

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



February 2026

Are You Wondering?

The power of wondering depends on if you wonder, when, or wonder if. Dear faith travelers, why do we wonder? Wondering takes away the resistance and is a powerful thought experiment! After all, you're only wondering, no harm in that. There is nothing to fight against, thus, just wondering is a passive cognitive exercise. But when we see, for example, change and growth in us or in our church, wondering becomes 'active' engagement. I wonder IF this change in me or our church is a good sign. Now, wondering when is an active, speculative exercise that, instead of wondering if something will happen, wondering when presupposes it will; it is a very powerful process because it assures that good change and positive growth 'will occur'!

When we choose if or when, it makes a difference in how our vision for ourselves and our church develops. When we choose to wonder, then we expect blessings to come our way by faith. Wondering if has an elemental doubt, as if waiting to see if what is coming is a good thing!

Both of these thought experiments can change our lives here at First Church dramatically. When we wonder when the blessings will happen, we demonstrate our collective faith in our vision, mission, and future mission to our community. I wonder when each of you will add this powerful and transformative approach to your prayers. I wonder what's next.

Together forward,

Pastor Dean

<p>Pastor Dean's Hours & Office Schedule: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Monday: Off</p>

Save the Date!

Sunday, March 22, 2026, *Take Note!* will present a fundraising concert here at First Church, at 3:00 pm. *Take Note!* is an a capella group from the Mansfield area. The concert will raise funds for the floor project in Fellowship Hall. Their services are at no cost to us. A donation toward the project will be requested of attendees. Please spread the word!



See Jean Jackson with questions about this event.

Parish Nurse

Melody Treadwell



Parish Nurse, Melody Treadwell, will be available on **Thursdays** for the coming weeks in the chapel from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM for anyone needing blood pressure or blood sugar screening or to discuss health concerns. It is recommended to confirm availability with the church office, since she accompanies the Pastor on occasion.

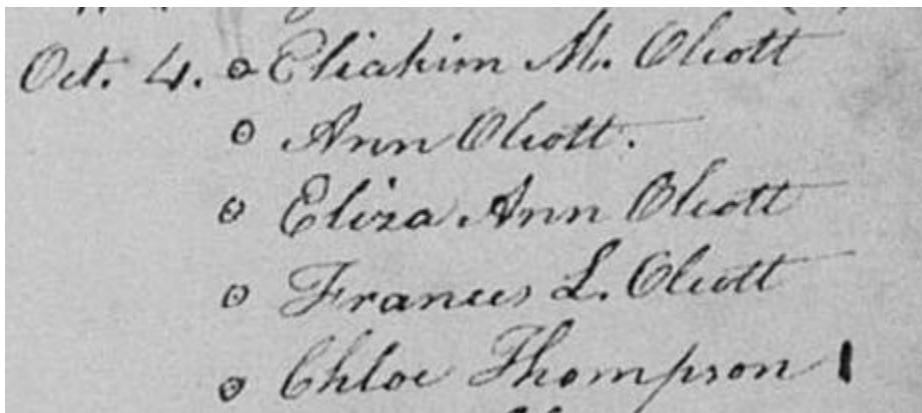
Welcome, Our New Member!

December 28, 2025, was a special service receiving a new member into membership at First Church. Please help us welcome Barbara Nixon. Barbara enjoys crafts and watercolor painting in her free time. She has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. We are delighted to have her here at our church.

Church Historian

Mary Crittenden

This month, I want to share a letter that was written 125 years ago by an elderly member of our congregation, Francis L. Olcott, in response to an invitation to attend the Annual Meeting. She, her parents and sister joined our church in 1840 when they transferred their membership from the Windsor Church. Our records in Church Notes show in the list of those who joined in 1840 the following:



Oct. 4. o Eliakim Al. Olcott
o Ann Olcott.
o Eliza Ann Olcott
o Francis L. Olcott
o Chloe Thompson

Turning to the Center Cemetery Alpha List of tombstones found we find the Record for Francis L. Olcott

Olcott, Francis L., b. c.1821, d. May 18, 1846, Age 89

That doesn't add up: 1821 plus 89 would be 1910, and we received a letter from her in 1900. The date on the stone must not have been clear/readable. Be that as it may, let's get on to her letter:

"Dear Friends, Thanks for the invitation to the annual meeting of the members of the congregational Church in South Windsor. Should be pleased to be with you, but as I shall not be able, will write a few lines as my name comes first in the list of members in our new Manual. My mind goes back to that day. It was October 4th, 1840, that I was received to membership in the East, now South Windsor Congregational Church, by letter from the First Congregational Church, Windsor, Connecticut. There were about 100 members. Reverend Lewis Smith, pastor. The old meeting house, built in 1761, was then standing and continued to be used for public worship until May 17th, 1846, when it was used for the last time. Reverend Mr.

Smith's text was Ecclesiastes 3:3, "A time to break down and a time to build up." Reverend Dr. Robins spoke from Isaiah 5:4, "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it." We looked with something of sadness, knowing that the house where our fathers had worshiped was doomed to be seen no more, but the present edifice was built the same year and dedicated Dec. 23, 1846. Reverend Smith's text was Psalms 23:6. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever". I hardly know what to write as expression of my interest in the church, so I send this bit of history which I am glad to remember with many good wishes for the prosperity of the church. I remain very sincerely your friend in the bonds of the Gospel."

Francis L. Olcott



Join us for an
Ice Cream Social!

First Congregational Church, 993 Main Street,
South Windsor, CT.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

6:30-8 PM

in Fellowship Hall

This event is free and all are welcome.

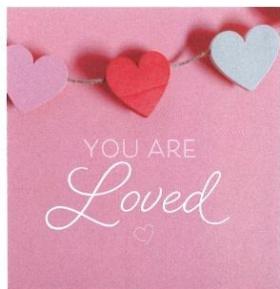
Bring a friend if you'd like or
come on your own to make
your own sundaes!

RSVP for planning requested but not required. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall or contact the office:
860/528-7992

Firstchurchsw@gmail.com

Firstchurchsw.org

Follow us on Facebook!





Missions Committee

Nancy Stearns

The Missions Committee thanks all who participated in our Christmas Gift Card collection for MACC (Manchester Area Conference of Churches) families. We sponsored a total of 23 people for the Christmas holiday dinners and Christmas gifts.

I am overwhelmed by our congregation's generosity this holiday season. From the emergency food collection for MACC to the Thanksgiving food collection for Cornerstone and then to the Christmas Gift Card collection for MACC clients, members of First Church have responded with an outpouring of support to help our most vulnerable neighbors during these difficult times.

We are in need of additional prayer shawls for our ministry. If you knit or crochet, instructions and yarn are available in the lower hall closet. The shawls are presented to women to comfort them when they are struggling with issues such as a medical crisis or grief, (Men receive fleece throws). We have received positive feedback from people who are grateful to have received the shawls and want to continue this ministry, but making them is time-consuming and we need your help. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Missions Committee.

The Missions Committee is purchasing items to make hot cocoa packets with peppermint sticks and mini marshmallows – February 15th, after coffee hour - for the Hands on Hartford Nutritional Backpack program. These backpacks are provided to children who receive free breakfast and lunch in school but are at risk of going hungry on weekends. Please spend a few minutes helping us assemble the packets after church to give these children a treat.





*First Congregational Church of
South Windsor
Lent and Easter Programs and Worship
2026*

Ash Wednesday, February 18th-The church chapel will be open from 9:00 AM to Noon for anyone wishing to receive ashes.



Lenten Supper #1, February 25th at 6:30 PM

Speaker: Minister Josh Pawelek of Unitarian Universalist Society East
Pastor Dean will prepare his famous Hungarian Goulash and Salad.

Lenten Supper #2, Wednesday, March 11th 6:30PM

Speaker: Donnamarie Brown, Hospice Chaplain
Potato & Leek Soup and Salad by Bob and Julie Reynolds.

Lenten Supper #3, Wednesday, March 25th 6:30PM

Speaker: Cantor Talya Smilowitz, of Temple Beth Hillel
Lenten soup & salad by Marc and Betty Couture.

*All are welcome to our Lenten meals & discussion series. Please register with the church office for food planning purposes. firstchurchsw@gmail.com or (860)528-7992 –

There are also sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!

Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, March 29th, 10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast to follow!

*Sign up/Register for the Pancake Breakfast: Sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office at firstchurchsw@gmail.com or (860) 528-7992.

Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 2nd, 7:00 PM Service of Shadows and Communion, in person or on Zoom.

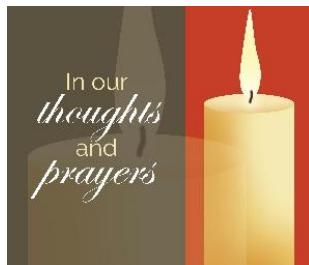
Good Friday, Friday, April 3rd, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM- Church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection.

Easter Sunday Service, Sunday, April 5th, 10:00 AM in person or on Zoom.

Church Family NewsA graphic for "FEBRUARY Birthdays". It features a red heart icon to the left of the word "FEBRUARY" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below "FEBRUARY" is the word "Birthdays" in a smaller, gray, sans-serif font.

2/03 Kristen Daigle
2/06 Nancy Stearns
2/09 Amanda McNulty
2/11 Caitlin Connelly
2/12 Caroline Klein
2/12 Samantha McNulty

2/14 Emaleigh Daigle
2/13 Cliff McClellan
2/18 Clayton Daigle
2/21 Barbara Nixon
2/21 Beverly Zaugg
2/22 Ruth Bombara



The Addington Family
The Belknap Family
Joyce Coon
The Charette Family
Doris Burgdorf
Della Mitchell

Iva Burnham
Bob Woodward
The McIntosh Family
The Anderson Family
The Sharp Family
The Senger Family

Church Office Hours

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

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **March 2026**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **February 13th** for inclusion: firstchurchsw@gmail.com ~ Thank you!



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United Church of Christ

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TO: