

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



May 2025

The holidays are over. In review, I would say the Lent programs were interesting, well-planned, and fairly well attended! The discussions were lively and engaging. Those who attended took advantage of the topics and information. Our meals were delicious and everyone seemed to enjoy them. Thank you to all who participated and those who provided meals. Palm Sunday was well attended and from which new visitors gained interest in our church.

The Maundy Thursday service was well-planned and moving, but very poorly attended – need to work on that! Thanks to Scott Horsfield for organizing the service. Easter morning was nice, our trumpet player did a great job and the service, though not as attended as last year, was beautiful and meaningful for those who came out.

New visitors will be attracted to the level of engagement of our members. They will want to be there because they sense and see that we want to be there! The opposite is true. Growth happens when our loyalty is observed by those who visit us.

Now comes slower days and times to enjoy the outdoors. Time to recharge and prepare for the work ahead. But that does not mean that we halt all activity...no, programs continue and, of course, our worship service. Ever evolving to become relevant for all continues. Yes, it's time to slow down a bit. I, myself, will be taking time outdoors and time on vacations, but the work of the church goes on. I hope we can balance the necessary need for rest with the needed energy to keep the momentum going here at First Church. Thank you to all who supported our church with your presence at our programs and worship. May we all cultivate a deep loyalty to our covenant, which binds us to one another as a beloved community. Happy

spring and days of relaxation and renewal. May it help us to gather with a fresh and wider vision of our church.

Shalom,
Pastor Dean



Pastor Dean's Spring Hours & Office Schedule:
Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 1:30pm; Monday: Off



Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held April 8, 2025 -

- Treasurer's report - Income for March was \$23,029.90 which includes Trust funds. Expenses were \$26,384.19. Deficit for March was \$3,354.29; deficit year-to-date is \$13,600.93.
- Investments - The brokerage account saw a decrease of \$90,186 in market value for March. Dividends and interest withdrawn was \$18,935.47. The ending balance for March was \$2,144,788.04.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield

- The organ was tuned March 16. An issue with the pedal bourdon chest was found. Two boards needing re-leathering were removed to make the repair. They were put back in place March 21.
- A UHartt trumpet student joined us for Easter Sunday.



Left: Our beautiful star magnolia tree was in full bloom on Good Friday. Isn't it gorgeous? It was given to us by interim minister, Nancy Milton.

BLANKETS OF HOPE



We will once again be participating in the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets of Hope program. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

A donation of \$10.00 will purchase a blanket, and we will continue our tradition of dedicating them on Mother's Day in honor of, or in memory of, mothers or mother figures in our lives. An order form is included in the upcoming May newsletter if you wish to mail it in, and we will also be including the order forms in our Sunday bulletins in the

two weeks prior to Mother's Day. You will also find additional order forms in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall.



I would like to purchase blanket/blankets at \$10.00 each in honor of or in memory of a mother for Church World Service to send to people in need of shelter and warmth. **Orders must be received by the church office by Tuesday, May 6th.** Make your check payable to First Congregational Church with **Blankets of Hope** in the memo portion.

Number of blankets: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

Total Donation: _____

Trustees News

Jean Trotman

Both the fire escape and the main entryway at the Wolcott building need cleaning/painting so we are in the process of getting quotes for the work. We are also investigating a way to alert people inside the church when someone rings the bell at the south door.

Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 10th from 9-2. Please bring your own lunch. We have a number of inside and outside chores including packing up things in preparation for the reconstruction of the floor.

Fellowship Hall floor project is moving along. We have more carpet samples to look at and will make a selection shortly.

A large enclosed trailer will be available to us via Bill Fraize, to use for storage of tables, chairs, doors, etc. during the construction. It will be parked on the west side of the church.

We met with Steve Kastel, the cement contractor, along with the Town Fire Marshall and Chief Building Inspector to go over our plans and identify what is needed to file for a permit for the work. We learned that instead of a simple framework for plastic between the carpeted area and the coffee hour area, we will need a sheetrocked wall with a fire door. The quote for that change is in progress so we do not yet know the impact on our budget.

Our proposed timeline has not changed:

The first week of June, doors, tables, chairs, etc. will be placed in storage to clear the space. The second week of June, the asbestos abatement work will take place. That will be followed by the demolition and removal of all material from the current floor and the pouring of new cement, which may take up to 4 weeks. Starting the first full week of July, the hall will be repainted while the new cement floor is drying. The next step will be to install carpet, which we hope to do the last week of July. Then the pod/trailer will need to be emptied: doors rehung, tables and chairs brought in, the piano and glass display case put back in place, etc. All of this is dependent on everything going smoothly with no surprises along the way.

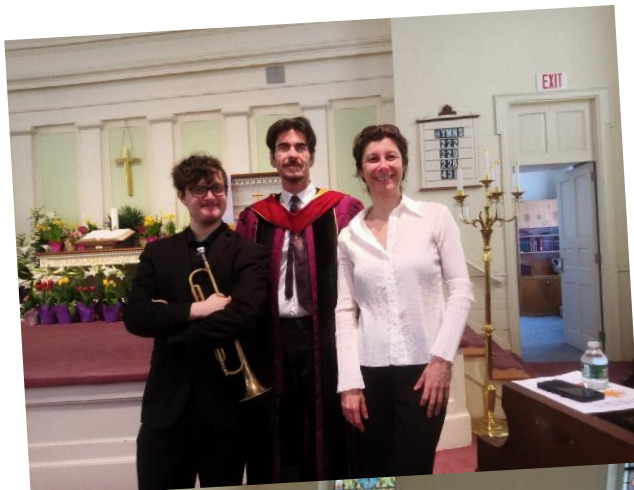
I expect the current curtains will need to be replaced. Fire retardant fabric is a requirement for anything we put up and I expect the existing wall color will change. If anyone is interested in assisting us with this part of our project, please contact me.



Easter Sunday 2025

A glorious Easter was celebrated in our First Church sanctuary on Sunday, April 20, 2025. It was a beautiful, bright, and sunny morning. Thank you to the First Church deacons and volunteers who worked so hard to beautify our sanctuary with Easter flowers. Thank you to our First Church choir and our amazing pianist/organist, Kamilla Mammedova. Thank you to Caleb Nierenberg, a very talented Hartt School of Music student, who treated us to his magnificent trumpet playing. Thank you to Bob and Julie Reynolds for operating Zoom and ensuring our homebound friends can still be with us. Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We hope you had a Happy and special Easter!



Easter Sunday 2025

Left: Pastor Dean Kucera, Caleb Nierenberg, and Kamilla Mammedova gather for a photo following the Easter Service. Below: Our musicians and choir perform together.



Palm Sunday

Right: Lay Leader Julie Reynolds prepares for the start of the Palm Sunday service. Below: Pastor Dean delivers his message. Third: Church attendees lay palms at the foot of the cross. Last: The Choir sings an anthem they have learned, accompanied by Kamilla on the piano.



Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

We found that the people on the east side of the river gained permission to hire a minister and did so. Or perhaps we should say they hired Mr. Timothy Edwards as a candidate for the ministry. This did not relieve them of financially supporting the church west of the river. Of course, they were expected to still support the town. As a candidate for ordination, Timothy Edwards served the people east of the river from November 14, 1694.

In the following few years, they made more requests of the colonial assembly. There must have been foot-dragging on the part of the church people west of the river. They settled a new minister and apparently had agreed to pay him enough that they did not want the amount coming in from the east side residents to decrease. In addition, the colony had to consider doing a new thing: dividing a town. Windsor was one of the first parishes to be divided.

In May 1695, as encouragement to the Windsor residents east of the river, the Colonial Court granted them a small portion of what was paid to the town of Windsor in country rate (farm produce and commodities). The same amount was granted a year later and the next year (1697) a larger amount. The weather in 1697 was so bad that it was considered a year of scarcity. Stiles quoted of Governor Roger Wolcott comments about the difficulty of this year.

Stiles volume 1 page 233

Governor Roger Wolcott mentions in his *Journal* that “the year 1697 was a year of great scarcity and mortality. The summer was cool and cloudy, not a month without a frost in it; the winter was very long and severe. In February and March the snow was very high and hard; There was a great cry for bread; the cattle famished in the yards for weeks for want; the sickness was very distressing and mortal: those in health could hardly get food, and tend to sick, and bury the dead, Many suffered for want a firewood and tendance.”

As a recap: The residents east of the river, got permission to hire a minister and hired Timothy Edwards as a candidate for the ministry and started building a meeting house. Remember: Colonial settlers in New England didn't initially call the buildings where they worshipped

"churches". Instead, they referred to them as "meeting houses" because they served a dual purpose: religious worship and town meetings. The meaning of the word church was a religious body of people who worshipped together. Over time, as settlements matured and the United States gave rise to the separation of church and state, some meeting houses evolved into dedicated church buildings, while others became town halls. In Stiles' *The History of Ancient Windsor*, we find the first three buildings referred to as "meeting houses", even though the town meetings for Windsor were held on the west side of the river.

Church Family News



LeAnne Morgan 05/04

Scott Larsen 05/12

Mary Greco 05/15

Jeff Virr 05/25

Kate Larsen 05/29

Bob & Julie Reynolds 05/01

John & Shiela McIntosh 05/19

Eric & Jan Soares 05/25

John & Sue Larsen 05/26

Greg & Jean Jackson 05/29

Doris Burgdorf

Della Mitchell

The Cox Family

The Zaugg Family

Iva Burnham



The Tripp Family

Joyce Coon

Bob Woodward

Carol Mattera

The Burnham Family



Spring Concert

Save the Date! South United Methodist Church invites you to their Spring concert, "For the Beauty of the Earth", on Sunday, May 18th at 6:30 PM. SUMC is celebrating 100 years in their building at 1226 Main Street in Manchester this year. WildFire, their praise band, will share the concert with the concert choir. If you enjoyed the Christmas concert, you won't want to miss this one. See Jean Jackson, who is a member of the concert choir, for additional information.



Church Office Hours
Hours are normally Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm.

Newsletter Deadline



The next newsletter issue will be published in **June 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **May 16th** for inclusion:
firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thanks!

Silver Lake Summer Camp Registration is now open



There are half a dozen 1-quart containers of corn chowder in the church freezer. They are the last from the fundraiser for Fellowship Hall. The price is \$8.00/quart. The money can go to Sue Larsen, Ingrid Fraize or the church office. Thank you all for your support of this fundraiser.



Missions Committee

Rachel Anderson

Thank you to all who donated diapers on Palm Sunday. You made some moms very happy. Blessings to you all from the Missions Committee! *Choose Love!*



Above: Judy Borré fills her car to the brim to deliver our Palm Sunday diaper donations to MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches).

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United Church of Christ

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TO: