



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
SEASON OF GRATITUDE



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

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES – Sundays at 9:30 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Haddam
Christian Education and Child Care provided during most Sunday Worship Services

Dear Haddam and Higganum Friends,

"And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name."

-1 Chronicles 29:13

These words are from King David in response to witnessing the people of the nation of Israel give generously for the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. David spoke them as benediction over his time as king as he established his son Solomon to be his successor and oversee construction.

David could rejoice in all that was ready and in place: stones and iron and cedar wood (I Chronicles 22); gold and silver and jewels (I Chronicles 29); the Temple building plan (I Chronicles 28); and even duty rosters for the priests, Levites, and musicians who would serve (I Chronicles 23-25).

David knew still more would be needed (I Chronicles 22:14), but having witnessed God at work in his own life he spoke in confidence to his son, *"Be strong and of good courage, and act. Do not be afraid or dismayed; for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished"* (1 Chronicles 28:20).

During this month of November we are invited to follow David's example on the way to giving thanks: to offer our own gifts of time, talent, and treasure; to enlist others in doing the same; and to do all out of a vision of how God and God's people will be served.

Times of transition, times of what I call "discernment" (defined as: "seeking spiritual insight and direction") are opportunities for great Thanksgiving. In such times we discover we must say as David did, *"O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own"* (1 Chronicles 29:16).

In the words of a seasonal favorite:

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,

to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

-Martin Rinkart (1636)

Trans. Catherine Winkworth

With you on the Interim Journey,
Pastor Michelle

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: *Mondays Noon-2pm, Tuesdays 8am-Noon, Thursdays 10am-Noon*
Pastor Michelle also is available by appointment: Cell: 860-597-4223
Email: mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com

Pastor Michelle will be away November 8-14. During this time, please contact the Church Office or Diaconate Chairs Terry or Sue for Pastoral Care emergencies.

INTERIM PROCESS CORNER

October meetings with Town Planner Bill Warner and with Rev. Jane Hawkin and Gail Bordon of the Portland Church provided much food for thought. Thank you to the many participants from both HCC and FCCH.

HCC members should 'stay tuned' for more information on an upcoming single-church meeting to be scheduled when Moderator Greg Shields returns. (Tentatively, per our last Council meeting, please hold the time after worship and basket assembly on Sunday, November 24th.)

This month we will gather for an All-Church Visioning Retreat on Saturday, November 16th, facilitated by Pastor Michelle and members of the Pastoral Search Committee. All members and friends of FCCH and HCC are encouraged to participate in this retreat, which is an important component of our interim process and pastoral search.

See the event flyer on the following page, and speak with Interim Pastor Michelle Madsen-Bibeau or Search Committee Chair Mark Soneson for more information.



All-Church Retreat

Saturday, November 16th

RETREAT SCHEDULE

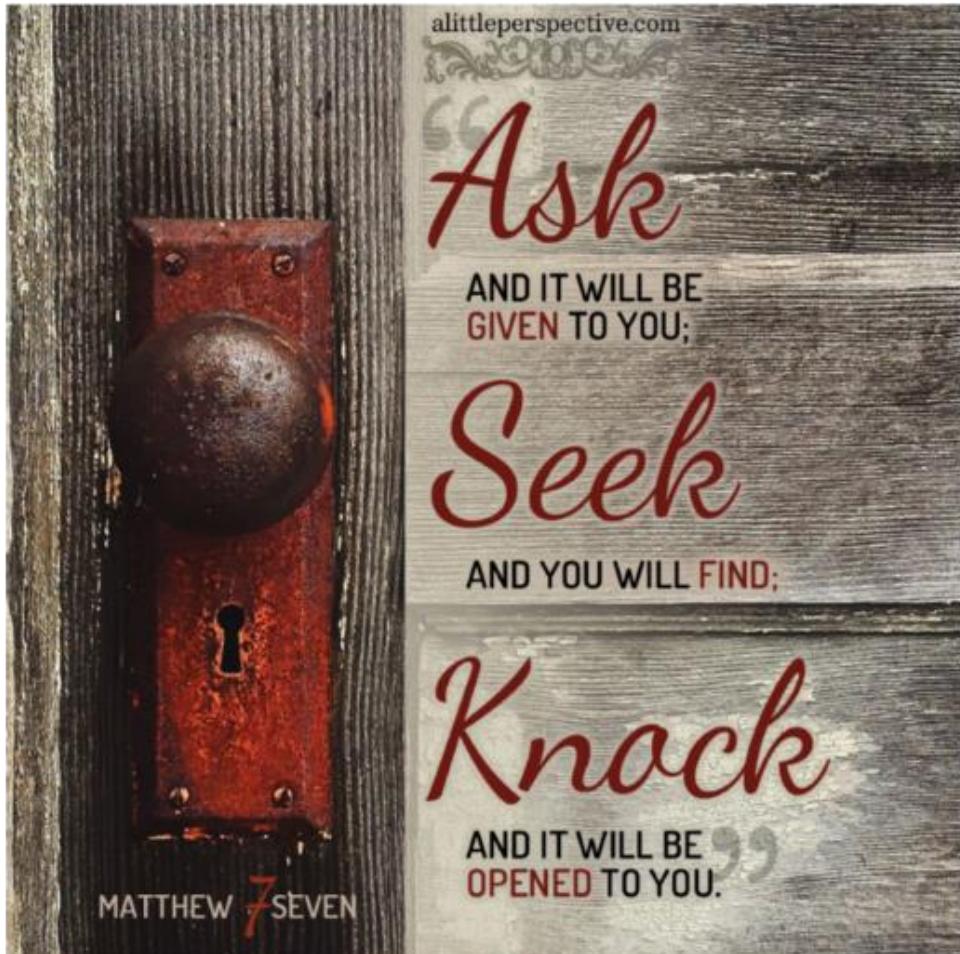
Morning at FCCH

- 8:30am Refreshments
- 9am Opening Worship
- 9:30am Plenary Session One
- 10:45am Plenary Session Two

Afternoon at HCC

- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1pm Small Group Work
- 2pm Plenary Sharing Session
- 2:45pm Worship with Communion
- 3pm Depart in Peace

(Participants should plan to attend the full day; if you have a schedule conflict, please speak with Pastor Michelle in advance to make individual arrangements.)



Sign up to attend and/or to contribute toward our luncheon by contacting the Church Office at 860-345-2742 or fcchaddam@gmail.com or at Coffee Hour

First Congregational Church of Haddam Higganum Congregational Church

Please join Interim Pastor Michelle Madsen-Bibeau and members of the Pastoral Search Committee for this Visioning Retreat in which we will be reminded of God's promises and seek God's direction for our congregations in their shared ministries.

STEWARSHIP SEASON

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.



For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." -Matthew 7:7-8

During our worship services this month we will consider what it means to "Ask, Seek, Knock."

Our Stewardship Season will 'kick off' on November 3rd as we reflect on the story of Zacchaeus during intergenerational worship.

Stewardship materials will be distributed at our November 10th service, with uncollected packets mailed to members that week. (Come to church and "Save a Stamp")! Our Stewardship Moment on that day will be offered by our Pastoral Search Committee.

Members and friends will be invited to consider our gifts to God of our time, gifts and abilities, and financial resources, and to offer pledges of support to our churches for 2020 on Pledge Sunday, November 24th.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

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

November FCCH Diaconate (at FCCH)

December HCC Trustees & Board of Finance



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.

2019 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November at FCCH
December at HCC



FALL BACK

The extra hour of sleep we get on Sunday, November 3rd should mean we'll have a full house for our Sunday service (and anyone who forgets to set their clock back is welcome to join the Choir for their morning rehearsal!).



FALL CLEAN-UP DAY



FCCH Fall Clean-up is **Saturday, November 2nd at 8:30am** until the job is done! Attendees are encouraged to bring, rakes, tarps, blowers and pick-up trucks for leaf hauling to the transfer station.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Joint Diaconate Meeting – Monday, November 11 at 7pm at FCCH

HCC Board of Finance Meeting – Monday, November 18 at 7pm at HCC

Joint Church Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 19 at 7pm at HCC

Membership Working Group Meeting – Monday, November 25 at 5pm at FCCH LH

Council meetings are open to all Church members, however only members of the Council may vote.



NOVEMBER SUNDAYS

November 3 (Don't forget to "fall back")
Intergenerational Worship with Communion
Stewardship Season begins
Scripture: Luke 19:1-10
Sermon: "Past, Present, and Future"
Stewardship Theme: "Ask"

November 10

Guest Preacher Rev. Toni Smith
Veterans' Recognition
Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-3a, 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Stewardship Materials distributed
Stewardship Moment: Search Committee

November 17

Celebration of Joint Ministries
Scripture: Luke 19:11-27
Sermon: "Yours, Mine, and Ours"
Stewardship Theme: "Seek"

November 24

Pledge Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday
Assembly of Thanksgiving Food boxes
Sermon: "Time, Talent, and Treasure"
Text: I Chronicles 29:10-13, 22
Stewardship Theme: "Knock"

November News from the Diaconate 2019

Homecoming was very successful on October 20. I would like FCCH members to email me your wedding date, year you joined the church and birthdate for my list if I don't have that information. You can contact me at jcraffey@snet.net.

We welcome back to the pulpit Reverend Toni Smith on November 10.

Advent season is almost here which is from Dec 1 - Dec 25. Services on December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 will be at HCC at 9:30 am. Service on Christmas Eve is at FCCH...time TBD.

We are looking for families to light the Advent wreath... please contact Terry, Sue or Pastor Michelle if you are interested.

There are several opportunities to help decorate the inside and outside of the churches before December 1st. FCCH decorating is planned for November 24 following service. Nimble ladder climbers would

be greatly appreciated. These decorations add to our community and for the Quilt Show December 7 & 8.

Respectively submitted,
Sue Craffey

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Join with members of our wider community on **Tuesday, November 26th, at 7pm, at St. Peter's Higganum** for our annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship.

Interim Pastor Michelle Madsen-Bibeau and HCC Moderator Greg Shields will participate in leadership, and all members and friends are encouraged to attend as we thank God and pray for our community.

MUSIC COMMITTEE & CHOIR



The combined choir continues to provide music for Sunday and special services. We are happy that our attendance has been pretty good so far this fall. We're delighted that Dianne Hines has rejoined us following a long hiatus. We can always use more singers. The more we have, the better we can lift your spirits on Sunday mornings. Please consider joining us. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at FCCH, then again at 8:45 AM on Sunday mornings to warm up before the service. I'm sure you will enjoy the camaraderie we have. Eric always seems to make singing fun.

In addition, we have some vacancies on the Music Committee that we will be looking to fill for 2020. You don't have to be a choir member to be on the Music Committee. Very little is required as time commitment.

We will be joining the St. Peter's choir for the community Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 26. We will be singing *Gratias Agimus Tibi* from Bach's Mass in B Minor. It is quite challenging, but I'm sure we'll master it.

John Anderson

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

We are planning to help 15 Haddam families have a delicious special dinner for Thanksgiving. Haddam Social Services has asked for our help. In November there will be a poster at Fellowship Hour with tickets for the items needed for the dinners. Please take as many as you can and bring the items to the church by November 24, 2019. We will assemble the dinners in boxes decorated by our kids and deliver them to Social Services. Thank you so much for helping with this project.

We will continue to collect items for the H-K back pack program.

In December, we will be helping Youth and Family Services provide Christmas gifts for Haddam families. More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Quilt Show and Bazaar

The Yuletide Quilt show and Christmas Bazaar is to be held on December 7 and 8. The money raised at this event is used for mission/outreach activities. Here is an opportunity for you to display quilts that you have made or quilted family treasures.



WANTED for the Quilt Show:

1. Unfinished craft projects - The quilt show has a UFO (unfinished object) Table. Here is a chance to clean up your room and put unfinished projects to good use. We will be collecting these items in November.
2. Large empty plastic feed bags (50 pound size). These can be recycled into tote bags. You can bring them to either church.

Feeding the Hungry

FCCH will be providing dinner at Harvest Home in St. Stephen Church in East Haddam on November 3, 2019. You are invited to come for dinner at 5:30pm. The dinner is home-cooked and free to everyone.

Food Donations

We also continue to collect food items for the Haddam Food Pantry. Watch the Sunday bulletin for items to be collected. There is always a need for food-even in Haddam.

- *HCC & FCCH Christian Outreach*
-

HK BACKPACK PROGRAM

The H-K Back program provides food for 29 families for the weekend. Our church collects specific items monthly, and cash and gift cards also are welcome. You can use an envelope in the pew and mark it as HK Backpack Program. Thank you so much for your support!

November- Canned veggies and fruits/fruit cups

December- Canned Meats (e.g. Tuna, chicken and ham).

Learn more about the HK Backpack program at: <https://hkbackpackprogram.com/>



A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Friends,

My heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of clothing and school supplies. Your gifts were welcomed by the RSD 17 school staff as well as by the individual families we serve in our office. Some of the supplies even made their way to a church in New Haven that provides an after-school program for low income youth.

We cannot do the work that we do without the support of the community and members of faith groups like yours. “Thanks” does not begin to cover it, but it does serve as a starting point. I can only hope that we will continue to provide hope and in that way honor your gift by paying it forward.

Laurie Ruderfer

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth

FAITH FORMATION

CONFIRMATION



Our Confirmation Class of thirteen youth and one adult (Amy Harlow, who also is a leader) is meeting regularly for service and study. Many thanks to Jill Barile and Kris Tupay who along with Amy and Pastor Michelle are planning sessions.

Several Confirmands participated in the CROP Walk on October 6th in friendly competition with the other walkers from our congregations.

Pictured below is a moment from our discussion of "Worship" on October 27th at HCC.

Our November sessions are from **4-5:30pm on Sunday the 3rd and 17th at FCCH.**

Confirmation students also are encouraged to attend and participate in the All-Church Visioning Workshop on the 16th.



WREATH & POINSETTA FUNDRAISER



The HKMS 7th and 8th Grade Classes are selling Holiday Wreaths and Poinsettias as a fundraiser. All proceeds go towards the 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC. The due date for the fundraiser is November 20th; delivery will be in early December. For more information, contact Kristin Battistoni at battistoni.kristin@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY

This month our weekday adult Bible Study group will conclude our study of the New Testament book of Acts and then begin a four-week Advent study of the scriptures of Handel's Messiah.

We meet Mondays at 10am in Lewis House at FCCH, and newcomers always are welcome! Speak with Pastor Michelle for more information.

Please note: there is **no class November 11th.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS

We continue to invite older youth and adults to speak with Christian Education Director Amy Harlow regarding being part of a rotation of assistants for our weekly Sunday School classes.

Our Staff

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

Nicole Dumpson – Belfry Editor
BelfryEditor@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 8 - 12:00pm

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Our Sunday worship will return to the Higganum Congregational Church in December. Christmas Eve worship will be at Haddam.



QUILT SHOW

December 7th and 8th will be FCCH's ninth Annual Yuletide Quilt Show. It will feature all types of quilted items to be displayed in the sanctuary. Flyer attached.

COOKIE WALK

December 14th will be HCC's Annual Cookie Walk.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

At the October Joint Council Meeting, a Working Group Update 2nd Hour was set for Sunday, December 15th.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Thank you to my church family for the perfect prayer shawl and your support and prayers during uncertain times. Those prayers were answered when my cancer was contained and only minor extra treatment was deemed necessary. I always have called the church "My family" since I don't have any blood relatives in CT. This family has walked with me on some difficult paths by my side...I will forever be grateful...Love Sue Craffey



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

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS



4	Mary Aduskevich	Ryoko Morin
5	Kellen Crum	
6	Stewart Gillmor	
7	Dan Wendt	
8	John Anderson	Boden Booth Hetrick
10	Joan Bragoni	
17	Jan Berry	Jason Aresco
18	Suzanne Ellsworth	
19	Maria Pierdomenico	
	Stella & Caroline Moore	
23	Michelle Wendt	
29	Joe Tupay	
30	Morgan Crum	



22	Paul and Peg Lewis	
24	Alan and Lori Chadwick	

We apologize for any errors! Please contact the Editor with omissions or corrections.

OFFICE HOURS WEEK OF NOV. 11TH

Please call ahead if you are visiting the Church Office the week of November 11th. Nicole will need to travel for a family funeral, and her schedule will need to flex. (Please keep her and her family in prayer.)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM
905 SAYBROOK ROAD, HADDAM

Yuletide Quilt Show & Holiday Bazaar

December 7 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
December 8 noon - 3:30 pm

Admission to Quilts: \$6
Free Admission to Bazaar

**QUILTS FOR SALE ~ VENDORS
HOMEMADE LUNCH ~ HOLIDAY CRAFTS
RAFFLE BASKETS ~ QUILT RAFFLE**



2 Days!

Yuletide Quilt Show

& Holiday Bazaar

Sat., Dec. 7th

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Sun., Dec. 8th

noon – 3:30 pm



Our ninth annual Yuletide Quilt Show will feature all types of quilted items to be displayed in the sanctuary. **We invite you to enter hand-made quilts, wall hangings, miniatures and quilted clothing in this year's show.** Antique quilts are welcome. (Rest assured, we take great care to protect displayed items.)

Applications are available at the church office or downloaded from the church website, www.haddamchurch.org. *Applications need to be returned by November 25th.* Drop off items on Friday, December 6th, pick up between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on December 8th.

There is no fee to exhibit items. This is not a juried show. You may offer an exhibited item for sale and the price will be stated on the item's identification card. See Exhibitor's Application for details.

New this year..... Sunday lunch will be a
We would love to have you enter our **CHILI COOK OFF**



Do you make a mean chili?!
Cook-off! Award presented to the
winning cook!

Your quilts (and chili) will help make the show a success!

2019 Quilt Show Raffle



First prize is this beautiful quilt made by Dena Liedke entitled “A Christmas Sampler in Red and White.”

Raffle tickets are now available. They can be purchased during coffee hour, by contacting the church office or Ginny Evensen.

Quilt Show Themed Basket Raffle

We will once again be having a Themed Gift Basket Raffle!

The Quilt Show Committee is looking for donations for the baskets. You can either donate a full gift basket or contribute to the following baskets:

Chocolate
Lovers
Basket



Movie
Lovers
Basket



Family
Game
Night



Coffee &
Tea
Basket



A basket of your
own making!



If you would like to contribute to one of these baskets, pick up a tag (or two!) from the “Quilt Tree” during coffee hour. Donated items can be left in the marked basket in the social hall at HCC or the vestibule at FCCH.

Thank you for your support!