

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



January 2025

Happy New Year!!

Different cultures celebrate New Years differently; some with prayer and worship. We begin with prayer:

*Thank you, Lord, for your new beginnings
and unwavering provision.*

*We trust that your peace will watch over this church,
as we step into yet a new beginning. Amen.*

May we have a great New Year together to grow, learn and worship!

Pastor Dean



Pastoral Prayer for a New Year

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



WARNING

Official notice is hereby given that the 327th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in South Windsor, Connecticut, will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 26th, 2025 after the Morning Service, as well as via Zoom.

For the purpose of:

1. Accepting the Board and Committee Reports for 2024.
2. Electing church officers/board/committees and personnel for 2025.
3. Approving the Operating Budget for 2025.
4. Enacting any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Jean Jackson, Clerk
Judy Borre, Moderator

Inclement weather date – February 2, 2025



Pastor Dean talks to the children about false idols during the children's moment on a recent Sunday during Advent.

Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held December 10, 2024 -

- Treasurer's report - Income for November was \$19,633.54. Income includes \$10,000 received from the brokerage account to cover expenses. Expenses were \$14,571.19. Sue Larsen noted that the Capital Funds account was transferred from Webster Bank to a new account with M&T Bank. Surplus for November was \$5,062.35; year-to-date deficit is \$9,780.84.
- Investments - The brokerage account saw an increase of \$130,967.32 in November, which includes \$3,561.46 in dividends and interest. A total of \$10,000 was withdrawn to cover expenses. The net increase for the month was \$120,967.32. The ending balance for November is \$2,292,558.45. No changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 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.
- The Annual Meeting will be held January 26, 2025 following the morning service.



Music Committee

Jean Jackson and Lisa Horsfield



The sanctuary piano was tuned November 26th and a minor repair to one key was completed. The choir welcomed soprano Wendy Leonard to the group. Kamilla will be off December 24th and the 29th. Jean Jackson will cover for her.

Moderator's Moment

Judy Borré

2025 First Congregational Church Annual Meeting

It's that time again – our Annual Meeting. The date has been set for Sunday, January 26, 2025 and will be held in Fellowship Hall. The inclement weather date is the following Sunday, February 2, 2025.

Committee chairs should provide me with their slate of members by December 29, 2024. No nominations from the floor will be accepted. After the slate has been presented to the membership, if someone would like to fill a vacancy on a committee then they should talk to the committee chair. The committee in question will vote on membership.

Committee reports should be submitted to Carrie by January 3, 2025.
Financials submitted by January 10, 2025.

As in the past, the Diaconate will be catering the meeting. If you would like to provide something such as desserts, please talk to Barb Wright.

Trustees News

Jean Trotman



Motion sensor lighting has been installed to improve night-time lighting at the west (back) and north sides of the church. We are very pleased with the money we have received for repairs to our floor. To date, \$41,337 has already been received with more pledged. The congregation has worked hard to get us to this point and we can all be proud of our efforts. Thank you.

FRESH FAIR GREENS!

Pictured left: Rachel Anderson works on a cemetery box. At right: Vicky Margiott and Janet Prior work on fair greens. Below: Terry Belknap and Ingrid Fraize work on cemetery boxes. So much love goes into these greens.



Wreaths Across America



A long-standing tradition here at First Church is supporting the Wreaths Across America mission by hosting a warm up social in Fellowship Hall after the wreaths are placed by area scouts and their families. Thank you to our many church angels for supporting us by making or donating treats for this special community event!

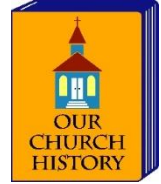
Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

I want to skip most of the troubles with the Native Americans and the details of the early years of Windsor (called Dorchester at that time) and the Connecticut River Colony. It deserves more detail and attention than I want to give it here. Even so, I do want to mention that it is estimated this new settlement had fifty or so families in 1636 (about 235 people with about thirty of them bachelors). That was about 40 percent of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Dorchester settlers. Of this core group, about 75 percent were from the West Country of England and had come on the Mary and John or one of John White's associated ships. Thus, they held a strong bond. They had shared crossing the Atlantic, and the experiences of the hardship of two relocating moves. This small community's position was threatened by the presence of other groups: The Dutch with their fort, the Plymouth people and the Stiles group with Saltonstall still claiming the land. A sort of unsettled situation. Even though they had little more than squatters' rights plus these other groups to deal with, the English settlers in the area had some of cooperation among the groups.

In 1636, a Commission was established to govern the Connecticut Plantations. At its June meeting, they ordered that the boundaries between the plantations be surveyed. Each town was to form a watch and every able-bodied man was to have in readiness a musket, two pounds of powder and twenty lead bullets.

As troubles with the native Americans subsided, settling on the east side of the river became safer and the land was fertile. Next month, we will be looking at the history of the settling in what would become South Windsor.



Pictured Left:
Barbara Wright
reads the
scriptures during
Advent.

Right: Pastor
Dean and Judy
Borré read the
liturgy for the
lighting of the 3rd
Advent candle.





*Advent Candle
Lighting
Advent 1 and 2*

Above: The Soares Family lit the Advent candle on the First Sunday of Advent.

Left: Bob and Julie Reynolds had the honor on the Second Sunday of Advent.



Hanging of the Chrismos



Hanging of the Chrismos, cont.





On Tuesday, November 26, 2024 First Congregational Church of South Windsor hosted the 2024 Union Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Clergy of many faiths throughout town were invited to participate. We were honored to have our minister, the Rev. Dr. Dean M. Kucera lead the service together with the Rev. Mark Abernethy of Wapping Community Church, UCC; Rabbi Leah Benamy of Temple Beth Hillel synagogue; the Rev. Christine Boylan from Unity Church of Greater Hartford; the Rev. Pam Vollinger, UCC Minister; and Deacon Edward J. Giard of Saint Junipero Serra parish. It was a very special evening of unity and the offering collection of over \$1,200.00 will go to the South Windsor Food Bank.



**Interfaith
Service**

Church Family News



Mary Pelton 01/04
 Betty Couture 01/04
 Everett Cote 01/04
 Leilani Dinse 01/06
 Chenoa Anderson 01/07
 Chris Kurtzman 01/11
 Jared Clarke 01/25

Rebecca Zaugg 01/26
 Ryan Zaugg 01/26
 Lauren Clarke 01/27
 Tracy Margiott 01/27
 Stephen Johnson 01/28
 Carolyn Stearns 01/28
 June Aino 01/30
 Aimee Bombara 01/31
 Morgan Gobin 01/31



Doris Burgdorf
 Della Mitchell
 Cliff McClellan
 The Cox Family

The Zaugg Family
 Joyce Coon
 Bob Woodward
 Carol Mattera

Newsletter Deadline



The next newsletter issue will be published in **February 2025**. Please send your submissions and **photos** to the church office by **Jan.10th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thanks!

Church Office Hours

Hours are normally Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm.
 The office will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025.
 Happy New Year!



Annual Report Deadlines to Carrie

Committee Reports due January 3, 2025.
 Financial Reports due January 10, 2025.
 Thanks!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR

United Church of Christ

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TO: