

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



October 2025

He's Calling (Luke 5:1-11)

The idea that Jesus is calling is profound! It means he expects a response from us, and calling implies action. We are moved to take action to follow, learn, and eventually to lead and grow. But answering the call is hard work. It can be hard to let go of our embedded expectations to be always safe, taken care of, and told what to do!! But Jesus' call means that eventually we must speak out, answer, and take action.

When we respond to Jesus, we learn that we have the ability to do big things! Co-dependence is a force that makes us dependent on others to do for us. We become lazy and expect to be spoon-fed. But Jesus gave us the right balance of taking care of us and calling us to do for self and others.

Like Peter, we are afraid to step out of the boat. "Across the sea you stand alone, far from this boat where winds have blown, what power could span a rift so wide?" Take heart, my friend, I'm by your side."

As we grow forward, remember to take heart! My friends, He's by our side!!

Dr. Dean Kučera



Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held September 9, 2025 -



- Treasurer's report - Due to internet connectivity issues, Sue Larsen was unable to attend. However, the report was available to all in attendance. Income for August was \$17,091.00. Expenses were \$21,458.11. Deficit for the month was \$4,367.11; deficit year-to-date is \$10,086.19.
- Investments - Terry Belknap, with an assist from Jim, brought reports for July and August. In July, the account saw an increase of \$34,097.36. A total of \$2,200.53 was disbursed, leaving an ending balance of \$2,208,097.36. In August, the account saw an increase of \$49,182. \$10,000 was withdrawn, leaving an ending balance of \$2,257,279.36. No changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Julie Reynolds will step in as acting moderator for the meeting while Judy Borre attends to family matters. Stay tuned - it will either be in Fellowship Hall or in Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend, in person or via Zoom, whether or not you serve on a committee.

Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield



Jean Jackson initiated a discussion about the new hymnal, *Elemental Joy*. It was decided that, going forward, worshippers should leave the hymnals on their pew cushions rather than return them to the narthex. Please do not place them in the pew racks. The benefits are: one less thing the ushers and greeters hand you each Sunday, and less wear and tear on a soft-cover hymnal, thus taking care of our resources.

Choir News

Jean Jackson



The choir will begin rehearsals on September 28, 2025. Meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. All are welcome to join the choir. The choir normally sings the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Parish Nurse

Melody Treadwell



The Parish Nurse has been holding open hours in the chapel on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM for anyone wishing to stop in for blood pressure and/or blood sugar screenings or to discuss health concerns. Please feel free to email or call Carrie in the office to confirm availability.

The Edwards Center

Barbara Wright

The Edwards Center sponsored a talk by Elise Bernier-Feeley on Sept. 14. Elise spoke about Sarah Pierpont Edwards, Jonathan's wife. She gave a brief history about Sarah and then spoke, with slides about the many herbs that would have been in her gardens and the medicinal purpose of each. Although sparsely attended, all there enjoyed the presentation.

Our next meeting is October 7 in the Wolcott Building at 1:00 PM.

Deacons

Barb Wright

The Deacons have begun meeting again for the new year.

We met with three prospective new members who will be joining the church in October.

We are also going to begin having greeters in the narthex on Sunday mornings. Please see Barb Wright if you would be willing to participate. The thought is to have two greeters each Sunday.

We have also completed our submission to the bylaws committee for the Deacons' duties.

We will be mailing letters in the near future to inactive members asking if they want to continue their membership. We know many have moved on or are out of the area and have had no contact with the church in any form.

Holiday Fair News

Join us on Fridays to help craft new items for the fair. They meet from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM at 1090 Main Street. Call or text Linda Dalpe to let her know you are coming! Her number is 860-528-1936. There are many ways to help, even if you feel you are not particularly 'crafty'.

Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

Communion was one of the two sacraments of congregationalism. When looking at the practices of New England societies, we can get an idea of how communion may have been done in our church. Communion was held periodically, only a few times a year, either being held at a separate service or at the end of a Sunday morning service. The serving of communion typically followed a sermon.

Not everyone could partake of communion. Only members admitted to “full Communion” could take part. In many congregations, to make it clear which congregants could take communion, a deacon gave tokens to the appropriate individuals.

This paragraph about communion at the Deerfield church probably mirrored communion at ours.

Communion in Deerfield would have looked something like this: the congregation gathered in the meetinghouse, sitting in pews facing the minister at the center of the room. Stepping down from the pulpit to the communion table, the minister blessed a flagon of wine, symbolizing the blood of Christ, and poured its contents into an array of silver vessels...Deacons carried the cups of wine to the ends of the pews. One by one, those members of the congregation who had been declared fit to take communion passed the cup along the pews. They drank and meditated on the body of Jesus Christ and on the body of the congregation. (“Feed on Humane Flesh and Blood? Strang mess!”: A Puritan Communion Cup by Carla Cevasco)

The cups were passed along the pew with all communicants drinking from the same cup. Each saying “Amen” afterwards. The phrase, “symbolizing the blood of Christ,” when instituting the pouring of the wine, was in recognition of a major difference between the Protestant churches and the Catholic. The Catholic Church believes in transubstantiation, wherein priests transform wafers and wine into Jesus' actual flesh and blood.

From our Church Notes, we know that in 1867, they voted to have Deacon Allen “procure two flagons suitable for our communion service and, when secured, to present the one we now use to such needy church as may come to his knowledge.” From this, I think we only used one cup for communion before 1867.



The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is the men's group that meets on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM for conversation and lunch with friends. The date for October is October 16th. Everyone brings their lunch and there is usually great coffee served. The group meets in Fellowship Hall.



Ladies Who Lunch



Linda Dalpe

The Ladies Lunch Bunch in Fellowship Hall met for the first time on September 25th and plans to continue on the 4th Thursday of each month. The next lunch date is October 23rd. All are welcome!

No agenda...just fellowship! Bring your lunch and a friend. We will be there from 11:30 AM -1:00 PM.

Jewelry Wanted

We continue to collect jewelry for the church fair. Even some of the broken jewelry can be repurposed. You can drop off your donations at 1090 Main St. or bring them to church and give them to Linda Dalpe or Lynda Jones.



Trustees News

Jean Trotman



The floor project has been delayed again as repairs need to be made to the walls where the baseboards were. That repair is expected to start 9/8.

After dealing with many sound issues both within the church and on Zoom during services, the Trustees talked with Rick Adamow from Unitech to see what could be done to improve the system. His very succinct answer: replace it. The components are old and were not purchased at the same time, so we are constantly trying to retrofit what we have. So we asked him to provide us with a quote to completely replace the system. At our September meeting, we agreed to go ahead with his proposal. I don't yet have a target date as equipment has to be ordered, but Rick confirmed that at the moment it is available.

Our other main issue is to find an investment advisor to manage our trust assets. We are currently talking with several managers who have been referred to us, but no decisions have been made to date.

Starting 9/5, we have another dance group using the Wolcott basement. The business owner came to us looking for short-term space as her existing facility has sustained damage that could take several months to fix. They will be using the Wolcott from approximately 5-8 PM Monday-Wednesday and Friday, and again Saturday mornings.

Crop Walk for Hunger 2025

Please join us to help Church World Service raise funds to combat hunger at home and around the world.



What: Manchester Area "CROP WALK"

When: Sunday, October 19 at 1 pm at Wapping Church.

Walk Description: Approx 2 miles from Wapping Church to Evergreen Walk and back. What if I can't walk? You can donate to our team either online or make a donation that Vicky Margiott will turn in. Checks can be made to CWS CROP. See the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for more info.

Missions Committee

Nancy Stearns

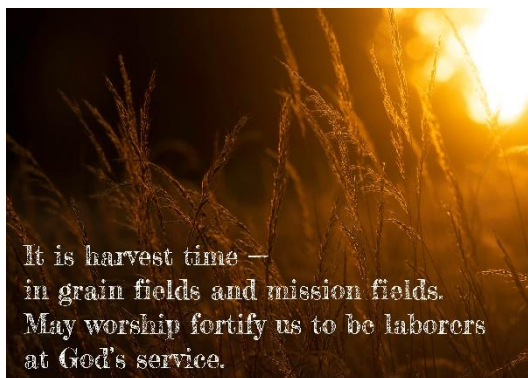


One issue that the Missions Committee has focused on is the increasing food insecurity in our area. According to the President of CT Foodshare, 1 out of 6 children are not getting enough nutritious food, and food insecurity has increased by 40% since Covid. Federal budget cuts resulted in the loss of 2.7 million pounds of food, half of it protein, scheduled for delivery to CT Foodshare for the remainder of this calendar year.

We have distributed \$500 checks to South Windsor Food Bank, Manchester Area Conference of Churches Food Pantry, The Cornerstone Foundation Food Pantry, Hands on Hartford Backpack Nutrition Program, and CT Foodshare to help offset the increase in demand for food that these organizations are experiencing.

Although these donations may seem like a “drop in the bucket” compared to the need, CT Foodshare estimates that it can provide 1100 meals with \$500.

Our Committee will continue to partner with area non-profit agencies to stretch our resources as much as possible to help make a difference in our neighbors’ lives.
We Choose Love!



It is harvest time —
in grain fields and mission fields.
May worship fortify us to be laborers
at God's service.

Emergency Contacts Binders

We have created binders to hold emergency contact information for anyone who would like to be included. In the event of an emergency at a church function, the congregation can reach your designated emergency contact(s) and also provide EMTs with helpful medical information. Participation is completely voluntary, but we encourage you to consider it. Please see Carrie for a form if you are interested. Submit any updates or changes to Carrie as needed.

There are 4 RED binders in total stationed throughout the church:

One in the mailroom:



One on top of the AED:



One in the Narthex
deacons' closet:



One inside the kitchen window
in Fellowship Hall:



Door Schedule on Sundays

We are going to give our door locking schedule another try to allow for the south entrance door to be unlocked during church on Sundays. It makes it much easier for some folks than trying to use the steep front steps. Please see below for more details.

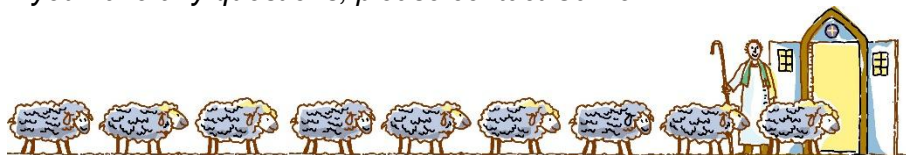
Door Locking Schedule

We have set up an automated door schedule so that on **Sundays from 9:00 AM -1:30 PM** (or until further notice), the south door will unlock and remain unlocked with the first person to scan in with their door key. The first person who scans in with their door key between 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM activates the door schedule for that day. It will now be unlocked for those coming in after you. You may still need to disarm the burglar alarm on the panel inside the door, so please be prepared with that fob available. The door will automatically relock at 1:30 PM. If church or coffee hour ends early, the last person to leave can simply lock the door on the way out by scanning their key outside and making sure the door locks behind them. The last person out needs to set the burglar alarm. If they forget to lock the door on the way out, it will automatically lock at 1:30 PM (or the scheduled time for that particular day). The burglar alarm will not reset itself. If, for some reason, there are no activities at the church during the scheduled time, the door will simply remain locked.

****This is a very important reminder: PLEASE try the door FIRST before using your key. If someone comes along and forgets to check the door first, using their key after the first person has already activated the system will cancel the door schedule for that day. You will lock the door.**

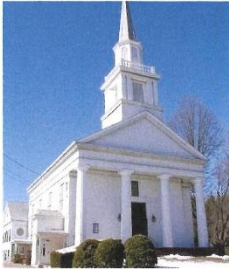
There are two lanyards in the black mailbox by the door. One to indicate that the first person has gone inside and the door is now unlocked. The other is to indicate the door is locked. Please swap them out as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Carrie.



First Congregational Church

78th Heritage Holiday Fair



993 Main Street
South Windsor, Connecticut

Booths include:

Homemade Fudge
Home Baked Treats
Vintage Jewelry
Knit, Purl, Chain & Snip
Rada Cutlery
Handmade Ornaments & Decorations
Hand-painted Gifts
Cemetery Boxes
Fresh Greens Arrangements
Artificial Greens & Wreaths
plus
Treasure Trove and *MORE!*

Fair Hours:

Friday, Dec. 5th

5 pm – 8 pm

Saturday, Dec. 6th

9 am – 2 pm

AND returning this year:

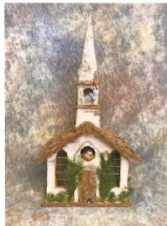
Sunday, Dec. 7th

1 pm - 4 pm

Free Admission *ALL* Days!



www.firstchurchsw.org



Church Fair Flyers are available now in the church office. Please consider helping us spread the word. If you have a place you frequent, we would love for you to share our fair flyer. Carrie can also send you a copy by email, if that is easier.

Church Family News



Alexandra Novak 10/01
 Dennis Dezelon 10/03
 Kaden Anderson 10/04
 Mark Dezelon 10/05
 Eulie McNulty 10/05
 Michael Kurtzman 10/07
 Lindsay Adams 10/08
 Brett McIntosh 10/08
 Kevin Woolam 10/12
 Courtney Neary 10/12
 Christopher Stump 10/12
 Cody Anderson 10/19

Jerry Dalpe 10/19
 Liesl Dalpe 10/19
 Sean Lopata 10/19
 Edie Starr 10/20
 Billy Pelton, IV 10/20
 Ethan Tripp 10/20
 John McNulty 10/26
 Phillip Dunham 10/27
 Gail Anderson 10/30
 Katelynn Graham 10/31



The Addington Family
 The Belknap Family
 Joyce Coon
 The Charette Family
 Carol Mattera
 Doris Burgdorf
 Lee Anderson

Della Mitchell
 Iva Burnham
 The Tripp Family
 The Burnham Family
 Bob Woodward
 The McIntosh Family
 Bill Fraize

Church Office Hours

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

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **November 2025**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **October 17th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thanks!



Church Directory Update



We are due for an update to our church directory. Please send any address, phone, or email changes to the church office: firstchurchsw@gmail.com

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: