

Main Street Musing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTH WINDSOR



April 2024

Who is Jesus? A man for us!

There are many views of Jesus: a man, a god, The Messiah, The Savior, an exceptional being, a supernatural being or a human being?

I am of the opinion that Jesus was a human being. A very special man but a man nonetheless. I hold this view as it makes the practice of Christian faith more realistic and attainable for me. Christianity is the religion about Jesus and Judaism was the religion of Jesus. The fundamental idea of Christianity is ascent through conscience into Communion with God. This seems to me to be the aim and thought of Jesus. The human Jesus is the man who teaches one that Communion with God is attainable for anyone who seeks God to know God. Jesus' words and deeds come from his Communion with God. But from where did his thoughts come? Not from moments of rapture, but from his seeking deeper meaning in the ordinary circumstances and events from life! Jesus found God not by closing his eyes to the world about him, BUT by looking at it more sharply and penetratingly. His teachings were in terms of common life, not of unearthly visions. They were based on his own experience with nature and man. His parables were always illustrated by everyday life and spoke to the average individual. His thought was one with the blooming clover and the falling rain, because through these and through all the processes of nature God was teaching him His truth.

In comparison, John the Baptist kept to the wilderness. He was an ascetic. Jesus liked to be where the people were. Sham, pretense

and mere conventionality were disagreeable to him! He was called “a gluttonous man and winebibber”, but in truth was a joyful comrade. Seeking to uplift and guide the life of fellows from within. His faith was a layman’s faith. After all, he was himself a layman!

Jesus? Were we to meet him today at the store, we would find him strong, clean, reverent, generous in nature, a singularly keen and active mind, a boundless sympathy, and a practical solitude, and exceedingly sensitive to spiritual values, he lived his life as near to the heart of God as a human creature can get. His foremost aim was to do the will of His Creator. To that aim, he devoted himself within a consecration that only death, if it were allowed, could defeat, but it could not. He is the one to help us find our way and for me, my Joyous Jewish Comrade in life!

Blessings,

Rev Dr. Dean Michael Kucera



Pastor Dean’s children’s moment on March 17th was centered around the value of money and the disciples betrayal of Jesus.

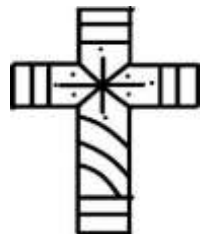
Deacons

Barbara Wright

Interested in becoming a member of First Church?



There will be a new member reception on Sunday, April 28th. Anyone interested in becoming a member of First Congregational Church, please speak to Pastor Dean and plan to meet with the Deacons following worship on **April 7th** to let them know.



Church Committee

Jean Jackson, Clerk

Clerk's highlights from the Church Committee meeting held March 12, 2024 -

- Treasurer's report - February expenses were \$24,273.43. Income was \$25,548.05. Net income for the month is \$1,274.62. Sue Larsen mentioned the \$6,000 received from UCW for the alarm system, and the \$1,500 cost to check the floor in Fellowship Hall.
- Investments - The brokerage account had a gain of \$20,240 during February. A total of \$12,000 was withdrawn to cover expenses, resulting in a net increase of \$8,240. The ending value for February was \$2,015,813.48. Jim Belknap noted that no changes were made to the portfolio.
- The next Church Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 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.



Trustees News

Jean Trotman

The gutters on the main church building have been cleaned. At the same time some bird holes in the top of the columns were filled and painted. If you noticed ruts in the lawn, it is because the lift used to clean the gutters and also used to reach these spaces.

The AED (defibrillator) cabinet has been installed on the wall next to work room door. We selected this location because of the ease of access from multiple areas in the church.

A 1-hour class on CPR and how to respond to choking has been scheduled for April 9th at 10:00 AM. The class is full, but if there is more interest we can schedule another at a later time.

The front room in the Wolcott Building has been reserved for a Historical Research Center which will house information on Timothy and Jonathan Edwards and their family.

We will hold the annual clean-up day on Saturday, May 11th, from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Vicky and Paul Margiott will remove the dead boxwood shrubs on the front lawn and replace them with something appropriate for the space. We are also going to have the overgrown hedges along the sidewalks to the front door removed and the land graded and seeded.

Have you noticed that the carpeted floor in Fellowship Hall seems rather lumpy? Have you tripped over the “speed bumps”? After some investigation, the Trustees have learned that the floor under the carpet is failing. To fix it, the current carpet, asphalt asbestos tile under it and the cement floor all need to be removed and the cement and carpet replaced. Initial estimates, if we do all of the above, are between \$100,000 and \$110,000. We are working on getting additional quotes for the work and have yet to determine our final recommendation. It could take as long as 2 months to complete whatever work we ultimately decide to have done, so we are currently targeting next summer for this project.

In light of the high cost, we are doing 3 things to mitigate the impact on our trust funds: 1) soliciting additional quotes for the work, 2) applying for various grants in the hopes we can get some outside funding and 3) starting capital fundraising projects. Since we can't assume we will get grants or how much funding they will provide, the congregation needs to raise as much of the needed funds as possible. If you are interested in joining the Fundraising team, please contact me.

Over the years the summer tag sale has been a successful money maker. In the past, the profit has been used to fund scholarships for our members, but this year we will make this part of our fundraising strategy for the repairs to the Fellowship Hall floor. We are in the

planning stages for holding one this summer in August. A large tag sale takes a lot of work, so we will need help from all of you: donations, moving items from the warehouse to the church, setting up and pricing, etc.

If you have ideas for other fundraising projects, please contact me or any one of the Trustees. More information to follow on all of these efforts.



Fellowship & Fun!

*Paper Flower Craft Night, Thursday
April 11, 2024 at 6:30PM in Fellowship
Hall. All materials will be provided. A
sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship
Hall by the kitchen window so we can
plan for supplies.*

Hosted by Carrie Morse & Mary Crittenden

UCW Corner

Linda Dalpe

Fair news - We have begun working on items for the 2024 fair! Come join us Fridays 1:00-4:00 at the 1090 Main St. warehouse. Bring a project that you want help with, a new idea, or want to work on a current project underway. You don't need a lot of talent. We can find a job for you. Contact Linda @ 860-528-1936 or lindald001@aol.com to let her know you are coming to join us.

When you are doing spring cleaning or tag sale-ing, please watch for the following items that we can recycle into some interesting things for our 2024 fair.

- jewelry that you no longer wear (even if repairs needed)
- blue (and red) dessert plates or saucers with blue onion, willow blue patterns, scenic design patterns (like Johnson brothers)
- scrabble games that still have all the letters
- puzzles with missing pieces
- very large baskets
- Christmas cards



Save the date 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.

***UCW to Host Workshop: Sunday, April 14, 2024 11:30 AM
Releasing Negative Thought Patterns: The Labels We Carry***

Christine Rapp Dombrowski, PhD
finding dharma LLC

Everyone carries labels they use to define who they are - like, for example, mother/father, artist, caretaker, teacher, athlete, daughter/son, volunteer, leader, etc. So often, however, they do not realize how these labels are given to them, how they unconsciously accept and live by them, and how they impact so many aspects of their lives, and not always in beneficial ways (like by creating feelings of guilt or inadequacy).



By beginning to connect with your true self and embracing self-compassion, self-reflection, self-advocacy, and self-empowerment, you can consciously use labels so that they work for you, instead of limiting yourself or creating negative self-beliefs.

In this workshop, you will have the opportunity to:

1. explore the labels you use to describe who you are, what you do, and what you feel you are obligated to do;
2. examine how each of these labels comes with defined expectations - those placed on you by others and those you place on yourself;
3. reflect on how these expectations impact your well-being; and
4. consciously work with labels that align with who you are in a flexible and loving way.

A sign-up sheet for this workshop is in Fellowship Hall. We would love for you to join us! Contact Linda Dalpe with any questions: (860)289-8101.

Historian's Column

Mary Crittenden

I do not know who wrote this. It filled the back page of the Worship bulletin so the writer had so little space to cover so much that it reads much of how I remember high school history classes: a memorization of names and dates. While I disliked that back then, I wanted more detail about the people; I appreciate it here. It is a quick search of when some major events took place. I want to blend information from this into my timeline of the church. It is a work in progress as there are things that I have no dates for or much information about.

Quoting from the church bulletin for Oct. 18, 1970.

Anniversary Service: Marking 175 – 176 year Anniversary

The First Congregational Church of South Windsor has accommodated the spiritual needs of the town since 1694, when The Rev. Timothy Edwards began his pastorate on Nov. 12. Its 50 families, who had moved from Windsor to be closer to their farming properties on the Connecticut River's east bank, erected their first meeting house immediately after Rev. Edwards' arrival. This frame was erected at the northeast corner of the old cemetery. It was used until 1712 when a second one was built at the same site.

A third church was built in the middle of the road, about a mile south. It was an outstanding specimen of architecture with a steeple which was the pride of the town. Old Doc Primus made the wry observation at the time, "Small church, big steeple: proud committee, poor people." Built in 1761, this edifice was moved back from the road in 1824. Using many of



the timbers of the third church, the present one became the fourth to be built in 1845.

Wolcott Memorial Chapel, a gift of Samuel Tutor Wolcott was dedicated in 1887.

In 1903, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jonathan Edwards, Memorial windows were placed in the church. One window honors the memory of Timothy Edwards, the first pastor, who served for 63 years, In 1924 the basement, which had not been used for some years, was restored for classrooms and a kitchen. The interior took on a new look in 1947 when the organ was moved from the front to the balcony in back. Wood paneling was added to the front wall and gifts, including a brass chandelier, matching wall fixtures, added colonial beauty to the house of worship. The original pew doors, stored in the carriage shed, were placed in the church again.

The growth of the church school pointed the need for additional facilities in the early 1950's. The wagon shed was torn down. Ground breaking services were held May 5, 1957 and cornerstone ceremonies were held

November 10, 1957. The new parish addition and Metzger Chapel was dedicated February 9, 1958.

First Congregational Church, rich in heritage, can be proud of the first 275 years!

Today in 2024 more events could be added, but they belong in a more expanded timeline to showcase our 329+ years.



Church Family News



Pam Michaud	04/06	Lilly Morse	04/20
James Belknap	04/07	Caty Ventura	04/22
Lynda Jones	04/07	Justin Clark	04/23
Rachel Anderson	04/15	Colin Neary	04/25
Donna Woolam	04/16	Megan McClellan	04/26
Jacob Charette	04/20		



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



Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter issue will be published in **May 2024**. Please send your submissions **and photos** to the church office by **April 12th** for inclusion:
firstchurchsw@gmail.com Thank you.



Church Office Hours

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

Lenten Soup Supper 2024

Our lenten soup supper, held on Feb 28th was an extra soup-er treat this year! Pastor Dean made his homemade Hungarian goulash and held a discussion about the discernment process. There was a great turnout and it was a wonderful time of fellowship for all! Thank you to Pastor Dean and everyone else who helped make the night so fun!



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TO: