the main podium, a license plate that read WAY4WRD echoed the sentiment of its speakers. Individual state license plates from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts displayed messages like "Hope" and "Welcome". To the side of the stage, a signpost declared that this year's attendees had reached the intersection of passion, creativity, acceptance, love, wisdom, and humor.

Friday night opened with a unique and memorable prayer from professional storyteller Valerie Tutson, and included energetic musical performances from the Together As One Chorus, under the direction of Pastor Wayne Patenaude of Pawtucket Rhode Island. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries, delivered an impassioned sermon addressing the hesitations and reservations in forming a new conference.

"Have you ever trusted God enough to step into the water, not knowing how you would make it across?"
– Rev. Traci Blackmon

Saturday saw the individual conferences meet separately to report, conduct business, and vote on a variety of social justice resolutions. All passed with little or no opposition.

Voting resolutions for the Connecticut conference included working together to end bullying, anti-racism and racial justice training for clergy, denouncing acts of violence, hatred, and racism carried out by neo-Nazi and white supremacist

ideologies, transparency in information about infrastructure development and its environmental impact, and the condemnation of our government's abhorrent policy of separating immigrant children from their parents at the southern border.

Structural resolutions that were proposed and affirmed included a resolution to explore and expand the UCC's relationship with the Church of Canada, and a resolution to approve the proposed Bylaws and Covenant and Affiliation Agreement of the new Together As One Conference. The Connecticut Conference voted in favor of the new combined conference with 242 persons in favor, 44 opposed.

Lunch on Saturday featured themed tables, allowing for casual discussions and networking on topics like marketing, committees, diaconate, and archiving. Music, prayer, and ultimately celebration of the joined conference rounded out Saturday. The exit vibe was that of love, energy, ambition, and hope.

"Let it be said that at this gathering people of faith were filled with hope and joy, peace and love, and agreed that together we are called to live the love and justice of Jesus" – Rev. Kent Siladi

Tri-Conference Meeting

The Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences of the United Church of Christ made history Saturday, June 16th, voting overwhelmingly to form a new unified Conference in which they will not only do ministry together, but to which they will invite other religious and secular organizations to join.

In separate plenary sessions held at their second joint Annual Meeting, the three conferences voted to approve a covenant agreement and new set of bylaws establishing the new conference, and they elected a new united Board of Directors.

"UCC History was made today," said the Rev. John Dorhauer, UCC general minister and president. "Signaling to the wider church that we can accomplish more together than apart, that we live in an interdependent world in which we all need each other, and looking to maximize the use of precious mission resources, delegates to this tri-conference annual meeting voted to carve out a new pathway for what we hope will be new life, new vitality, and new relevance."



Church Family News



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Sandy Hart, daughter of Art and Lee Dunham, who entered eternal life on August 1st. Please keep Art & Lee Dunham and the Hart family in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of William Woods, who entered eternal life on August 15th. Please keep the Woods family in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Gladys Daley, who entered eternal life on July 15th. Please keep the Daley family in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.



Sam Greco	09/02
Zach Greco	09/02
Dawn Samsel	09/03
Joey Ventura	09/03
Kasey Woolam	09/04
Marty Zaugg	09/06
Stefan Klein	09/13
John Howard	09/18
Silvia Mikkola	09/19
Olivia Pelton	09/19
Landon Soares	09/20
Emma Hall	09/21
Lauren Horsfield	09/23
Kamilla Mammedova	09/30



Scott & Lisa Horsfield	09/15
Stephen & Edith Johnson	09/17
Roger & Caitlin Cote	09/18
Steven & Lauren Clarke	09/30



In Our Prayers

Joyce and Wayne Coon	Lorraine Clapp
Bev Nielsen	Shirley Lawton
Doris Burgdorf	Vibert Deane
Gail & Jim Jackson	Bruce Burnham
John Mitchell	



Send them a note today!

Bev Nielsen
58 Pleasant Valley Road
South Windsor, CT 06074

Wayne & Joyce Coon
Arbors at Hopbrook
403 W Center Street; Apt. 316
Manchester, CT 06040

Lorraine Clapp
1693 John Fitch Blvd
South Windsor, CT 06074

Coffee Hour Hosts needed

The sign-up sheets for coffee hour are posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen window. Hosts are needed for September with the exception of the 23rd. There are dates available for the remainder of the year as well.



Please check your calendars to see when you might be able to host this time of fellowship and conversation. Thank you to all that have hosted.

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter will be the October edition.

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

Please have your articles in to the church office by 9 am on the 15th of September. Articles can be submitted electronically or left in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox. The

newsletter does not write itself!!!! We need your input. Thank you!

Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**September 9th**) we collect items for a food pantry. We have learned from Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services, Town of South Windsor that "cereal, kids snacks, juice and canned fruit" are needed. They also always need paper goods and hygiene items). These donations are appreciated greatly.



Book Group

October 17th at Noon discussing *Lilac Girls* by Martha Ann Kelly. Bring a bag lunch.

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Staff:

Minister: Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid
Organist: Kamilla Mammedova
Administrative Assistant: Claudia Steele
Sexton: Katie Graham

SAVE THE DATE

Creative Hands Every Wednesday at 10am
Photo Archive Team.Every Wednesday at 2pm
Church School Begins.....9/09
Holiday Fair Workshops9/13, 9/20, 9/27
Church Committee 9/12
Newsletter Article Deadline 9/15
Member Recognition Sunday..... 9/23
Heritage Day @ East Windsor Hill..... 10/6
Book Group 10/17

TO:



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