



THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*



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



in the year 2020 of our Lord

AUGUST



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

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

AUGUST SERVICES – Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Online and Streaming, Fridays at 10 a.m. at HCC
Visit haddamchurch.org or view weekly emails for updates and information.

Dear Haddam and Higganum Friends,

As the calendar page turns to August, we begin the eighth month of the longest year some of us ever have lived.

During this past Friday's worship we were encouraged in music and prayer to look *back and around* in gratitude, and *ahead* in hope.

We also may wish to look ahead **to prepare**.

This week we have read of resurging virus cases in previously-well-controlled nations, heard of explosive transmission in a Georgia summer camp, and saw the number of states deemed by CT/NY to be high risk rise to 34.

If (I didn't say "when") in the fall or winter we must revert to the kind of "shelter-in-place" that we experienced in the spring, we will want to lay in some essentials.

What can we come by now that we will need? Based on our recent experience and best guesses about the future, what might we find in short supply?

Our first thoughts may be of hand sanitizer, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, flour, and yeast. Yet... it isn't running out of these tangible goods that ought (most) to concern us.

What we truly can't afford to be without are things that never appear on store shelves: supplies of **compassion, humor, serenity, perseverance, creativity, and faith**.

These are what sustain our spirits and equip us to care for our loved ones and neighbors.

Like the fruits of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5 to which they

are closely connected, these resources must be nurtured in us by God over a lifetime.

We can, though, make space for their growth using cultivating tools inherited from our forebearers in faith.

During this month of August our Sunday services will feature such tools as well as stories of the saints who have come before.

May our spiritual storehouses be replenished as we sense the loving presence of the God who supplies every need- this month, this year, and always.

Blessings, Pastor Michelle

OFFICE HOURS and PASTORAL VACATION

Pastor Michelle is available this summer for digital office hours **Tuesdays from 1pm-3pm**. "Stop in" by clicking the usual Zoom link or using the Zoom telephone number. (You also may call Pastor Michelle at 860-597-4223.)

Weather-permitting, Pastor Michelle also will hold **Friday "Outdoor Hours" from 1pm-3pm** on the patio at Lewis House at FCCH.

Pastor Michelle will be on vacation between August 18th and 23rd. During this time, please contact Terry Smith or Sue Craffey of the Deacons with pastoral care needs.

UPCOMING MEETINGS (By Zoom)

Phasing Forward Physical Reopening – Most Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9am

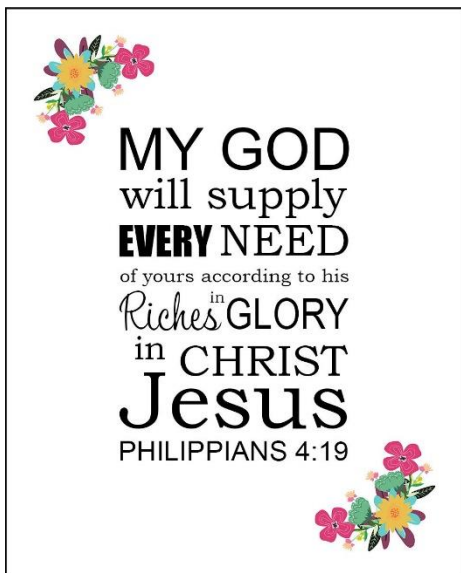
Joint Mission/Outreach – Wednesday, August 5th, 7pm

Joint Diaconate – Monday, August 10th, 6pm

Joint Council Meetings – Tuesdays, August 11th and 25th, 7pm

Board of Finance – Monday, August 17th, 7pm

Open meetings (including Council at which all are welcome) use the Sunday Zoom sign on, but please contact Committee Chairs for agendas and any specific sign on information.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At the recommendation of the Joint Diaconate, the Church Council voted at the July 28th meeting to continue holding our 9:30am Sunday worship service online during August. Members, friends, and family are invited to join us through Zoom by computer or phone.

When and if this is not possible, read scripture and offer your prayers in a beautiful place in nature or a peaceful spot in your home.

With local Covid19 case rates low despite national trends, the leadership of FCCH/HCC is continuing a phased reopening process.

