

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



May 2024

*They drew a circle that shut me out- rebel, heretic, a thing to flout.
But love and I had wit to win- we drew a circle that took them in!!!*

I wanted to take the time to welcome our new members. Making the choice to join First church was a serious move on your part, but it is just as significant for the whole congregation. Members covenant...promise to support your decision and be there for you in times of need and in times of trial. Like any family we have obligations to one another. We want the family to be healthy, so communicating our needs is important. We want our family to thrive, so joining in on activities is essential for successful and meaningful personal growth. We desire to treat one another with respect; thus, we choose to acknowledge our unique differences and gifts...talents... We believe our family is capable of enlarging the circle to include more diversity. We also honor our past and our history and preserve the best of traditions. But our goal is to forge ahead, creating a new future that balances tradition with progress. We cannot only live in the past but strive to continue the narrative of our church family of which you are now a part. Our tent is large enough to make room for the believer...the skeptic...and the faithful doubter. We enjoy learning of others faith journey. Because your journey gives us hope. But most importantly we welcome your choice to join because you will enrich our family with your talents and gifts. What a great privilege to be invited to walk together on this path of which you are a part.... you are needed, loved, and important as we all are! Our circle has been enlarged and enriched because of you... welcome.

Blessings,

Rev Dr. Dean Michael Kucera

Deacons

Barbara Wright



The Deacons have met with the prospective new members and shared our personal faith journeys. We are very excited to have them join us. Plans were made for the new member service on April 28. We had Peter back to play the trumpet during the service and a reception for the new members during coffee hour.

The usher and lay leader instructions are being updated.

Although activities are winding down, the Deacons continue working with the Pastor in all aspects of worship.

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk



Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held April 9, 2024 -

- Treasurer's report - March expenses were \$28,140.79. Income was \$27,421.60. Net income for the month is -\$719.19 (deficit). The report reflects a deficit for January-March of -\$2,888.42.
- Investments - The brokerage account had a gain of \$66,711.39 during March. \$21,612.39 was withdrawn to cover expenses, resulting in a net increase of \$45,099. The ending value for March is \$2,060,912.88.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:30 pm. It will be held in the Metzger Chapel and on Zoom. All are welcome to attend whether or not you serve on a committee.



Right: During a recent 'children's moment', Pastor Dean asks Julie Reynolds, *May I tempt you?* We thank Julie, Bob and Scott for helping out during the worship service.

Trustees News

Jean Trotman

The AED (defibrillator) is now in its cabinet located next to the workroom door. CPR training was held on April 9th with 10 people attending.

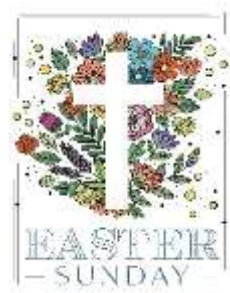
We are holding our annual clean-up day on Saturday, May 11th. Tasks will include installing window ACs, washing windows and floors, organizing the janitor's closet, and weather permitting, sanding and priming the ramp prior to painting. Bring your lunch.

There have been a number of issues with the sound in the sanctuary. Eric Soares has agreed to take a look to see if he can determine whether it is an equipment and/or a training problem. If he can't figure it out, we will call in Unitech.

Research is continuing on the Fellowship Hall floor problem. We have talked to additional contractors and learned things from each. Our goal is to get at least 3 bids each for the abatement and cement work. We got word that we were not selected for one of the grants we applied for, but there are others we are waiting on, and Linda Dalpe and Pat Jones are looking for others.

Capital fundraising efforts continue. A tag sale will be held on Saturday, August 10th, rain, or shine, and will once again be part of the town wide tag sale event. Please talk to Linda Dalpe if you have furniture to donate as we have physical limitations on what we can move. All donations, clean and, where applicable, in boxes with lids, can be left at the warehouse. Boxes with glass or fragile items should be labeled. Please mark the date on your calendar. Two weeks before the sale, we will need many hands to help move, sort and price items. We will also need people inside and out the day of the sale. We are also collecting quarters. Big blue water bottles can be found in the narthex and outside the kitchen during coffee hour to hold them. If you wish to donate quarters at another time, you could give them to Carrie, Pastor Dean, or any of the Trustees.





Easter Sunday at First Church was extra special this year as we celebrated a holy baptism during the 10:00AM worship service. Welcome to our church family, Cody!



Missions News

Rachel Anderson, Terry Belknap, Nancy Stearns, & Marilyn Senger

The Missions Committee would like to thank all who donated children's clothes for MACC on Palm Sunday. We were able to deliver several boxes and bags of clothes to them and they were very grateful for our donation.



Above: Delivery of children's clothing collected during Lent to MACC.

We will once again be offering the chance to buy blankets of Hope for Mother's Day. We will be taking a \$10 offering to honor your mother or mother figures on Mother's Day. On that Sunday, we will have an insert in the bulletin with the names of those being honored.

The blankets are given by Church World Service to people who are in need of emergency care due to a disaster situation such as a flood, an earthquake, fire, or other devastating events. It is a way of saying we care. An order form is included in this newsletter. Forms are also available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.



Left: Fun & Fellowship at Paper Flowers Crafting Night on April 11, 2024. Pictured: Jean Trotman, Ingrid Fraize, Mary Crittenden, Rachel Anderson, Sheila McIntosh, Carol Mattera and Terry Belknap. Missing from Photo: Elsie Woolam and Carrie Morse.

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 7th**. 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: _____

UCW Corner

Linda Dalpe

Spring is here! Honest! It's time to clean the garage, the attic, the house, and declutter. Send those gifts that you really don't want and are tempted to "regift" but don't remember who gave them to you in the first place. We will take dishes, bookcases, knick knacks, books, CDS, bureaus, small desks, chairs, office chairs, tools, appliances that work, books, children's toys, games, bikes, and anything that someone can use and shouldn't go into the land fill. Smaller pieces of furniture such as beds, bookcases, chairs, small kitchen sets, bureaus, and desks. When in doubt, please contact Linda Dalpe at 860-528-1936. She can also tell you whether we can handle and have the help to lift the larger furniture pieces.

Mark whether your donations are for the tag sale (Sat. Aug 10th) or to be saved for the fair's jewelry table, or the Treasure Trove. (Remember, the Treasure Trove is our "upscale" section at church fair....featuring collectibles, new items, etc. that will bring in \$5+ and can be displayed without taking up too much "real estate".)

Contact Linda Dalpe (860-528-1936) to bring your donations to be stored at 1090 Main St. Please be sure when you are dropping off items for the church tag sale that they are packed into closed boxes, or if too large, covered with plastic bags. While the barn is dry, there are birds...and no matter how hard I try...there is bird do do... This will eliminate having to rewash, clean, etc., to be sure that they are in saleable condition. When in doubt, send a text and she can answer questions. Watch the side of the roads where things are being sent to the landfill that someone else will find useful.

Do you have a particular talent that others would pay for? Do you have a particular green thumb? Would you be willing to weed a garden or flower bed for a few hours? Would you be willing to "grandma/grandpa" sit as a companion for an hour or two? Do you bake a particular cake that EVERYONE loves? Do you bake character cakes? Special birthday cakes? Do you have a large garden to sell your extra vegetables or flowers? Do you have a specific dinner that you make that you would be willing to make for someone else? What about working with a partner to make a take

out soup dinner. These are talents...and they can help us build our capital fund. Every \$5, \$10, \$25, earned is moving us closer to our goal. What is your special talent?

Speak with Linda Dalpe (860-528-1936) to discuss your plan and we will work together to make your idea a super successful initiative.

Last call for the UCW Annual Dinner at Oscar's Restaurant on Sullivan Ave. Sunday, May 5th at 11:30 AM.

\$25 per person. Be sure to sign up in the lower hall.

Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

You never know where looking for answers to questions will take you! I was recently asked to supply answers to a few questions for the grant proposals being written. No, I did not find the answers to all the questions, in fact, I found little. Researching the question, "When was the church basement floor poured?" turned up little.

Our old Church Notes do not have a lot of detail and sometimes not even the basic information. In addition, there are spans of time without notes. So, I did not find much of what was needed.

Information quoted gives us a time frame for when some of the work was done but not what was done. Instead, we have new questions. We have an approximate time but do not know what. Note from 1-9-1908, "Voted to move Sunday Service to the Wolcott Chapel until the church could be adequately heated." Add to that the information for the photo next to the Memorial Cabinet which shows the pipes that carried the exhaust gases, smoke from furnaces at the back of the sanctuary above the congregation to two chimneys behind the wall where the hymn boards are. This tells us that this is before the basement was put under the building.

Then nothing more until 1910, one brief note about a different matter and then another gap with the next note dated May 15, 1912. Then nothing until 1915. Hit and miss notes continue but not on our topic. 1929 Note regarding a discussion about covering the furnace pipes with asbestos. The ones in the picture or was there then a furnace in the basement?

1934: A request of the American Legion to rent the chapel. Rent to be \$8. This makes me think that the church basement had not been done yet.

Nov. 1, 1934: Penny banks to be distributed to members to be filled for the basement funds. Feb. 5, 1935: \$75 from the penny banks.

10-18-1935: "Dime calendars distributed to save money for the basement fund." Nothing more about the basement fund.

Nov. 11, 1945: "Voted to give permission to the Girl Scouts to use the basement of the church for their requested regular weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings." Perhaps the basement work was done between Oct. 1934 and Oct. 1935 or shortly after the Dime Calendar money came in.

Current Event: March 17, 2024, Linda Dalpe presented a challenge for the congregation to fill a 5 gal. jug with quarters for our basement fund!

Building on our history, reaching to the future.



Music Committee

Lisa Horsfield and Jean Jackson

- The choir's schedule for April was changed, with singing on April 14 and 21, as members were away on April 28. This will conclude the choir's participation in Sunday services for the season.
- Peter Fiegel (trumpet) returned April 28 for the membership service.
- Jean Trotman - Trustees were asked to let Jean Jackson know when the sanctuary is transitioned to summer A/C so tuning of the organ can be scheduled.



**South United Methodist Church
invites everyone to their Spring
concert, Sunday May 19, 2024 at
6:30pm. SUMC is located at 1226
Main Street in Manchester. For more
information see Jean Jackson.**

Church Family News

LeAnne Morgan	05/04	Jeff Virr	05/25
Scott Larsen	05/12	Kate Larsen	05/29
Mary Greco	05/15		

Bob & Julia Reynolds	05/01
John & Sheila McIntosh	05/19
Eric & Jan Soares	05/25
John & Sue Larsen	05/26
Greg & Jean Jackson	05/29

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

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



New Members of First Congregational Church:

Patrick Jones
 Howard Haviland
 Marcus Andersen
 Katie Andersen
 Marc Couture
 Elizabeth Couture

Cody Andersen - Holy
 Baptism, Sunday March
 31, 2024





Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **June 2024**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **May 17th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com Thank you.



Church Office Hours

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



Christian Education Chair, Vicky Margiott telling the congregation about the seder dinner the children had shared during church school.



Seder Meal



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United Church of Christ

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TO: