



The Belfry

AND

THE GOOD NEWS!

a Joint Newsletter of the

Higganum Congregational Church

AND

First Congregational Church of Haddam

United Church of Christ

JUNE

in the 2017th Year of our Lord

Sharing Our Love and God-given Gifts



Higganum Congregational Church
First Congregational Church of Haddam
Returned mail to
23 Parsonage Rd.
Higganum, CT 06441

Address Service Requested

Church websites: www.hccucc.org and www.haddamconchurch.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 9:00 a.m. at FCCH and 10:30 a.m. at HCC (*except as noted inside*)
Christian Education and Child Care provided during Sunday Worship Service

Church~

As we move into the warmer months and the end of school to summer we are planning to try a few new things in worship. I am aware that many of you will probably attend worship less often as you spend more time outdoors and away from home. We hope you plan to share worship with us when you're in town.

We will be seeking to make worship more inviting and friendly for our younger church family members in the coming months. It has been said that faith is caught, rather than taught. The children will be witnesses to our example of sharing worship together.

This summer we will go to the movies - not literally; but during 6 or 7 of our summer worship services we'll be focusing on a recently released movie from a theological faith perspective. We'll look for God in the movies and how the films contain truths for our daily lives. Even if you haven't seen the movie, we hope you'll join us - we'll help you become familiar with the story and what it means for YOU! We will begin going to the Movies—in worship on June 25th!

Many of the movies we will focus on will be family films, rated G or PG-13, but all will be presented with consideration of all ages being a part of worship. *Finding Dory*, *Hidden Figures*, *Lion*, *Moana*, *13th* (a documentary), *Loving* and *Sing* are being considered. A complete list will come out later. I also hope we can provide an opportunity to share viewing the film in a

group the week before it is the focus of worship. Stay tuned for more details and ideas are welcome.

We invite each of you to come to worship this summer in a state of wonder—to seek to look to learn something new each time you enter the worship space—to welcome



the opportunity to share worship with our youngest members and to share your thoughts and ideas as we move forward. I look forward to each of you sharing yourself, including your gifts and talents, in worship this summer.

Abundant Blessings,
Tomi

June Worship Schedule

During the month of June, worship services on Sunday will be held at
9 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Haddam
and
10:30 a.m. at Higganum Congregational Church

With the exception of a joint worship service on
Sunday June 4th at 10:30 a.m. at
Higganum Congregational Church

PENTACOST SUNDAY – JUNE 4TH

Shared Worship with Communion 10:30 am at Higganum Congregational Church

June 4, 2017 is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the birth of the church. Who doesn't like a birthday party? We will have a birthday party for the church that Sunday, complete with cake, party decorations, and gifts. You are invited to bring items for the **Amazing Grace Food Pantry** as your gifts for the church that day!!



Be sure and wear RED, but orange or yellow also work to represent the tongues of flame that symbolized the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. **Get in the Spirit!**

If you speak another language well and would like to read scripture in that language on Pentecost Sunday... please let Rev Tomi know.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to re-imagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. **Our congregations will receive the STC offering NEXT SUNDAY, Pentecost, June 4th**



SIPPING INTO SUMMER

As we gear up for summer, the HCC Trustees have been busy wrapping up a few projects, including:

- having both HCC Church buildings pressure washed to make them gleam again
- installing a new microwave in the Parsonage
- installing carpeting in Reverend Tomi's office at FCCH with help from Jim Ziobro, and
- Set-up for reception following our Pastor's installation.

A special Thank you goes out to Allen Chadwick and Jack Calhoun for bringing their equipment and removing the stone off the lawns that was pushed into piles resulting from winter snow plowing.

The 'never idle' Trustees have been involved in many seasonal duties such as over-seeing lawn maintenance, facility rentals and helping with set up of the tag sale and the plant sale.

As always many of these things could not be accomplished without the physical and financial support of members of the congregations. It is much appreciated!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the facilities, please contact Brian or any Trustee.

Thank You for your ongoing support!

*Submitted by Brian Thayer
Chair, HCC Board of Trustees*



HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE:

Each month we have assigned a specific committee of HCC to be responsible for hosting the fellowship hour after Sunday service. The assignments for the next couple months are:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| June | Church Officers and Prayer Shawl |
| July | Diaconate |

To be sure there will be coffee and treats after each service, members of the assigned committees are asked to update the sign-up sheet in the Church Fellowship Room.



Befriending the Stranger

A BULLETIN ON CHURCH HOSPITALITY &
REVITALIZATION

By Rev. Dr. Randy Hammer

While driving across the state of Virginia recently, I got behind a car that had one of those personalized license plates. The plate read, IN2GZUS. It may take a moment to figure it out. But once you do, you realize that the driver of that car must have been an ardent Christian. And this was her (I think the driver was a young woman) way of doing evangelism.

As we drive across this great land of ours we can see a variety of such evangelistic efforts, if we have our eyes open to see them. Bumper stickers that say, "I'm a Jesus fan." Billboards that warn, "Prepare to Meet Thy God." Bridge graffiti that reads, "Trust Jesus." Flashing church signs that ask, "Are You Ready for the Judgment?" The ways that Christians seek to do "evangelism" are many and varied.

But there are other, less in-your-face methods of practicing real-life evangelism. Evangelism at heart is nothing more than sharing the good news of the blessings we have received from God, most often which come through the church we all have come to know and love. Evangelism is loving one another as God has loved us. It is extending extravagant hospitality to all who come through our doors in search of a word of hope and loving community. Many of us may have already been practicing evangelism, but we just haven't labeled it as such. And many more could become "evangelists" by sharing a positive word of how God has blessed, by more concerted efforts to show love to newcomers, and by sharing a smile and hand of welcome to first-time worshippers.

The season of Pentecost is the season of evangelism. It is the season for all of us to think more seriously about being "evangelists"—sharers of good news and extenders of hospitality.

So don't go running to the DMV to order your IN2GZUS license plate. There can only be one anyway.

CATCHING UP ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At HCC, Christian education is being taught by Peg Lewis and nursery care is provided by Olivia Harry and approved church volunteers.

On May 7th a joint HCC and FCCH Christian Education committee meeting was held to discuss plans for the future and finalize the Christian Education survey. We would love each church member's feedback on this brief survey when you get a moment. By the time you read this, you should have received an email link to the survey. If you do not have access to email, there are paper copies available in both churches.

Looking forward, members of the Christian Education board/committee from both churches will be meeting with Rev Tomi and Karen Ziel from the Connecticut UCC Conference. With their help, we hope to formulate the job description for our open Christian Education Faith Formation Director position.

Here at HCC, we are in need of a nursery supervisor, as Olivia will be graduating and leaving us to attend college in the fall. If any applicants are interested please contact any member of the Board of Christian Education so that we may begin the interview process. The members of the Board are:

Krissy Gras
Theresa Malone
Katie Packtor

Peg Lewis
Katy Rizzo

Please join us on **Sunday, June 11th** as we honor our teachers and students and bid a fond farewell to Olivia.

*Submitted by Krissy Gras
Board of Christian Education*

HCC COUNCIL MEETING

The next HCC Church Council meeting will be **Tuesday, June 6th** beginning at 7 p.m. Council meetings are open to all Church members, however only members of the Council shall have a vote as provided in our Bylaws.



HCC PLANT & BAKE SALE - RESULTS IN

In spite of the close to frigid temperature and imminent rain, the annual plant and bake sale was a great success! Lise Thayer and Lori Chadwick had a wonderful assortment of beautiful plants that were almost all gone by noon. Ginny Murphy's bake sale table, once overflowing with delicious treats, was all but empty when the tent came down.

Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and helped sell. The fundraising crew would also like to give a huge shout out to Brian Thayer and the Trustees for the fantastic new tent! We love it and we appreciate everyone who helped set it up, take it down and lug the tables and chairs---all before the first raindrop fell!



LET YOUR CREATIVE SIDE SHINE

The Community Quilting Group meets at FCCH each month



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.

5th Annual Haddam Congregational Golf

Tournament

Sunday, June 11, 2017

12:30 Shot-Gun Start

All Levels Welcome!

Quarry Ridge Golf Course
9 Rose Hill Road, Portland, CT

Fee: \$135.

Lunch, Cart, Greens Fees, Buffet Dinner and Prizes!
Contact the church office for your registration form
or to become a sponsor!

860-345-2742 or fcc-haddam@att.net



In Loving Memory

The Hoover family would like to thank all the members of HCC for the help and support given them during Paul's illness and death. The Community room set-up was beautiful. The desserts provided by the women of the church were delicious and plentiful. Many people commented on what a beautiful church we have and what exceptional, friendly people they met.

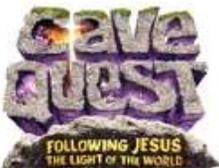
Our heartfelt thanks to one and all.

Thanks.



Come Hang Out at VBS!

What: Vacation Bible School
Where: First Congregational Church of Haddam
 905 Saybrook Road
 Haddam, CT 06438



Who: 4 years old through 5th grade
When: July 10 – 14, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Cost: \$20.00 per child (\$50.00 max per family)

Contact the church office for more information: 860-345-2742

Download a registration form at
www.haddamcongregation.org

Interested in helping out at VBS? Download a Volunteer Form from www.haddamcongregation.org.

HCC GOLF OUTING 2017

It is terrible to think of summer rushing by, but nonetheless **September 16** will be here before we know it! You can help ensure a successful outing.

Do you shop at Kohl's? Do you get Kohl's cash? Would you be willing to donate your unused Kohl's cash to the golf outing? We'd love to have it to purchase raffle prizes. Pat Sinusas will be more than happy to go shopping! Since Kohl's Cash does have an expiration date, please get it to her as soon as you know you won't be using it. Contact Pat at 345-3915 or Betsey at 209-7170.

We also love to have gift certificates to just about anywhere (local!). Certificates for food, services, theater, shopping, hair, nails, sports events, golf are big hits. Popular items include beer, wine, theme baskets, golf balls, golf shirts, kids toys, and local professional team gear/accessories (e.g., Patriots, Yankees, etc). If you have something you aren't sure we can use, please ask!

The HCC Fellowship Hall now has 5 golf flags that need to be raised! The flags will be moved when donations are received, sponsorships are collected, golfers and volunteers sign up and diners say they are coming for dinner! Please do your part and **HELP RAISE THE FLAGS!!!!**

Tri-Conference Annual Meeting In Hartford

Opening Worship – Together, As One!

Friday, June 16 7:15 – 9 p.m.

Worship and share communion with your New England neighbors

Where

Connecticut Convention Center Ballroom B/C
 100 Columbus Blvd.
 Hartford, CT 06103

- The Rev. Dr. Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez preaching
- Reflections by the Rv. Dr. John Dorhauer



A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.
 ~unknown

This will be the biggest worship event of the weekend. Don't miss it!

12 THINGS CHILDREN MISS WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN THE SANCTUARY

By Carolyn Brown of Worshiping with Children

Yes, children at times wiggle, make an amazing amount of noise, and often seem to be enduring rather than participating in the congregation's worship. Because of this parents and even whole congregations sometimes decide to keep the children out of the sanctuary "until they are older." I think that is a mistake. When children, even with all their squirming and disrupting, do not share in the congregation's worship regularly they miss out on....



- 1 Hearing the Bible stories they hear in church school or at home read in the sanctuary to people of all ages (The stories are no longer kid stories but the shared, loved stories of the whole congregation.)
- 2 Praying the Lord's Prayer, saying the Apostles' Creed, singing the songs not just with other kids but with people of all ages
- 3 Knowing they are part of something bigger than they are and that it is powerful and good. This is enriched if lots of people know them by name or at least smile and talk to them letting the children know that they are glad they are there.
- 4 Hearing prayer requests of others and making prayer requests of their own
- 5 Beginning to recognize people of all ages who are part of their congregation and to be recognized by them
- 6 Being there for baptisms and communions to accumulate experiences with the sacraments
- 7 Getting to know the pastor and other church leaders at least by sight. (This means they know and are known by the congregation's leaders, which is good on ordinary days and critical when the pastor shows up in a family crisis.)
- 8 Sharing a hymn book with a parent to sing songs at least some of which that parent obviously loves
- 9 Putting money in the offering plate with everyone else in the whole church and seeing those plates carried up front and prayed over. (This feels totally different from putting money in a basket as it is passed a circle of kids in church school.)
- 10 Gathering experiences with yearly worship traditions such as advent wreaths, Christmas trees, changing colors, ashes, palm parades, trumpets at Easter....
- 11 Being disciplined for poor behavior because worship is too important to disrespect
- 12 Falling asleep on a parent's shoulder or lap and feeling loved

What would you add to the list?

*We welcome
Michael Gabriel
son of Adrian and
Diane
to our Church
Family
Baptized May 28th*

A word from your Delegates

In preparation for the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ annual meeting, Alan and Lori Chadwick are reading materials regarding the meeting and the resolutions that will be considered. The major resolution being considered is the resolution to create a new regional Conference by combining resources from the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences.

On January 21, 2017, following a year of discernment, the Boards of Directors of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences unanimously approved a Resolution to form a new Conference.

On **June 16 - 17, 2017**, at a joint annual meeting, delegates from the three conferences will be asked to endorse that resolution, and to authorize the development of a detailed proposal for the new Conference, which would come back to the annual meetings for approval in 2018.

The Existing Conferences:

- Connecticut: 235 churches with standing; 65,739 members
- Massachusetts: 363 churches with standing; 65,896 members
- Rhode Island: 31 churches with standing; 6,157 members

Highlights of the Resolution

Our time of discernment has led us to imagine that this proposal will be to create a new Conference:

- with a single Board of Directors made up of diverse members coming from the three Conferences.
- This single Board would also act, as necessary, as the Board of Directors for each of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences.
- The proposal would allow for the three historic and legal Conference entities of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts to remain in place;
- The proposal may also recommend a transition to a unified budget and a new staffing structure.
- The proposal recognizes that Conference boundaries – including changes in Conference boundaries – are determined by vote of synod and we anticipate that if this proposal is approved by the joint annual meeting of the RI, CT and MA Conferences in June 2018, we will appeal to synod in 2019 for recognition.
- The proposal may also provide a common table for other faith communities, both historic and those coming into being, to share in common vision.

We also recognize that the planning process we now begin may lead us to respond to God's call and increase our interdependence through other means.

The full text of this resolution and others being considered by the CT conference can be found at www.ctucc.org

What I have learned from preparing for the June meeting is that much thought has gone into this resolution and that it lays the groundwork for future details in the process of joining the Southern New England Conferences together. It is a process that has been underway for awhile and will continue to unfold as we move forward together.

We are proud to represent Higganum Congregational Church at this meeting and happy to discuss any of your questions or concerns with you.

Alan and Lori Chadwick

Kids Page

Flag Day Facts

Flag Day in the United States falls on **June 14th** each year. On June 14th, 1777 the Second Continental Congress adopted the United States flag. It wasn't until 1916 that Flag Day was officially declared, by Woodrow Wilson who was the United States president at the time. In 1949 National Flag Day was established in Congress, but it is not a federal holiday. Pennsylvania became the first state to make Flag Day and official state holiday in 1937. The week of June 14th is considered National Flag Week in the United States and the U.S. president urges Americans, via proclamation, to fly the American flag all week.

Interesting Flag Day Facts:

- ⇒ It is believed that the idea of celebrating Flag Day in the United States originated with a teacher in 1885 in Wisconsin.
- ⇒ The colors of the American flag are symbolic. The red stands for valor and hardiness. Blue stands for justice, perseverance, and vigilance. White stands for innocence and purity.
- ⇒ People sometimes refer to the American flag as 'Old Glory'. The term was first used by Captain William Driver in 1831. He was a shipmaster from Salem, Massachusetts and called the flag Old Glory after being given a flag by friends.
- ⇒ The design of the American flag has changed 27 times.
- ⇒ There are six American flags located on the moon. Apollo crews 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17 planted the flags on the moon.

http://www.softschools.com/facts/holidays/flag_day_facts/1299/



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A Moment of Silence

It seems more than ever, there is a need to seek quiet solitude and seek out God's grace and love in prayer. Please keep the following friends and neighbors in your thoughts and prayers.

- ✦ Lisa, Delaney and Reagan Aronson
- ✦ Ron Booth
- ✦ Clare Hoover
- ✦ Paul Kocsis
- ✦ Deb Livingston
- ✦ Claire Tine
- ✦ Diane Brasky
- ✦ Nancy Thody
- ✦ Mark Callahan
- ✦ Mark Russell
- ✦ Candy Casale
- ✦ Merle Brooks
- ✦ Ursula Hunter
- ✦ Susan Purdy
- ✦ Amanda Lisitano
- ✦ Rhonda Gardner
- ✦ Liz Burnham
- ✦ Coach Patsy Kamercia

From the Desk of the Editor



I hope you have found this joint edition of *The Belfry* and *The Good News!* monthly newsletter to be informative, inspirational and perhaps even a bit amusing. When I was asked to work on this joint newsletter I knew it would take additional time but also knew it would be worth every hour.

Congratulations to our students who have or will soon be graduating – be it elementary and/or middle school, high school and college. You know who you are and you have made us so proud. We wish you success in all you choose to do from this day forward.

HCC lost a true gentleman and good friend when we lost Paul Hoover last month. We loved Paul's good humor, sparkling eyes and fun smirk. We will miss his sage words of wisdom. Rest in peace my friend!

Over the past week we have experienced example after example of how quickly life can change with little advance warning. It has been a stark reminder to love the ones you are with and to enjoy every moment.

May God's Blessing Keep You Safe.

Sue

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes for many more

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 Susette Christensen
- 6 Janice Evert
Kristen Wendt
- 7 Sam Crum
- 10 Carol Matregrano
- 12 Allan Johanson
- 14 Valeda Kocsis
- 16 Curt Chadwick
- 18 Suzanne Ellsworth
- 19 Greg Shields
- 20 Adilina Malave
- 23 Carolyn Murphy
- 25 Linda Hansen
Bruce Ricker
- 27 David Strever



Mike Barile

Chris Rothstein

Michelle Murphy
Ginny Murphy

Happy Anniversary to:

- 2 Sam and Pam Crum
- 19 Walter and Joan Bragoni



Our Staff

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Please send your announcements to be included in the next edition of *the Belfry – Good News!* to HCCBelfryEditor@gmail.com by the 20th of the month.