



THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*



a Monthly Newsletter of the
**First Congregational Church of Haddam and the
Higganum Congregational Church**
United Church of Christ



in the year 2019th of our Lord
Bloom and Grow



Higganum Congregational Church
First Congregational Church of Haddam
Returned mail to
P.O. Box 215
Haddam, CT 06438

Address Service Requested
Church websites: higganumchurch.org and haddamchurch.org

MAY WORSHIP SERVICE – Sundays at 9:30 a.m. at Higganum Congregational Church
Christian Education and Child Care provided during most Sunday Worship Services

Dear Haddam and Higganum Friends,

From “push polls” by political campaigns, to “not-selling-anything” (ha!) surveys, to phishing emails, and social media data-gathering quizzes, there are a lot of people trying to get answers from us for their own benefit. Yet “taking inventory” within and for ourselves can be helpful. For this Easter season, here are a few of my “favorites,” which come with an invitation to reflect on your own.

Favorite Bible verse? John 21:25: *“But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”* I love the idea that there’s infinitely more to the story of Jesus than can be contained within a few pages.

Favorite Psalm? Psalm 92: *“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.”* (Verses 1-4). This psalm doubles its praise using the paired couplets common in Hebrew poetry; it is exuberant.

Favorite Resurrection Story in the Gospels? Tough to pick. “Breakfast on the Beach with Jesus” (John 24:4-14). or the “Road to Emmaus” (Luke 24:13-35). Both involve food, I notice.

I could go on along these lines with favorite hymn (“I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry”), liturgical season (Advent), and holy place visited (Bear Lodge, aka Devils Tower, Wyoming), or start widening my scope of inquiry (Animal: Sloth, Vegetable: Broccoli, Mineral: Amethyst).

As the old song says, “We can’t always get what we want,” and sometimes the inventory we need to do is of our shortcomings and failures, not those things that are our “faves.” Yet in this Season of Resurrection, may we grow in Joy and Gladness as we rejoice in and seek to share all God’s good blessings.

Happy Easter! Alleluia! - *Pastor Michelle*

UPDATED INTERIM PASTOR’S SCHEDULE and CONTACT INFORMATION

Beginning this month, Pastor Michelle’s schedule will shift. She will plan to be at the church office Monday morning and afternoon, as well as most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to mirror the Administrator’s hours. Wednesdays and Saturdays will remain open for program needs, and Fridays will be her customary day off. Please contact Pastor Michelle to schedule appointments and home visits.

Please note the correct contact information:
Cell (860) 597-4223
mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com

INTERIM PROCESS CORNER

Rev. Mary Nelson of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ is working to schedule an orientation meeting in May with the joint **Pastoral Search Committee** of FCCH and HCC.

Bulletin Board Check Ins. During Fellowship time on upcoming Sundays, stop by the indicated Bulletin Board to hear Pastor Michelle give a topic overview and answer questions:

Sunday, May 5th	Lifecycle of a Church
Sunday, May 26th	Type of Conflict We All Use
Sunday, June 16th	Church Size Dynamics

Also, please save the date of **Sunday, June 23rd**, following worship, for a tentatively-scheduled opportunity to work with our Pastoral Search Committee members and Pastor Michelle. Stay tuned for more information!

Worship Schedule

Sunday worship services will be at
9:30 am at the following locations

May	Higganum Congregational Church
June	First Congregational Church of Haddam
July	Higganum Congregational Church
Aug 4 th & 11 th	Higganum Congregational Church
Aug 18 th & 25 th	First Congregational Church of Haddam

*Child Care provided during
Sunday Worship Service*

HISTORY FIELD TRIPS

Join Pastor Michelle (and occasionally members of her family) as she takes advantage of the riches of our local history resources. Planned outings include:

East Haddam Historical Society and Museum

264 Town Street, East Haddam
Equality Tea (100th Anniversary of Votes for Women)
Saturday, May 25th
1-2:30pm

Haddam Shad Museum

212 Saybrook Road (Route 154)
Last Day of the Season!
Father's Day, Sunday, June 16th
Following Coffee Hour

Thankful Arnold House

TBD

Speak with Pastor Michelle for more information or to make suggestions about places you'd like to visit!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

The Committees responsible for hosting the fellowship hour after Sunday worship service for the upcoming few months is as follows:

May (at HCC)	Christian Outreach
June (at FCCH)	Christian Ed, Stewardship and Pastoral Relations



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 normal places at each Church.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Diaconate Meeting – Monday, May 13th at 7pm at HCC

Board of Finance – Monday, May 20th at 7pm at HCC

Joint Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm at FCCH

Council meetings are open to all Church members, however only members of the Council shall have a vote as provided in our Bylaws.

UCC MEETING



Interim Pastor Michelle Madsen-Bibeau and delegates Richard and Carol Matregrano (HCC) and Ginny Evensen (FCCH, voted at the April Council Meeting as alternate for this meeting) plan to attend the Special Meeting of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, on Saturday, May 18th, in West Hartford.

Gathering together as a historic Connecticut Conference in this transition year, those present will worship together, receive reports from the Board and staff, consider resolutions, and celebrate the **Living Waters Award**. Pending action at the national Synod this summer, the potential new Tri-state Conference first Annual Meeting is planned for November 1st and 2nd.

SPRING MEMBERSHIP GROUP



During the first half of May, Pastor Michelle will be meeting with individuals who have expressed interest in church membership. A welcome of new members is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd. Please call or email Pastor Michelle if you would like to know more.

JOINT DIACONATE UPDATE

Lent is over and Christ has risen! We celebrated with palms and beautiful Easter flowers. The sanctuary smelled fabulous from the 54 plants. Sunrise service at Haddam Meadows brought about 70 people down to the river to pray. At the 9:30 service, over 90 worshipers enjoyed the music, sermon, egg hunt and fellowship.

We are encouraging the use of name tags to aid Pastor Michelle as well as any newcomer; they are located in the vestibule.

If you want a visit from Pastor Michelle, please contact your shepherd, any deacon or Pastor Michelle.

- Sue Craffey



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



The offering for ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING raised \$150 from FCCH and \$478 from HCC that will be sent to the

conference office. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fund. Every little bit will help to make a difference in the world.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



Thank you to all who donated goodies for our college care packages. I know our youth will appreciate them during the final days at school and we wish them much luck on their final exams!

ALBERT J. SOLNIT CHILDREN'S

CENTER WELCOME BASKETS



During Lent, our congregations collected items for welcome baskets to be distributed at the Albert J. Sonit Children's Center in Middletown. Our Lenten project was a great success due to the

involvement of

many... starting with tags by Peg, a poster created by Denise, and followed by donations from numerous individuals. Thanks to all of your donations, twenty welcome baskets were assembled, filled with shampoo, lotion, toothcare products, chap stick, games, crayons, and much, much more. There were 13 items in each container topped off with a sometimes humorous, but always adorable stuffed animal. The baskets will be given to youth when they are admitted to the center, helping them adjust to their new environment. Thank you all!



Did you know that this month's Pennies From Heaven collection will go toward sending our Sunday school children to Silver Lake Camp? This is the last month of the collection so remember to bring in your spare change!

BREAD FOR HEAT MINISTRY



Bread for Heat Ministry will be selling their artisan breads again this year at the East Haddam Farmers' Market at Balleck's Garden Center on Saturdays 9-1. June 1st – September 28th.

Interested in being a part of this ministry? Contact Ginny Evensen, vrgnevsn@aol.com.

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE


THIS MOTHER'S DAY,
Blanket the World with
LOVE!



This Mother's Day, honor your mother, or someone who is like a mother to you, by donating to the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket program. With each \$10 donation, you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care. In the last year 54,770 blankets were distributed in the United States and 5,675 blankets in Serbia. Blankets have been used in shelters, homeless ministries, shelters after storms and by organizations doing neighborhood outreach.

Donations will be collected in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. You may also pick up a Mother's Day card to send to your honoree to let them know a blanket will be purchased in their name.

BACKPACK PROGRAM – THANK YOU



The mother of the 3 children, who were part of our backpack program at HES, sent us a beautiful thank you note:

"To the wonderful group that takes the time to do the food back pack program for Haddam Elementary School. I wanted to take a moment to thank you for all your efforts. My 3 children would always love to open the backpack to see what's inside. I just wanted to let you all know that you're making a difference; from the kind Christmas homemade cookies, to the spaghetti dinners. To see my children, race to open up the Thursday backpacks made me smile. Thank you again for all that you do. We miss your thoughtful efforts."

- HCC & FCCH Christian Outreach

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



On Monday, May 27th, members and friends are invited to join with members of our wider Haddam community in appreciation of those who have laid down their lives in service to our nation. We will gather at the Gazebo 9:30 am. Interim Pastor Michelle has been invited to lead in prayer.

"ACTS OF THE APOSTLES" BIBLE STUDY



Mondays at 10am
May 6th, 13th, and 20th, and
June 3rd, 10th, and 17th
Lewis House, "South
Campus" (FCCH)

What did Peter say in his first sermon? How did Ananias and Sapphira go wrong? What famous future apostle stood by while Stephen was martyred? During our spring study of the New Testament book of Acts, we'll discover the answers to these questions and meet faithful characters like Tabitha, Cornelius, Rhoda, and Lydia as we trace the development of the early church *"In Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). If you cannot attend in person but are available Mondays at 10am, contact Pastor Michelle about attending virtually through "Zoom" Meetings. It is not necessary to attend all sessions; handouts from previous weeks will be available.

SHORELINE SINGERS SPRING CONCERT



The Shoreline Singers will be having a free concert on May 29th at HCC at 7:00 pm.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH BARN AND SHED SALE

Saturday, June 8, 9:00-2:00 pm- Come browse the Barn and Yard Sale for large items not usually found at tag sales: table saw, large truck toolbox, windows, garden tools, etc. Rain or shine at St. James Episcopal Church, RT 81, Higganum.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



HUMC and St. James Episcopal Church Vacation Bible School

Mon-Friday, July 15-19, 5:30-7:30 pm. Higganum United Methodist Church

Plans are well underway for HUMC and St. James Episcopal Church's Hero Central Vacation Bible School. This superhero adventure experience includes music, bible fun, cool crafts, hands-on mission work, delicious dinner/snacks, games and more. Children, pre-school-6th grade are invited to participate. To register call 860-345-4622 or email: vbsofhigganumumc@gmail.com.

2019 WINE TASTING POSTPONED



The Wine tasting at FCCH has been put on hold for 2019 due to an increased cost of required state trooper presence. We will watch to see how other wine tasting events in town fare.



HK RELAY FOR LIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Date: June 29, 2019
Time: 12 noon – 10pm
Location: HKHS track

Help needed: pick up and serve food donations in the survivor tent (approx. 50 survivors and

their families attend); set up 10am – 12; take down 10pm, and assisting in the relay store. All HK students including entering freshman can earn up to 12 hours of community service and Sue Craffey will complete the paperwork! For more information: go to the website: American Cancer Society Relay site and search our relay or contact Sue Craffey at jcraffey@snet.net or 860-345-3908.

BACK BAY MISSION

Back Bay Mission: Strengthening Neighborhoods, Seeking Justice, Transforming Lives (especially those who volunteer).

Alan and Lori Chadwick will share their experiences volunteering with Back Bay Mission over several years (most recently Jan 5-11, 2019) after worship May 19th.



Plan to attend to learn more about their work!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM

MISSION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Quarry Ridge Golf Course

9 Rose Hill Road, Portland, CT

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

Registration starts at 11:30am, shotgun start at 12:30pm, Doors for dinner open at 5:30pm, served at 6pm



Golfers Fee: \$140 per person

Includes: Lunch, Cart, Greens Fees, Buffet Dinner, On-the-Course Competitions, & Raffle!

Dinner only: \$32 per person

For more information, or to register online:

<https://goo.gl/forms/cGDIGuKGBiu6BOIu2>

OR simply scan this

QR Code:



Player Registration

Player #1: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Player #2: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Player #3: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Player #4: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Sponsorship Form

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$500

Sign on 5 Tee Boxes
Banner at Registration Table

GOLD SPONSOR: \$300

Sign on 4 Tee Boxes

SILVER SPONSOR: \$200

Sign on 3 Tee Boxes

TEE SPONSOR: \$100

Sign on 1 Tee Box

CHARITABLE CASH DONATION: \$ _____

Sponsors Name: _____

What would you like your sign to say?: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pay by check made out to FCCH,
P.O. Box 215 Haddam, CT 06438 ~ 860-345-2742
To pay by credit card, go to our homepage: www.haddamchurch.org



FCCH & HCC Tag Sales

May 4th

Both churches are participating in the Town-wide Tag Sale day!

FCCH

Tag & Bake Sale 8 am to 1pm. Rain or Shine!

Items may be dropped off at FCCH:

Thursday, May 2nd

10 am to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm

Friday, May 3rd

10 am to 2pm and 4 to 8pm

Items can be dropped off earlier if need be and placed neatly against the south wall.

Bake sale items may be brought to Friday or Saturday morning.

We need four trucks to help with clean up.

Please, NO appliances, computers, old electronic items, books, stuffed animals, large furniture, TVs, or clothing.

HCC

Tag Sale 8 am to 1pm. Rain or Shine!

Set up will take place on Friday, May 4th at 5pm. We will need people to work the day of the event (barter with dealers and take money – really easy).



HCC will be serving our famous hot dog lunch".

We will graciously accept your donations of "stuff" which can be dropped off at HCC and stored in the basement of the church - or you can bring items on Friday night.

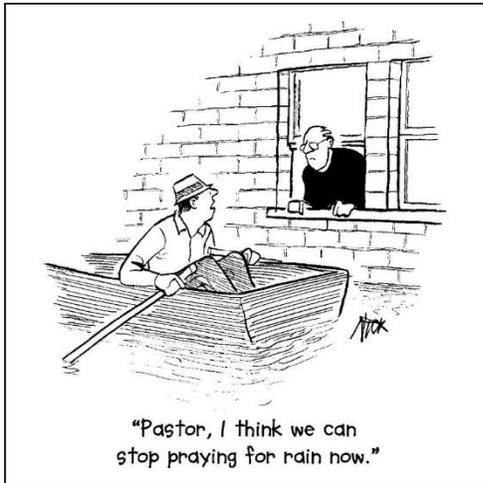
MEMBER'S CORNER



FCCH and HCC welcome back the Andersons from Florida!



Do you have a special message to share with your Church family? If so, send it in for the Members' Corner!



Our Staff

Pastor Michelle Madsen-Bibeau – mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com
 Stephanie Fitzgerald Knopf, Administrative Assistant
 Amy Harlow, CE/Faith Formation Dir. – amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com
 Church Office 860-345-4304
 Email Coordinator fcchaddam@gmail.com

Stephanie Fitzgerald Knopf – Belfry Editor
BelfryEditor@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
 Tuesdays and Thursdays
 from 2-6:30pm

Please send your announcements to be included in the next edition of the newsletter to BelfryEditor@gmail.com by the 20th of each month.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | Michael Brookes | Sue Gascoyne |
| 3 | Joe Hill | |
| 4 | Charles Negrelli | |
| 5 | Bari Edmondson | |
| 6 | Kevin Hunt | |
| 7 | Nancy Tucker | Katelyn Hollenbeck |
| 10 | Cary Chadwick | Jack Murphy |
| | John Edmondson | Steve Bull |
| 12 | Hideki William Morin ('11) | |
| 13 | Ken Wendt | |
| 15 | Karli Aresco | |
| 17 | Rebecca Salerno | |
| 18 | Chris Carlin | |
| 21 | Troy Johanson | Peggy Morrill |
| | Amber Gemmel | LisaMarie Harry |
| | Sabine Nyenhuis | |
| 23 | George Sima | |
| 24 | Lauren Evert | Karen Malave |
| | Michael Battistoni | |
| 25 | Earl Wilson | |
| 26 | Brenna Lonergan | Kristin Battistoni |
| 27 | Charlotte Stetson | |
| 28 | Jen Saglio | |
| 29 | Piper Cameron | |
| 30 | Sandy Nightingale | |



- 14 Walter and Carol Zanelli
 16 John and Michelle Madsen-Bibeau



From the Editor

For a newsletter to be successful, contributions are necessary. I urge you to send in your stories, announcements or anything you think is a good fit for our newsletter to belfryeditor@gmail.com. All suggestions and ideas are welcome.

Looking forward,
Stephanie Fitzgerald Knopf