



THE GOOD NEWS
from the Belfry



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

November



in the year 2020 of our Lord



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

Address Service Requested

Church websites:
haddamchurch.org and higganumchurch.org

Dear Haddam and Higganum Friends,

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.”

-Composed by Secretary of State William H. Seward and proclaimed by [President Lincoln, 10/3/1863](#)

For many reasons, this will be a Thanksgiving when many of us are more conscious than usual of both blessing and loss. It is strengthening in a year like this one to remember that Lincoln's proclamation (unlike [Washington's](#) decades before) was made while the nation was embroiled in declared conflict. It is worthwhile to note that both these great Presidents took seriously the biblical call to national as well as individual repentance and renewal, even as they expressed gratitude for God's Providential care.

Through all that may come, may we contemplate and believe St. Paul's exhortation and promise to the Philippians:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Thanksgiving Blessings, Pastor Michelle

INTERIM PROCESS

Members and friends of our two congregations are invited to join Pastor Michelle from **9:30-10:30am on Saturday, November 14th**, for the second of our two Saturday ZoomTable discussions. Please read the topic article (links provided below- or request a print copy from the Office at fcchaddam@gmail.com), then sign on using the usual Sunday Zoom link:

Saturday, November 14th, 9:30am
“The Value of a Pastoral Relations Committee”

<https://churchexecutive.com/archives/the-value-of-a-pastoral-relations-committee>
and https://www.churchleadership.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/PRC-Effective_and_Ineffective.pdf

Our October 17th discussion of “[The New Math of Church Mergers](#)” was recorded; please contact Pastor Michelle if you would like access.

NOVEMBER OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Michelle will hold scheduled digital office hours this month **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.) To arrange for an outdoor home visit, private Zoom chat, telephone call, or other visit with the Pastor, contact her at the number above or mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com.



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

NOVEMBER MEETINGS (By Zoom)

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

Joint Mission/Outreach – Monday, November 2nd, 7pm

Joint Diaconate – Monday, November 9th, 6pm

HCC Finance – Monday, November 16th, 7pm

Joint Council – Tuesday, November 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Singers and instrumental musicians are invited to contact Music Director Eric Lundin to schedule rehearsal, performance, and recording times this month. In particular, we are looking to schedule recording times on **Saturday, November 14th**. Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas pieces, both vocal and instrumental, are needed.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



During our annual Stewardship Program this month, we will learn more about Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving Generosity. Please note key dates and watch your mail box and weekly worship bulletins for materials.

Sunday, November 1st	Faithful Generosity
Week of November 2nd	Packets Mailed
Sunday, November 8th	Hopeful Generosity
Sunday, November 15th	Loving Generosity
Sunday, November 22nd	Thanksgiving/ Pledge Sunday and Dedication of Commitments

GIVING INFORMATION

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



“NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR DIGNITY” BINGO and CHARADES

Laughter is a proven stress relief! Invite a friend for an evening of no-stakes virtual BINGO and digital team charades on **Friday, November 20th from 7-8:30pm**. All ages are welcome. BINGO cards will be available for contactless pick up at worship the previous Sunday, or email fcchaddam@gmail.com to request a printable card.



FROM THE DEACONS

We will continue with Communion Sundays via Zoom only on November 1st, December 6th, and January 3rd.

We plan for in person worship in November at HCC from November 8th to November 29th (first Sunday of Advent).

December is planned for FCCH (December 13th to December 27th), with Christmas Eve on December 24th hosted by HCC. Plans for Christmas Eve are TBD, but we intend to offer an online option in addition to any in person service. January 2021 will be at HCC from January 10th to 31st.

Advent: We are looking for family groups for advent readings for November 29th, December 6th, December 13th, and December 20th. These may be pre-recorded. Contact Terry, Sue, or Pastor Michelle to sign up.

Holiday poinsettias order to be extended to congregation to decorate sanctuary... more to follow.

Deacons to communicate with their sheep regarding service schedule for holiday season.

Respectively submitted,
Sue Craffey

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There is some hope that our local ecumenical community will be able to gather virtually for a modified form of our annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service on Tuesday, November 24th.

If you are interested in assisting as a reader or musician, please speak with Pastor Michelle or Eric Lundin.



NOVEMBER 9:30am SUNDAY SCHEDULE



Sunday, November 1st
Zoom Worship
with Home Communion
All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 8th
Hybrid Worship (In Person at HCC & Zoom)
Veteran's Day Observance



Sunday, November 15th
Hybrid Worship (In Person at HCC & Zoom)

Sunday, November 22nd
Hybrid Worship (In Person at HCC & Zoom)
Pledge Sunday and Thanksgiving Worship



Sunday, November 29th
Hybrid Worship
(In Person at HCC & Zoom)
First Sunday of Advent



PHASING FORWARD UPDATE

Our 9:30am Sunday Zoom services (including streaming to Facebook Live) will continue for the foreseeable future, offering a completely “distanced,” safe opportunity for weekly worship.

Beginning in October we also began offering a simultaneous in-person indoor worship opportunity on 2nd and subsequent Sundays. First Sundays will remain ‘Zoom only’ through January to gather our whole community virtually for Home Communion.

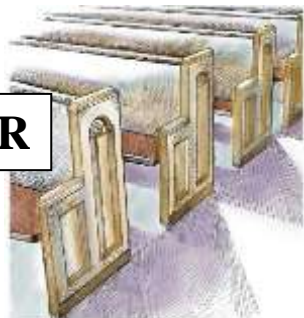
Hybrid services in November are scheduled for HCC. Those planning to attend in-person worship should familiarize themselves with the revised procedures described below, and check email weekly for any further updates.

Those who choose to attend in-person worship assume an additional risk of Covid19 exposure. If a person present for an indoor program subsequently is found to be ill, all those who attended may be advised to quarantine.

We remind you that we do not have an adequate/consistent source of disinfectant for weekly sanitizing of our sanctuaries. **We will rely instead on time** (the sanctuary will be closed for use Monday to Saturday) **and what ventilation is possible with the colder weather to allow degradation/dispersal of any virus present.** Normal cleaning (dusting, vacuuming, not sanitizing) will be completed during the week.

Worship
with us
from
HOME

OR



Back in the Sanctuary



Covid19 precaution measures for in-person worship include:

- Wellness and exposure screening questions and touchless temperature check for all participants outdoors on arrival
- Masks required on the church campus
- One-way traffic in the sanctuary (entering from side doors at HCC and rear at FCCH); exception for ramp or elevator access
- 6-foot spacing (by household) before, during, and following worship
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout buildings
- Reduction in verbal participation by members of the congregation (including no indoor congregational singing)
- Elimination of passed/handled objects (doors propped or held, contact-free “Passing the Peace,” offering plates placed at the entrance/exit; hymnals, cards, etc. removed from the pews)
- Limited bathroom access (emergencies)
- Prompt departure at dismissal of service
- No indoor fellowship hour and no food or drink served
- Names and contact information of all present recorded by the Deacons to assist with contact tracing

Our upper limit for attendance is determined by our spacing plan for 26 household groups at FCCH and 23 at HCC; we estimate being able to accommodate about 55 worshippers (including leaders) at FCCH and 50 at HCC.

Though not anticipated, if the number of households present on a given Sunday exceeds the number we can accommodate inside, individuals who previously volunteered will be asked to return home to worship by Zoom.

Experience gained this past month and the coming of colder weather mean there will be some changes for November services:

- Zoom participants will continue to see an Announcement slide show accompanied by music beginning at 9:15am.
- In-person participants will be asked to enter HCC in household groups beginning at **9:25am from the side doors**. Please be patient and keep a **6-foot distance in line** as the **Deacons screen** each group.
- Worshippers in-person and at home will be able to **share prayer requests at 9:30am**; prayer requests also may be texted to Pastor Michelle at 860-597-4223 by 9am.
- In-person worshippers then will hear Announcements and the Prelude while those participating on Zoom and Facebook Live enjoy the Time for Children of All Ages and sing a congregational hymn.
- The shared **service will begin at about 9:40am and run approximately 40 minutes**. The service will include instrumental music, scripture readings, a sermon, and prayers. Those who arrive at HCC after 9:40am should enter through the **front doors**, where a Deacon will provide screening and direct seating.
- Those worshipping in person will receive a print copy of the order of service (placed three days ahead in the pews). On some Sundays the in-person congregation may sing a congregational hymn outdoors following the service.
- Those worshipping through Zoom should **print or request a copy** of the order of service; prayers, etc., will not be projected.
- A “Bring Your Own Coffee” Coffee Hour will follow the Zoom service, with the Pastor joining in as soon as she is able.
- In-person worshippers are welcome to enjoy conversation in distanced groups outside following the service.

Following our online worship on Sunday, November 1st, members and friends are invited to join Pastor Michelle and members of the Deacons and Physical Reopening Team for Q&A regarding these procedures.

When gathering in-person for any church program, please comply with the following:

- Do not attend in person if you aren't feeling well or have a known exposure to Covid19 (See “Questions to Ask” below.)
- Wear a mask throughout the time you are on the church campus.
- Move into and out of the church building promptly when asked, saving fellowship and conversation for outside spaces.

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE ATTENDING IN PERSON PROGRAMMING/WORSHIP

- Do you have a fever over 100 degrees OR not feel well?
- Do you have signs of illness?
- Does anyone in your household have a fever or signs of illness?
- Have you been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 within the last two weeks?



If the answer is YES to any of these questions, please do not attend in-person programming. Instead, follow quarantine protocols/contact your health provider.

If you become ill after attending an in-person program at FCCH/HCC, please contact the Pastor (860-597-4223), Church Office (860-345-2742), or one of the Chairs of Deacons (Sue Craffey or Terry Smith) so we can respond appropriately and offer you pastoral care.

**CONFERENCE-WIDE EFFORT ABOLISHES
 \$26.2 MILLION IN MEDICAL DEBT**

A collaborative effort by First Congregational Church of Haddam, Higganum Congregational Church, 120 other United Church of Christ congregations, four Associations, and more than 100 households in the Southern New England Conference has abolished \$26.2 million in medical debt.

Two separate buys benefited families in the region and first responders around the country. All will soon be receiving letters telling them that their medical debt has been forgiven. Click [HERE](#) to read and watch the Press Conference Video and [HERE](#) to see the list of contributors.

**MISSION/OUTREACH
 NOVEMBER 2020**

BREAD MINISTRY: The Bread Ministry has completed its 2020 season very successfully.



There was a very stormy start in June, so the market did not start until July. The new location, in the parking lot of the Haddam Elementary School, was a very visible place to have the market. From the first day our sellers were able to market all the bread we made. Many people became regular customers. We are very grateful for the wonderful community support.

We were able to raise \$2564 that will be given to the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank. THANK YOU to everyone who purchased the bread, who baked the bread and sold the bread. Lots of people working together will help families be warm this winter.

Solnit Center in Middletown has asked us to make 25 Christmas Stockings for the youth at the facility. Several of the women are working on this project. No matter how old one is, Christmas stockings are fun.

We will be collecting the ingredients to make **Thanksgiving Baskets** for 10 Haddam families this year. A sign-up list will be available in early November. This project has been requested by Haddam Social Services.

GOD'S GREAT VIRTUAL BAKE OFF: The date for sending in pictures was moved to October 30, 2020. During the first two weeks in November everyone will be able to vote for the most delicious looking picture. It is only \$1.00/vote. Unfortunately, we will not be able to eat all the yummy treats. Join in the fun. The person with the most votes will receive a \$25 gift card to the Haddam restaurant of choice.



Click the Whisk
 to VOTE!

View a tutorial on Voting and VOTE [HERE](#).





ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

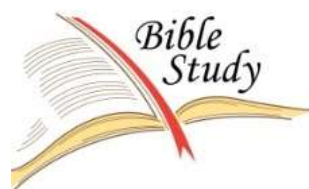


In our Online Sunday School in September and October, students had the chance to learn about Moses and the Burning Bush, The Tabernacle, God Telling Job about the Creation, and God Being Faithful to Abraham.

Parents and Grandparents whose children have attended in-person Sunday School in the past year should be receiving weekly email invitations to participate in live interactive Sunday School (or to view a recording of the lessons). If you are not receiving this information, please contact the Office at fchaddam@gmail.com to request sign on and viewing access information.

WEEKDAY ADULT STUDY

During November our **10am Monday** adult education class will meet in person in the **FCCH Sanctuary and Online**. We will conclude our study of the biblical book of Job on November 9th, then spend one or two sessions on our Stewardship Theme as we plan for our final series of this year. Please speak with Pastor Michelle for more information.



A taste of history



Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt



What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

MEMBER'S CORNER



Welcome to the world!

We are delighted to welcome **Wyatt Alan Ricker**, new great grandson of Carol and Bruce, born on October 19, 2020.

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



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, November 1st; remember to put your clock back!

GREAT PUMPKINS

Nice work to the carvers who gathered on October 29th for fellowship and fun!



ADMIN SEARCH

We hope to fill our vacant Office Administrator position this month.

Please click [HERE](#) for the position description and forward it to likely candidates you may know. Specific application information is provided on the linked document.

In accord with current best practices, church members will not be sought for this position. Please speak with Pastor Michelle with questions or concerns.



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS



- 4 Mary Aduskevich Ryoko Morin
- 5 Kellen Crum
- 6 Stewart Gillmor
- 7 Dan Wendt
- 8 John Anderson Boden Booth Hettrick
- 10 Joan Bragoni
- 11 Michelle Madsen-Bibeau
- 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

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

A Note of Thanks from Pastor Michelle:
A big **THANK YOU** to **John Anderson, Lori Chadwick, Amy Harlow, Ginny Murphy,** and **Katie Packtor** for training to serve as Meeting Hosts for our services, and an **extra big thank you** to **Nancy Soneson** for her ongoing leadership and support!