“Midweek” worship services are offered at 10am at Higganum Congregational Church on Fridays. These services are planned to alternate **outdoors in the Memorial Garden (August 7th and 21st)** and **indoors in the Sanctuary with instrumental music from Music Director Eric Lundin (August 14th and 28th).**

During the last two months, safety procedures for these two types of services have been mailed to those who normally receive the *Belfry* by USPS; procedures are emailed weekly along with the Friday worship bulletin to those who receive communications electronically.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

Sign on to most church events (online worship, meetings, or office hours) during the appointed hours using the information below.

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3854472572?pwd=MXk3ODBFc0Vzei83d3hBOXRzVHNwUT09>

Telephone: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 385 447 2572
Password: 536662

Working Groups

Working Groups are encouraged to have a Zoom meeting this month and prepare to present in a Second Hour in early September.

Chairs, please contact Pastor Michelle to schedule your meeting through Zoom.

TAG SALE CO-CHAIRS NEEDED

We have begun to explore the possibility of holding a joint or two-site (HCC and FCCH) tag sale, perhaps the final week in September.



This event would be outdoors and not include food sales- in other words, it is about the simplest in-person Covid-safer version of an open-to-the-public fundraiser imaginable. A beginning has been made on precautions and procedures, and some thinking done about community volunteers who might help.

To go forward, representatives from our two congregations willing to TAKE THE LEAD/CHAIR this event are needed. Please contact Moderators Greg Shields or Kristin Battistoni with questions or to volunteer.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT for our CHURCHES

FCCH has an online contribution option accessible [HERE](#). Mailing addresses are:



Higganum Congregational Church
23 Parsonage Road, Higganum, CT 06441

First Congregational Church of Haddam
P.O. Box 215, Haddam, CT 06438

9:30am SUNDAY WORSHIP

(Join using Zoom by computer or telephone.)

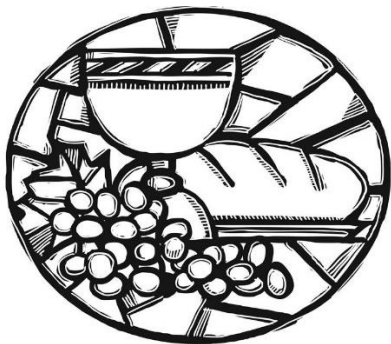
August Training Camp: Resilience Exercises

[Jesus] answered, ***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”*** Luke 10:27

This August during our Sunday morning services we are invited to faith life training camp. Each Sunday we will be introduced to a spiritual exercise to engage in daily life.

August 2 Worship with Home Communion

Please assemble some bread and juice/wine to bless and receive at home. **Small containers of grape juice** will be available to take home at the Friday, July 31st, 10am service at HCC.



August 9 “HeART” *Visio Divina*

We will have the opportunity to reflect on and create art that helps point out hearts to God. Please have on hand: paper/cardboard and crayons, markers, colored pencils, pastels, or watercolors.



August 16 “Sole!” Walking Meditation

You don’t need a labyrinth- or even to be able to (physically) walk- to practice “Walking Meditation.” This week we will learn about how to invite God to accompany us throughout all the movements of our days. (Since labyrinths are cool, though, we will hear about labyrinths nearby that are open for public use.)



August 23 “Strength”- Breath Prayer

Guest speaker Rev. Peg Lewis will join us to share how she used Breath Prayer in her work as a hospital chaplain.



August 30 “Mind” *Lectio Divina*

Whether used for personal or family devotions or by groups in the church, *Lectio Divina* is an invitation to listen for God’s ‘Still Speaking’ Spirit through Scripture.



TRAVEL PICTURES

Many of us are 'staycationing' this year. Let's have some fun during August remembering past travel. We may even inspire planning for future trips after Covid19 is contained!

Please send 1-3 of **your favorite digital pictures of vacations past** to fcchaddam@gmail.com. Extra points for pictures of familiar faces!

The photos will be presented in the opening slide shows on the following themes:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August 2 | Land (e.g. Mountains, Gardens, Campgrounds, Wildlife) |
| August 9 | Museums and Monuments (Art, Architecture, History) |
| August 16 | Parks and Rec (Sports, Fairs) |
| August 23 | Water (e.g. Beaches, Oceans, Rivers, Sealife) |
| August 30 | Food (from Campfires to Cuisine) and Transport (Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and Other) |

TEAM SPIRIT DAY



Yankees, Red Sox, or Mets? Wear your team colors and gear during Zoom worship on **Sunday, August 16th**. Then plan to have peanuts,

Crackerjack, hot dogs and (root?)beer on hand for a special post-service baseball-themed virtual coffee hour.

As of this writing, MLB has restarted. The Red Sox and Yankees are scheduled to play one another August 14th-17th, but the season is somewhat in doubt. Whether or not these games are played, our Team Spirit Day will go on!



Summer Worship Schedule

Friday, August 7 10am HCC Memorial Garden

Friday, August 14 10am HCC Sanctuary
Theme: "Through Our Lives"

Friday, August 21 10am HCC Memorial Garden

Friday, August 28 10am HCC Sanctuary
Theme: "Through Eternity"



St. Vincent de Paul
Middletown

MEETING NEEDS, OFFERING HOPE.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Community Assistance program is a part of the St. Vincent de Paul Program in Middletown. This program provides information and assistance for people who having difficulty with living in the community. Small grants are made for help with medical bills, identification, rental/security, transportation, and utilities.

Many churches and service groups donate monthly to this project to help fund the assistance. Clients are encouraged to repay the loans as their status improves.

The First Congregational Church of Haddam has supported this program for several years. We contribute \$150/quarter to this project.

MISSION/OUTREACH NEWS - AUGUST 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. BREAD for HEAT Ministry is working on Fridays. The bread is baked, and the batch for the next week is mixed. Bread is sold at the Higganum Farmers Market from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Sales are brisk- you must get to the market early to buy a loaf of fresh bread.
2. The Church World Service school bag program is nearly completed. We have filled about half of the bags that were sewn during the pandemic. We will have the bags ready to be delivered to the drop-off site by 8-10-2020. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful project. When school supplies are on sale each bag can be filled for about \$4.00.
3. We will know next month whether we will be having a quilt show in December.



**The Walk is virtual,
but the need could not be more real!**

Our CROP Hunger Walk will be happening in a new way for 2020! To keep everyone safe and healthy, Crop Walk is going virtual!

The Mission/Outreach Committee invites you to participate by registering on-line, collecting donations, and then on the weekend of October 3-4 either walk alone, with immediate family or in small groups walking at a safe distance apart.

More information on our virtual walk will be coming in September, but remember to

Save the date: OCTOBER 3rd and OCTOBER 4th.

The work of CWS and our local hunger agencies continues – and with the possibility of a global famine on the horizon, raising money for vulnerable people is more needed than ever.

Register Here: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/haddamct>



The items needed are quite specific. Each bag will contain:

- One pair of rounded tip scissors
- 3 70-count spiral notebooks
- One 30 cm-12-inch ruler (must have metric measurements)
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- One box 24 crayons

If you are able to shop, please collect these items; monetary donations also will be accepted and someone will shop for you.

Items may be left in the plastic container outside the FCCH Office door; this box will be checked regularly on Mondays and Fridays. A collection box also will be available at HCC Friday morning services.

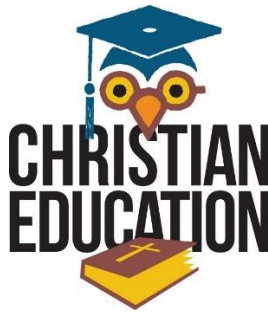
We would like all donations to be returned by **Friday, August 7th**. Please contact Ginny Evensen with questions.



The Bread Ministry is selling loaves in support of the Haddam Fuel Bank at the HIGGANUM FARMERS MARKET on Fridays between **3:30pm and 6:30pm**. The market is in the Haddam Elementary School parking lot. Thank you to all who have been supporting this ministry!

If you can help out as a seller, or want to learn about other ways to support this ministry, please speak with Ginny Evensen.





TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

How well do you know your FCCH and HCC friends? This month we are playing "Two Truths and a Lie." Each of the persons below has submitted three statements: two are true, and one is not! Can you guess which is the fib? Answers will be doled out tantalizingly during online worship services in August, and then printed in next month's *Belfry*.

Terry Smith:

1. I shook hands with President Eisenhower at the 1960 Republican Convention in Chicago.
2. I traveled internationally for 2 large corporations - my favorite business trip was in 2006 to St. Petersburg, Russia.
3. I was a high school All-American swimmer (backstroke).

