



The GOOD News!



February 2016

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam
"An Open and Affirming Church"



Lectionary Readings:

February 7, 2016

Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Astounding Glory

February 10, 2016

ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 14, 2016

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

Wilderness Companions

February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35 or

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Strong and Tender

February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Open Invitation



Jesus of Nazareth was, among other things, a fearless prophet. He wrestled with the devil of temptations in the wilderness. He began his public ministry with a call to repentance, echoing the words of that other fearless prophet, John the Baptizer: "Repent, for the reign of God has come near" (Matthew 4:17). He drove out even the most recalcitrant demons. He calmed even the fiercest storms. Preaching at his home synagogue in Nazareth, he had the audacity to claim that his ministry was going to inaugurate "the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:19, quoting Isaiah 61:2).

As your interim pastor (certainly not as a fearless prophet!), I would like to boldly suggest that the year 2016 has the potential to be a year of God's favor for our two congregations. As we recognize and embody our interdependence, our interconnectedness, we will become aware of new opportunities for deepening and expanding the ministries of our congregations, for strengthening our witness to love of God and love of neighbor in our community.

I would also like to offer a caveat: this year of God's favor can only become a reality if every member and friend of our congregations decides to invest their time and talent and treasure in building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). To change the metaphor, it's time for all hands on deck. This year you will be facing decisions that will impact your future as an interdependent, Christian witnessing community for many years to come. The path to these decisions needs everyone's input.

This is my personal invitation to members and friends of our two congregations: please join us as often as you are able for regular Sunday morning worship services, as well as for monthly congregation-wide conversations centering on your mission, vision, and values. Let's work and pray together to make the year of God's favor a reality for our churches!

A reminder that the worship schedule for the four Sundays of February (7, 14, 21, 28) continues with worship at the Higganum Congregational Church at 9:00 a.m. and worship at the First Congregational Church of Haddam at 10:30 a.m. Beginning on Sunday, March 6, and continuing through Sunday, June 26, the Sunday schedule will switch to worship at 9:00 a.m. at First Congregational and 10:30 a.m. at Higganum Congregational.

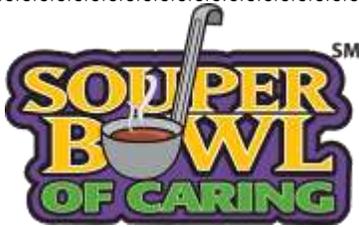
Many blessings,
Pastor Doug

The
Season
of
Lent



February Worship Plans

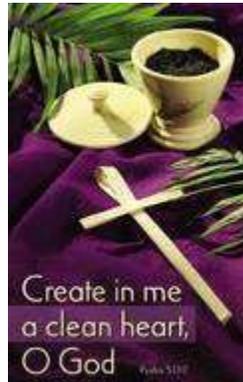
- **Sunday, February 7. *Transfiguration Sunday.* Communion.**
 - *Scripture:* Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36.
 - *Sermon:* My Chosen One
- **Sunday, February 14. *First Sunday in Lent.***
 - *Scripture:* Deuteronomy 6:10-25; Luke 4:1-13.
 - *Sermon:* Wilderness
- **Sunday, February 21. *Second Sunday in Lent.***
 - *Scripture:* Genesis 15:1-6; Luke 9:37-43a.
 - *Sermon:* The Greatness of God
- **Sunday, February 28. *Third Sunday in Lent.***
 - *Scripture:* Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9.
 - *Sermon:* If It Bears Fruit Next Year...



Sunday, February 7th

Our youth will be joining young people throughout the country in collecting money in soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a simple effort to “love the Lord our God...and love our neighbors”. The money collected will be donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.



Worship Opportunities for
Ash Wednesday
February 10:

- Eucharistic service, with imposition of ashes, at **St. James Episcopal**, 501 Killingworth Rd, Higganum 06441, 6pm
- Quiet reflective prayer service, with ashes available, at **Killingworth UCC**, 273 Route 81, Killingworth 06419, 7pm

MISSION OF THE MONTH PROJECT



This month it has been suggested that we collect new socks for men and women who are homeless. Clean cotton socks are badly needed at this time of year. When people do not have facilities to do wash or do not have safe dry places to rest, clean dry sock are really appreciated.

If you are able to pick up a package or two of socks, place them in the basket in the vestibule. We will bring them to St. Vincent de Paul at the end of the month.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



This project continues throughout the year. Cash register receipts from the Higganum Market are returned to the market and the church receives a portion of the total receipts. The amount is usually between \$30 and \$60 per month. The market owner, Mr. Ming is a great community activity supporter. Take a minute to visit the market. The meat is terrific and the sesame noodles are delicious. The Box Tops for Education are given to the elementary schools. These are returned and the proceeds provide for school supplies. The old eye glasses go to the Lion's Club. The empty ink cartridges are brought to Staples. Children's picture books are brought to Read to Grow who give them to families with young children. By recycling your trash you can help someone else and decrease the amount of trash in the land-fill.

FOOD FOR AMAZING GRACE

Each week we collect food items that are brought to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. We collect tuna, mayonnaise, cooking oil, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned fruit and cereal. This month we had only 40 pounds of food. On a good month we have 70 to 100 pounds of food. This pantry is used by hundreds of people each month. Our little bit helps to feed hungry families.

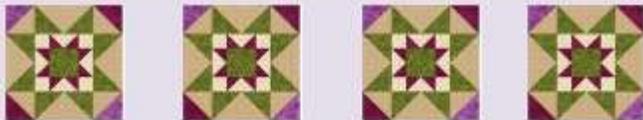
When the month has a 5th Sunday, we collect paper goods for Haddam Public Health.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



There was \$37.00 in the Pennies from Heaven tube at the end of the month. This money will be sent to the Haddam Back Pack project. This project provides weekend back packs full of protein rich food and snacks for about 30 school children who are at risk of being hungry on the weekend.

If you have an idea of an agency that would benefit from small donations from this project please notify the minister or the members of the Christian Service committee.



COMMUNITY QUILTING GROUP

The Community Quilting Group meets on the first Wednesday in the morning, 9:30-12:30 and on the third Wednesday in the evening, 6:30-9. Come and learn to quilt!

This group is open to everyone!

Contact Ginny Evensen for more information
860-301-3964 or vrgnevnsn@aol.com.



Andrew Purdy	February 7 th
Samantha Panzella	February 16 th
Alex Twachtman	February 17 th
Grady Barber	February 20 th
Emily Hotkowski	February 26 th
Ava Harriman	February 26 th



Silver Lake Conference Center Summer Camp

Registration Now Open!



January 2016

Dear friends at First Congregational Church of Haddam,

Re: Total of your 2015 donations to Amazing Grace Food Pantry

During 2015 a total of 11,694 households were served at Amazing Grace Food Pantry and over 375,000 items of food were distributed throughout the year. Each month an average of 975 people came to Amazing Grace to select food – free of charge - for their families. We very much appreciate your generous gifts of food items during 2015. These donations were essential to keeping the pantry shelves stocked and ready for “shopping.”

NUMBER OF POUNDS OF FOOD YOU DONATED IN 2015: 668

Amazing Grace volunteers weigh all donations and the figure above reflects the total pounds written on your 2015 Food Donation Forms. If your records differ or you have a question about your total donations for 2015, please contact Mimi Rich, who tracks food donations, at mimi@svdmiddletown.org or Kathleen Kelly, Amazing Grace Food Pantry Director, at 860-347-3222.

Amazing Grace is a program of St. Vincent de Paul Middletown, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible as determined by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

It is only with the continuing commitment of so many generous members of our community that Amazing Grace is able to provide food for families who are most in need. We are extremely grateful for your continuing support of this mission.

With thanks,

Mimi

Mimi Rich, Coordinator
Families Feeding Families Food Donation Program

Help Decorate our Sanctuary!



A floral arrangement sign-up chart is posted in the vestibule. Please sign up to provide flowers for our altar on any Sunday.

They can be in celebration of a special event or in memory of a loved one – any reason will do!

Middlesex Hospice Needs Volunteers

At Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, volunteers are an integral part of our interdisciplinary team, reaching out to patients and families as they cope with the challenges of terminal illness. Volunteers can choose to work in homecare, on the Weiss Hospice Unit or in bereavement support after completing 40 hours of classes and a 12-hour mentorship. Our annual training runs from early February to mid-April 2016, and is held on four Saturdays and one evening. The program welcomes both male and female volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. To begin our application process, please contact Jackie Thurnauer, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at (860) 358-6955 or jaclyn.thurnauer@midhosp.org, at your earliest convenience.

Ivoryton Congregational Church offers
 Souper Bowl Sunday Grinders, Chili &
 Famous Bean Soup – February 7th
 Bean Soup: \$4.50 pint / \$8.00 quart
 12" Grinders: \$8.00

Roast Beef – Salami – Ham – Turkey Breast – Tuna
 Fish
 Provolone Cheese – American Cheese
 Tomato – Lettuce – Mayonnaise – Oil & Vinegar

Order by Wednesday, February 3rd
 Church: 860-767-1004 / Isobel: 860-767-8167
 Pick-up on Sunday, February 7th noon-1pm
 Ivoryton Congregational Church
 57 Main Street, Ivoryton

New! Medical Transportation to Middletown

Public Transportation for all ages serving
 Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam,
 Durham, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme,
 Old Lyme, Old Saybrook & Westbrook

Connections to Southeast Area Transit buses in New London,
 CT Transit New Haven in Madison, Middletown Transit and
 CT Transit Hartford in Middletown

Call 860-554-0551

www.9towntransit.com

9 Town Transit is Operated by the Estuary Transit District

The Smarter Choice for Care

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL

Bereavement
 Support Groups

Middlesex Hospital
 Every first and third Monday
 5pm-6:30pm
 Conference Room A

One MacDonough Place
 Every second and fourth Wednesday
 10am-11:30am
 Please sign in at the front desk.
*(This is the Hospital's assisted living facility on the
 corner of Main Street extension and MacDonough
 Place)*

Essex Library
 Every first and third Tuesday
 2pm-3pm

Every second and fourth Tuesday
 5pm-6pm
 33 West Avenue, Essex
 860-767-1560

For more information contact:

Chaplain Dennis McCann
 Hospital Chaplain, 203-640-5821

