

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

May 2018

Dear Everybirdy (Yes, that's 'everybirdy,' not a typo),

Our post-Easter season will soon culminate in Pentecost Sunday on May 20. Pentecost commemorates the day Christ's disciples gathered at the temple in Jerusalem and received the Holy Spirit in a great rush of fire and wind from heaven. This miraculous event empowered the disciples to expound upon the Gospel in "other languages." The crowd, who had come from many different places, heard and understood in their own languages. Three thousand were converted and baptized. This great happening is known as the birthday of the church. Going forward, the ongoing work of Christ in the church is highlighted as we head into what is called Ordinary Time.

Speaking of many languages, have you ever had the occasion to hear a mockingbird perform its fabulous repertoire of calls? There's a very good reason it's called a 'mockingbird.' The mockingbird can imitate the calls of many of its avian friends. The calls of the robin, thrush, bluebird, blue jay, crow, catbird and a slew of others are included in its playlist. Its genus name, *Mimus*, is derived from the Latin, 'mimic.' And, mimic, it does!

It's fun to try to identify as many calls as you can.. Being a bird-watcher there are many I can, but just as many that I can't. The mockingbird practices expansive inclusivity of all things 'bird' every day by using its gifts to sing their songs and those of some insects, too! All the songs of these 'others' become the mockingbird's song. (This experience can be not-so-much fun if they decide to let loose in the middle of the night).

When I lived on the Connecticut shoreline some years ago, there was a resident mockingbird in my yard that could be counted on to do just that, every night around midnight for at least an hour. It became a comforting, but sometimes, aggravating ritual. I thought birds sang during the day and slept at night (except for the obvious nocturnal ones). I could have set my clock by that mockingbird!

However, if one doesn't understand the many 'languages,' of the mockingbird, the experience could simply be a 'non-experience.' Perhaps one would not even notice the mockingbird at all. And, if someone came along that could translate what may seem like a lot of gibberish, and you 'got it,' it could turn into a whole different experience! It would be an 'Aha!' moment!

Likewise, Scripture tells us that the crowds who were converted at Pentecost had a huge "Aha!" moment, thanks to the Holy Spirit enabling the disciples to speak and be heard by many different hearers. Just like the mockingbird does not discriminate towards 'anybirdy,' but sings their songs, too, the effects of the Holy Spirit marks the new way in which the multitudes understand that everyone is welcome! Everyone is invited! Everyone is the church! 'Everybirdy!'

Let us go about our lives remembering what the power of Pentecost can do for us as we attempt to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its glory. Let us sing in a way that honors the spirit of Pentecost. Let us grasp onto the Holy Spirit which brings love, understanding, compassion and respect for all humanity. Let us sing in the diverse voices of the Holy Spirit in a grand chorus for peace!

(And, if you start singing birdsongs at midnight too, God bless ya!)

Spiritedly,

Nina



Church Committee

Jean
Church Clerk

Highlights from April 10, 2018 Church Committee meeting -

- Kip Dalpe was elected as our second delegate to the UCC Annual Meeting, to be held in June.
- Investments - the account decreased approximately \$32,136.00 in March. Of the decrease, \$21,651.50 was disbursed to First Church to cover expenses, with the remaining \$10,447.00 being market losses and fees. The end value for March is \$1,805,471.92.
- Investment Portfolio - changes were made by selling holdings in Altria Group Inc., and purchasing stock in Cisco Systems and Intel Corp., and a mutual fund (technology).
- Next meeting of the Church Committee is May 15, 2018. Please note this is the third Tuesday. All are invited to attend, whether or not you serve on a committee or board.

Mission News

Palm Sunday Collection

Missions would like to thank all those who donated to the hawkwing collection on Palm Sunday!



Your generosity is greatly appreciated, together we collected, 3,563 diapers, 2,348 wipes, 34 winter sleepers, 15 summer outfits/onesies, 7 winter hats and 4 cans baby formula! Rochelle Ripley, Founder, is so grateful for our support. Thanks for making a difference.

Thanks for helping make a difference!

RADA Cutlery Orders

RADA orders are being taken now until the Tag Sale, May 5. Catalogs will be available on the table in the lower hall. Delivery will be after May 15 May 15th. Rada makes GREAT wedding and shower presents. All proceeds are dedicated to help with fair



expenses. Contact Linda (860-289-8101, or lindald001@aol.com) to place an order.

Spring Clean Up Day

Spring is upon us and so it is timer for the annual spring cleanup at First Church. The trustees have scheduled this year's event for **Saturday May 12th** starting at 9AM and running into the early afternoon. The cleanup will go on rain or shine as there is plenty of work to be done both inside and outside the church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in the camaraderie. Tasks are available for all abilities and skill levels and we train. Refreshments will be served. Note the date change from Church Committee.



Church Picnic

Our church will hold a picnic on **June 10**. The Trustees have graciously offered to perform the grilling of hamburg and hot dogs. The CE committee



has offered to provide desserts. That leaves the salads, paper goods and drinks to the rest of the us. I have created a sign-up sheet for food items, set up and clean up, and a sign-up sheet for attendance so we can get an idea of how many people will be attending. They will be

located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please see Terry Belknap.

Adopt-A-Road Saturday May 19

Saturday May 19th is the date for Governor's Highway Clean Up. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring gloves and wear

protective, comfortable closed toed shoes. Plan on approximately 1-1/2 hours for the road cleanup. If you have never participated before, PLEASE consider joining us for a very worthwhile community endeavor. Children 10 and over welcome with a parent or guardian. See Jim Belknap for details. Note the date change from Church Committee.



Trustees News

Carroll

We are pleased to announce the selection of Katie Graham as our new custodian. Ms. Graham and her family are long term residents of South Windsor where she has been active in coaching several children's sports teams as well as serving as a deputy registrar of voters for the last ten years. It came out during our interview that in years past Katie has lent a hand in support of our church fair—obviously a perfect fit. Katie will begin her duties upon her



return from a long planned vacation to Tennessee. We are grateful to Sue Larsen for bringing her to our attention.

The nine new replacement windows for the upper level of the addition have been ordered by our contractor Phil Dunham with delivery expected about May first. Installation is expected to take about three days and will be fit around the normal church work schedule as much as possible. Once these new windows are installed Trustees will arrange for the repair and painting of the interior woodwork of the three affected rooms as well as the walls of the pastors study. Prior to removal of the windows the Trustees will remove the window treatment for their protection. We have asked the UCW to take custody until we are ready to rehang them. This would appear to be an excellent opportunity to either clean or replace them.

The church annual spring cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday May 12th beginning at 9 AM and continuing until midafternoon. This is an opportunity for members of our church family to come together to do a variety of chores, both inside and out, to bring our church property up to snuff while enjoying each other's company. No special skills are necessary. Come when you can and pick a task from our long list that best matches your abilities and interest. This event will happen rain or shine. Light refreshments will be provided by the grateful Trustees. Contact any member of the board for more information.

UCW Spring Dinner

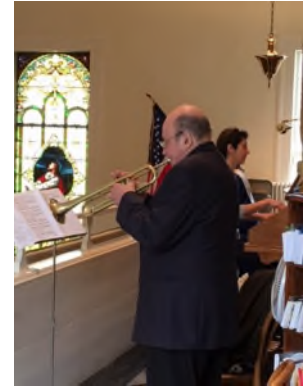
The Spring UCW Dinner and Elections will be held on **Wednesday, May 16th** at the South Windsor Pizza at 6:30 p.m. The menu choices are: Chicken cacciatore, Eggplant parm and Veal Marsala. Your choice of Coffee/ tea/soda. The cost is \$15.00 per person and the tip is included. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



Music News

Jean

Thanks are extended to Mr. Roland, trumpeter, who took part in the Easter Sunday service. For those who may have missed the service, Roland provided a bright accompaniment to the morning's hymns and the choir's anthem. Kamilla Mammedova on organ and Roland on trumpet are pictured to the right.



The Church Chimers are meeting Sunday at 11:15 in the sanctuary, learning a song for Children's Sunday. It incorporates singing while chiming.

The Church Chimers assisted with a project following rehearsal on Sunday, April 15. They removed the Pilgrim Hymnals from the book racks in the pews and stacked them on the chancel for the Deacons. Then they moved the bibles from the pew cushions and placed them into the book racks. Many thanks to Eulie McNulty, Lilly Morse, Aubrey Aukstolis, Riley Anderson and Logan Jackson for their help with the project!!

Christian Education News

We were once again blessed with the presentation of Vicky's daffodils on Daffodil Sunday. Thank you youth and Christian Education Staff for sharing the beauty of God's creation.



Food Ingathering

On the second Sunday of the month (**May 13th**) we collect items for a food pantry. Suggested items for May are: jelly, kid snacks, juice, cold cereal and jarred pasta sauce. These donations are appreciated greatly.



*SewIn4Servicemen***3rd Session Update**

Judy

I am constantly amazed at the response received from the community when the call to help our veterans goes out. This last session brought 31 participants from not only across the state but across the country. Brenda (San Diego), who is back in South Windsor in order to take care of her father, saw our ad in the paper and wanted to participate. She was one of Elsie's "4-H'ers. Also joining our session was Tina. The Reverend Art Dunham officiated at her wedding here at First Church. Lan Guglietta, whose family was sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Guilford and now lives in South Windsor, saw our ad for the 2nd session and returned for the March session. She said that she wanted to "pay it forward".

On a personal note, 2 of my cousins joined our community. Francine (New Britain) had participated in sewing last year and 2 sessions this year. At this last session she was accompanied by her sister, RuthAnn (Southington), who helped me with layering the quilts.

No matter what the reason, people came together sharing memories, sewing tips and techniques and general good fellowship and community service



The Austin Cousins come together: Judy, Francine and RuthAnn

Holiday Fair News

Linda

We keep working away, always welcoming new people to join us. Bring a project you want help to assemble. New ideas are always welcome.



Monday night April 30th we will be meeting at the church to help with tag sale.

May meetings will be on Monday nights (5/7, 14, 21, 28) 6:30-8:30,

For the month of June we will be switching meeting nights from Monday night to Tuesday night 6:30-8:30

Deacons' News

Mary

The Deacons agreed to make the primary hymnal the Chalice Hymnal. All but one Pilgrim Hymnal per pew have been removed to make room for our Bibles. Hymnals will be available to any church members who would like to have **one**. A dozen copies will be stored. We will look for a site that would appreciate the extra books.



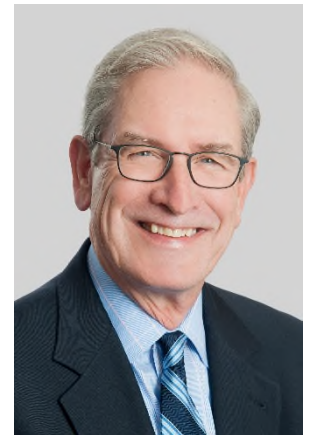
During the Open House on April 28, we plan to display a few of the antique silver communion pieces. These would be in a display shelf of the Memorial Cabinet.

We agreed to add an Introit to the order of Sunday services as a time for quiet reflection and prep for worship while enjoying music played by Kamilla..

How We Communicate

We will be welcoming Dr. Ron Casey on June 3rd as our Second Hour speaker. He was originally scheduled as one of our "Crossing the Road with Christ: Cultivating a Changing Worldview" speakers. More information will be forthcoming. Watch for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Ron Casey is a licensed psychologist. He has been in private practice as a psychotherapist since 1980. Ron has worked with the Center for Creative Leadership's leadership development programs since 1988. In this role he provides consultation and coaching to executives, managers and other leaders from a wide range of professional settings. Ron offers similar services through Impact Leadership Development Group. Ron is currently the consulting psychologist to the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and directs a program of psychological services for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Ron was an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Our Fourth Meeting House: Part 3

Mary

The fourth meeting house was built with a tower. A steeple was added in 1960's. A winter storm caused excitement and news articles when it was blown down on Christmas Eve 1971. I have heard that the replacement was so well put on that we need not worry of a repeat.

While the Rev. Arthur Dunham was here as our minister, the congregation undertook a major rejuvenation of the sanctuary. They moved the Sunday Worship Services downstairs into the Fellowship Hall for the duration of the undertaking.



This is extensively documented in one of our albums with pictures showing the process from taking down the large chandelier to assembling and later removal of scaffolding and finally moving back in. In addition, the congregation added a handicapped bathroom and a lift. Thus our church became more accessible to people with physical disabilities. More work connected the building to the city sewer. A reminder of the pre-sewer days is the steps from the basement floor into the bathrooms. The bathrooms were built this way to accommodate the needed height to provide for the proper drainage into the septic tank buried behind the building.

Over the years the anniversaries of the founding of First Church have been celebrated at twenty-five year intervals. The Tricentennial celebration covered a full year. The women of the church planned and made a quilt that hangs in the back of the sanctuary.

More recent care of the building includes new coverings on the stained glass windows, new roofing and a new driveway.

Blanket Sunday

See last month's newsletter for the order form for Blankets of Hope, a program of Church World Services. Blankets can be purchased for \$5.00 in memory or in honor of a loved one. Order forms are also available in the bulletins April 29th and May 6th. The list of those being honored will be published for Sunday, May 13th.



Kamilla's Kolumn

Thank you to everybody in the choir for another great year.

Our Easter worship service was especially wonderful.

Special thanks to Roland Chirico again for joining us during Easter.

I am still receiving so many compliments and words of gratitude from the congregation.

I'd like to also conclude the series of introducing some of the Azerbaijani composers to you. This time I'd like to talk about Elmira Nazirova. She was one of the women composer with unique and at the same time western classical school and roots music.

Elmira Nazirova was born on 30 November 1928 in Baku, to Academic and doctor Mirza Rza and the famous piano player and teacher Leyla Muradova. Her debut as a composer took place while she was still at school, when Elmira Nazirova played her music for the participants of the 10-Day Festival of South Caucasus Republics in Tbilisi.

Even before graduating from the conservatory, Elmira Nazirova joined the Composers Association upon the personal recommendation of Uzeir Gadzhibekov. At the Moscow Conservatory she had classes with the most prominent musicians of the time, including D. Shostakovich. Her numerous preludes, sonatas, transcriptions of Azeri folk songs, études and variations were performed by famous musicians and symphony orchestras of various countries.



Elmira Nazirova was famous as a prominent performer as well. Her concert tours were very successful in dozens of cities of the former USSR and abroad. The most popular was her piano concert of Arabic themes, written together with Fikret Amirov. Many prominent musicians of Azerbaijan, Israel,

the U.S. and other countries remember Elmira Nazirova as an outstanding teacher.

For the last twenty years, Elmira Nazirova lived in Israel with her family and continued active teaching and social activities.

Church Family News



LeAnne	05/04
Logan	05/10
Scott	05/12
Mary	05/15
Jeff	05/25
Kate	05/29



Bob & Julia	05/01
John & Sheila	05/19
Eric & Jan	05/25
Jack & Sue	05/26
Greg & Jean	05/29



Joyce and Wayne	Lorraine
Bev	Shirley
Doris	Vibert
Bruce	Cliff



Send them a note today!

Bev	Wayne & Joyce
58 Pleasant Valley Road	Arbors at Hopbrook
South Windsor, CT 06074	403 W Center Street; Apt. 316
	Manchester, CT 06040

Lorraine
1693 John Fitch Blvd
South Windsor, CT 06074

Lunch Bunch

The lunch bunch meets September to June on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. This month they will meet on **May 17th**. Founded as a gathering for retired men, it is open to anyone who wants to visit over a brown bag lunch.



Scholarship Applications

Applications for the UCW Scholarship (see Diane) and the Edward C. and Doris M. Rockwell Scholarship (see Rachel) are available. Application deadline for both scholarships is **May 15th**.



UCW Scholarship Tag Sale

The tag sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 5th**. We will need people on the previous Sunday afternoon (4/29) to move items from D's warehouse to the church. We will also need people during the week to come in and help set up, organize and price the items for sale: M-F 9 am –5 pm, also W-F 6:30 – 9 pm. Please mark your calendars. Saturday, we will need many hands to assist shoppers. We are hoping some men will help as well with set-up and clean-up and, on Saturday, to assist shoppers with any large items.



Clean items may be brought to church during the week (please don't leave them outside) but bulky items (furniture, etc.) not until Friday please. Paper or plastic bags would also be appreciated.

Our Shared History: Old Main Street

Our Shared History Day preparations continue for April 28 from 10am - 2pm in conjunction with Ellsworth School's and Wood Memorial's open houses. Historical artifacts will be on display and tours and refreshments will be offered. Come join in the community fun!

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 May and June. 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.



May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours , unless otherwise noted Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid – Drop In Office Hours are: Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:30 pm, other times by appointment Claudia Steele, Administrative Assistant – Tuesday through Thursday 9:00am to 2:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon		1 7:00pm NA	2 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	3 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9:00am UCW Tag Sale
		Tag Sale Set up				
6 Deacon's Fund Collection 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour	7 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	8 7:00pm NA	9 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	10 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 9:00am Spring Clean up
13 Mother's Day Food Ingathering Blanket Sunday 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour 11:15am Deacon's Meeting	14 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	15 6:30pm Church Committee 7:00pm NA	16 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team 6:30pm UCW Spring Dinner	17 11:00am Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19 9:00am Adopt-a-Road 12:00pm Private "rental" - McNulty
20 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:00am Coffee hour Noon Silver Lake Field Trip	21 6:30pm Fair Workshop @ 1090 Main St	22 7:00pm NA	23 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	24 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 9:15am Choir Warmup 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee hour	28 Memorial Day	29 7:00pm NA	30 10:00 am Creative Hands 2:00pm Photo Archive Team	31 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

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Staff:

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

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Fair Workshops5/7, 14, 21
Creative Hands.....5/2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Photo Archive Team.....5/2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Choir Rehearsals.....5/3, 10, 17, 24
Spring Cleanup.....5/12
Lunch Bunch05/17
Newsletter Article Deadline05/17
Adopt-A-Road.....05/19
Book Group TBD
Church Picnic.....6/10

TO:



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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

“He departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find him.
 For he departed, and behold, he is here.”
 —St. Augustine