John Anderson:

1. I caught and released a blue marlin in 1986.
2. I lettered 3 years in high school football and was selected as all-league lineman my senior year.
3. I completed the 1st two Disney Marathons in 1994 & 95.

Candy Casale:

1. I have over 100 Barbie dolls and friends living on my closet shelves, under my bed and in my attic.
2. I have visited all of the 48 contiguous states at least once.
3. While growing up, I always wanted to be a nurse or a minister.

Ginny Evensen:

1. I broke my ankle when I was 14 ice skating in the lake behind my house.
2. I have a brother, Fred, who lives in Alaska.
3. I get "car withdrawal" when I am unable to go out driving a car.

Steve Bull:

4. I caught my limit of land locked salmon in northern Maine.
5. The only thing I catch when I fish is a stronger relationship with whoever I am fishing with.
6. I tie my own flies for fly fishing.

Carol Matregrano:

1. While spending time on St. Thomas, VI, I lived on a sailboat.
2. I owned a home in Maine that had no plumbing, no electricity, and no central heat.
3. I spent the night at Machu Pichu.

Pastor Michelle:

1. I have hugged Elie Wiesel.
2. I have been asked directions in Hungarian, in Budapest.
3. I have ridden a camel to St. Catherine's Monastery at the top of Mt. Sinai.



HCC MEETING HOUSE ANNIVERSARY



See below for Terry Smith's article on the 175th Anniversary of HCC's Meeting House, as well as a few of the pictures included in a commemorative video played during worship on Sunday, July 26th. Thank you to all who contributed pictures!



Higanum Congregational Church Meeting House

On July 23, 2020, we will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the dedication of the Higanum Congregational Church's meeting house dedication.

Since Higanum was first settled in the 1670s, residents had to travel to Haddam Center to attend church. In 1844 Higanumites successfully petitioned to form their own ecclesiastical society and took 135 members from the Haddam Congregational Church and their minister, the Reverend David Dudley Field.

The church edifice (Meeting House) was completed and dedicated on July 23, 1845,

and is an excellent example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture. The façade features a fully pedimented gable end topped by a two-stage bell tower. The sanctuary features beautiful stained glass windows from the late 19th century.



An addition from 1870 extends from the rear and houses the parish hall, office and kitchen. In 2012 an addition was added to provide space for Christian Education classes, a remodeled Fellowship Hall and handicapped accessibility.



This building is currently the oldest, continually used church facility in Haddam.



MEMBER'S CORNER



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

Thanks to everyone for all the prayers, cards, notes, and phone calls during Dick's illness. Also for the cards sent to us after he passed away. They were greatly appreciated by me and his family.

-Edith, Lisa & Rich

SUMMER HYMNS OF THE WEEK



Each week this summer we are engaging in a variety of ways with a special "Hymn of the Week."

Our Selected Hymns so far have been:

"God of Change and Glory"
"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"
"Faith of Our Fathers"
"Bring Many Names"
"O God of Every Nation"
"O Christ, the Word Incarnate"
"How Great Thou Art"
"My Faith It Is an Oaken Staff"
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Member-requested hymns "The Summons" and "Morning Has Broken" are coming up soon!

There's still time to send Eric Lundin or Pastor Michelle a sentence or two about your favorite and why it's special to you.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Susan Forray. Susan passed away at home on Tuesday, July 21st; her obituary may be read [HERE](#).

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS



2	Charlotte Morin
7	Elizabeth Anderson
8	Pam Crum, Marissa Sarmuk
9	Jack Moore
12	Alli Sanford, Donna Turnage
15	Mary Alice Matulevich
16	Austin Paradis
19	Oliver Brassard, Ryan Walker
21	Logan Craffey
25	Jacob Saglio
30	Neal Blodgett, Tyler Gras
31	Edie Williams



August 3	Bryan and Kristen Gras
August 11	David and Jamie Beckman
August 24	Dick and Carol Matregrano
August 29	Peter and Mary Aduskevich
August 29	Terry and Carol Smith

Please let the Office know at fcchaddam@gmail.com if there are omissions from or corrections to our birthday and anniversary lists.

HAPPY 50th, JOHN AND BARI!



To facilitate a surprise card shower for the couple, we intentionally omitted the Edmondsons' July 31st Anniversary from the list published last month. Congratulations, John and Bari!