



THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*



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

July 

In the Year of Our Lord 2021



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,

Let's try an experiment in doing big three things at once.

Like many clergy, I have more than one book on church growth. I usually hesitate to open them during interim times since the energy of the churches I serve is more rightly dedicated to addressing pressing issues and the pastoral search process.

I agree with the authors of my books that growth is essential to church flourishing, but usually my part in it is to help a church get as healthy as possible and find its next settled pastor, since these are good starting places for future growth efforts.

This is fine during the typical six-month to two-year interim. As our time working together stretches towards two and a half years, and your "in between time" since your settled pastor's departure towards three, and as your churches more fully reopen from Covid, I know I am not alone in feeling the need for more.

Whether or not the two churches formally join, there is a consensus that your ministry going forward will be shared. There also is something like consensus that this collaboration ought to be a springboard to growth.

In this rescheduled summer Olympics year, we'll be able to see springboards in action. The first part of a good vault is a strong run to gather force. Even before that, though, the gymnast has to locate and point their body toward the springboard.

This summer, in a pair of brief sermon series- "Ready" (July 11-25) and "Set" (August 8-21), I will share some of what is in my books about this first stage of orienting churches toward growth. To provide access for those who are traveling, we will make sure the texts of these sermons are available online (in addition to the streamed services on YouTube).

I hope what we learn together will provide energy and direction to the work of your committees as they plan for the fall start up, as well as being a resource on which you can draw in the future with your settled pastor.

The other two big things (preparation for late September votes on joining the churches and supporting the Search Committee's process) will continue as well. I would ask that you actively participate in and above all, PRAY for each of these endeavors.

Blessings and thanks,
Pastor Michelle

INTERIM PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Michelle holds **in-person office hours at Lewis House from 1-3pm Tuesday afternoons**. Stop by for "Outdoor Hours" weather permitting (anyone) and/or to meet in the air conditioned Pastor's Study (fully-vaccinated individuals or households). **No Office Hours July 6th**. Pastor Michelle sometimes works from home, and her day off varies with family needs, so please feel free to reach out to schedule a visit (phone/text at 860-597-4223/mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com).

CHURCH OFFICE

With the arrival of a new administrative assistant, our Lewis House Church Office will reopen beginning the week of July 12th. Summer hours will be from 1-4pm Tuesdays and from 9am-Noon on Thursdays.

Fully-vaccinated persons who stop by need not wear a mask, but anyone who is unvaccinated should wear a mask and make themselves known before entering so that Staff may replace their own masks.



Keep our Pastoral Search Committee in prayer as they continue receiving and reviewing candidate profiles and interviewing candidates.



Search Committee members are Mark Soneson (Chair), Candy Casale, Amy Harlow, Sue Henehan, Ralph Livieri, Sabine Nyenhuis, and Lindamae Peck. Read the FCCH/HCC Ministry Opportunity Listing [HERE](#).

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION



Most Church meetings held on Zoom may be accessed during the appointed hours at:

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

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

JULY MEETINGS

Joint Diaconate – Monday, July 12th, 7pm by Zoom (hosted access at FCCH Lewis House)

Quilt Show Planning – Wednesday, July 14th, 7pm (Zoom)

HCC Finance – Monday, July 19th, 7pm (HCC)

Physical Reopening Team – Tuesday, July 20th, 8:30am (Zoom)

Joint Council – Tuesday, July 20th, 7pm by Zoom (hosted access at HCC Fellowship)

Please contact Committee Chairs for agendas and details of meeting information.

CALL to a SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING July 18, 2021

To be read in worship: July 4, 11, 18, 2021

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Haddam and the members of the Higganum Congregational Church:

Notice is hereby given of a special joint congregational meeting to be held following morning worship on July 18, 2021.

Agenda:

1. Vote to accept Lynn Pandiani as Administrative Assistant for both churches

Patty Blodgett, Clerk *Terry Smith*, Clerk
First Congregational Church of Haddam, Higganum
Haddam, Connecticut Congregational Church
Haddam, Connecticut Higganum, Connecticut

Each Church will need a quorum (25 for FCCH and 20 for HCC). See page 6 for an introduction to Lynn, and the next column for a proxy to print.

RON BOOTH MISSION GOLF OUTING September 19, 2021

UPDATE

The Dinner Venue will now be hosted by Sue and Danny Gascoyne, 130 Dublin Hill Road, Higganum, CT. This is a beautiful venue for the dinner. Please plan on joining us.



Dinner is included for golfers, the cost for dinner only is \$35, with children (2-12) \$5.

Dinner includes steak/chicken, salad, baked potato, appetizers, dessert, and an open bar.

We have a need for a volunteer, along with helpers, to organize the Raffle set-up at the dinner. This does not require creating any raffle baskets; just set up the display with raffle prize names, place bags for raffle tickets and prepare raffle prize board with raffle prizes listed (names of winners will be written on the board). Contact Terry Smith if you will help.

-Submitted by Terry Smith

PROXY VOTE for JULY 18, 2021 SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

I, _____,
(print your name)

a member of

(check one box; members of both churches should complete two paper proxies)

Higganum Congregational Church

First Congregational Church of Haddam

authorize _____
(name of another member of your church)

to vote on my behalf at the Joint Special Business Meeting on Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

9:30am at HCC
WORSHIP SERVICES



July 4th
Luke 10:1-10, 16-20
Guest Preacher:
Rev. Dr. Terry Schmitt

July 11th, 18th and 25th

“Ready”



Summer
Sermon Series

8:00am GAZEBO SERVICES

We will offer brief outdoor worship services at the Higganum Gazebo at 8am on summer Sundays July 11th though September 19th. Our anticipated schedule is below.

July 11th	Worship with Holy Communion
July 18th	Morning Worship
July 25th	Worship with Holy Communion
August 1st	Morning Worship
August 8th	Worship with Holy Communion
August 15th	Morning Worship
August 22nd	Worship with Holy Communion
August 29th	Morning Worship
Sept. 5th	Morning Worship
Sept. 12th	Worship with Holy Communion
Sept. 19th	Final Gazebo Worship Service is main Sunday service.

No masks will be required for fully vaccinated individuals at these services, but unvaccinated individuals are asked to mask.



Please bring your own chair. Leashed dogs are welcome!

Sunday 8am Gazebo services will begin on July 11th.

Pulpit supply for July 4 will be the Rev. Dr. Terry Schmitt.

The Town has approved our use of the Gazebo from July to October; current plans are to begin services at 8:00 A.M. on July 11 and continue through August. Leashed dogs are welcome!

The process of updating church membership lists is continuing.

-Submitted by Liz Anderson



The United Church of Christ will meet for General Synod 33 July 11th to 18th. The gathering is fully virtual, so there still is time to register- and no transportation or housing cost.

Visit <https://www.generalsynod.org/> for more information.

Family devotions and Children’s activity pages are available at https://www.generalsynod.org/childrens-videos-resources/?inf_contact_key=512b286e0f3c3cc0ca2480bad985843909c74070ac2bf3cfa7869e3cfd4ff832.

WORSHIP

In Person or Online
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Our gatherings for public worship may include unvaccinated individuals as well as those at increased probability for Covid19 complications due to age or health conditions. Those attending our gatherings do so at their own risk. We encourage all youth and adults 12+ attending worship to be fully vaccinated.

All worshippers are asked to familiarize themselves with and abide by the following guidelines **(updated June 20, 2021)**:

- Please do not attend in-person worship/ events if you or a household member have symptoms of Covid-19 or if you have a known exposure (regardless of vaccination status).
- Any unvaccinated persons are asked to wear a mask covering mouth and nose while on the church campus, except while actively eating or drinking outdoors (when they should maintain social distance from other households) and during Communion.
- Fully vaccinated persons may go without a mask except while singing. Worship leaders will model replacing their own masks for the hymns, and the worship bulletin will include reminders.
- Hand sanitizer will be available. Please avoid passing objects (e.g. hymnals, bulletins) from person to person.
- Offerings may be placed in the plates as you arrive or as you depart after the service.
- Enter the Sanctuary as traffic flow signs direct unless using the ramp (FCCH) or elevator (HCC), and leave promptly following worship through the door nearest you (please do not congregate in HCC Fellowship Hall).
- The rear right quadrant of the Sanctuary and the balcony will continue to be reserved for distanced seating.
- Our worship will include congregational singing throughout.



- There is no Nursery/in-person Sunday School at this time.
- A summer schedule for hosting outdoor fellowship with refreshments (pre-portioned, self-serve snack and cold beverage) is printed below. Please contact the designated committee in advance to contribute items so they can plan for serving.



Sanctuary windows and doors will be open and fans used for ventilation (moving air out of the building, not for comfort). If very high temperatures or humidity are expected, services may be moved outdoors; notice of this will be made in the weekly email.

Restrooms are available for emergency use; they are located on both levels at FCCH and near the Sacristy and in the education wing at HCC. Our church buildings are cleaned weekly when in use, with restrooms and high-touch surfaces sanitized.

SUMMER HOSPITALITY

July 11	Combined Music (at HCC)
July 18	HCC Diaconate (at HCC)
July 25	FCCH Diaconate (at HCC)
August 1	HCC Trustees and Board of Finance (at HCC)
August 8	HCC Outreach (at HCC)
August 15	Combined Music (at HCC)
August 22	FCCH Christian Education and Prudential (at FCCH)
August 29	FCCH Christian Service and Stewardship (at FCCH)



SERVICE STREAMING

Access to the service by livestream at YouTube also is being provided. Visit our YouTube Channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7SxL2fMB-DZu4BxaM6hWNg> to view archived streams anytime or Sundays at 9:35am for the service on a slight delay.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **Wednesday, July 7th at 10am at Higganum Congregational Church in the Fellowship**

Room. Please contact Carol Ricker by Tuesday the 6th if you would like to participate from home via online access. For materials or more information on this ministry, please contact either Carol Ricker or Edie Williams.

WELCOMING OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



We are happy to announce the selection of Lynn Pandiani as our new church Administrative Assistant. She will begin work with an orientation day on Tuesday, July 13th; please stop

in to greet her Tuesdays (1-4pm) or Thursdays (9am-Noon) this summer after that.

Lynn studied Graphic Design at the University of Bridgeport and Computer Science at Marist College. She currently is the Managing Director of Angel Charities, where she has gained experience publicizing and organizing [AngelRide](#) and collaborating with other volunteers.

Lynn is a member of First Church of Christ in Saybrook, where she has been active in Christian Education and administrative leadership roles. She already is familiar with many of the software systems in use in our church office.

Lynn lives in Old Saybrook with her husband Andy and their youngest child who graduated high school this spring and heads to college in the fall.

Many thanks to our small Administrative Assistant Search Committee (Kristin Battistoni, Ralph Livieri, and Nancy Soneson), and a hearty welcome to Lynn!

MODERATORS' MISSIVE

A Note from Your Moderators

June 30, 2021

Dear Members and Friends.

A special Joint Council meeting was held last night at the Higganum Congregational Church. This meeting was held as a follow-up to the June 6th congregational gathering with the intent to structure/plan our next steps as we go forward with the process of joining our two congregations.

With both churches represented by council quorums, a total of four unanimous votes were taken separately by each church. The votes were:

- (1) A vote to present the joining issue to the two churches at a September congregational meeting.
- (2) A vote to set the date for this meeting as September 26th following worship.
- (3) A vote to set the wording of the question to be voted on as, "Should the Higganum Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church of Haddam combine to form a new church?"
- (4) A vote to establish a 2/3rds majority of members voting as necessary to pass the September 26th question in votes to be taken by separately by HHC and FCCH.

Again, all four votes taken by each council separately passed unanimously. There are many details to be worked out before we reach the September 26th meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your moderators and council members. At this point we felt it was important to give members and friends information on the plan the joint council has approved.



Submitted by
John Edmondson (FCCH)
and Greg Shields (HCC)

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

MISSION/OUTREACH NEWS

JULY 2021



SCHOOL BAGS for CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

We have 43 hand-made school bags that need to be filled. The list of items is very specific. It is suggested that you wait to purchase items until mid-July or when the school supplies are on sale. It is then possible to complete a bag for just \$3 or \$4 dollars.

Each bag will have:

- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- Three (3) 70-count spiral bound notebooks
- One (1) 30 cm/12-inch ruler
- Six (6) new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- One (1) hand held pencil sharpener
- One (1) large eraser
- One (1) box of 24 crayons

In 2020, 13,020 school kits were delivered in the United States. Church World Service shares in a hope-filled tomorrow.

Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families here at home and all over the world.



BREAD FOR SALE

The Bread Ministry is up early and baking on Fridays at FCCH. Please stop by and watch the process. We set the bread to raise, mix the dough for the next week and bake the 36 loaves of bread for the market on Friday afternoon. We always can use help washing dishes and mixing ingredients.

Later in the day on Friday the sellers pack the bread and take it to the Higganum Farmers Market at the old Haddam Elementary School. Sales are brisk. If you want to purchase bread please come early-the market starts at 3:30 p.m.

All the proceeds from the sale of bread are donated to the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank. The cost of the supplies for this ministry is a part of the FCCH budget.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Nancy Soneson or Ginny Evensen.

DIAPER BANK

Thank you to everyone who participated in this mission project. This year we honored mothers and fathers with donations to this project. This Connecticut Diaper Bank not only provides infant supplies at no cost to recipients, but also sanitary supplies for women and incontinence supplies for men and women.

We are delighted to announce that we exceeded our second goal for the drive, raising over \$1,000. (Mission/Outreach had originally set a goal of \$500, which quickly was met!)



LOOKING AHEAD

The Joint Mission/Outreach committee will be meeting early in August to plan mission projects for the Fall and Winter. If you have any ideas for new projects, please send them to the *Belfry*.

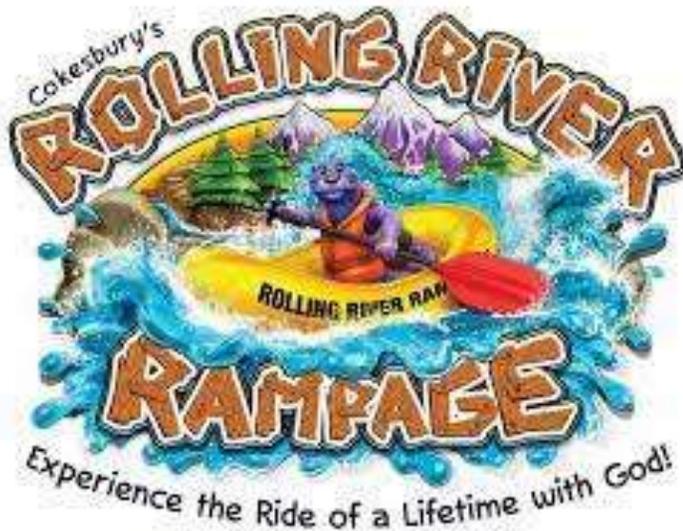
-Submitted by Ginny Evensen



I first want to congratulate all of our grads! You have persevered and adapted to overcome so MANY obstacles, thanks COVID. If nothing else I feel you are even more prepared for life because of the pandemic. The church and I couldn't be prouder. Best of luck on your new endeavors, near and far.

To the parents of these amazing people: awesome job, you rock!

I would like to thank everyone for my wonderful cards and gifts. I treasure all of you and all of your support! Without all of you none of this would be possible. My deepest thanks to my church family!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I would like to begin collecting money for frozen chicken strips, promises of your time, and maybe some frozen corn! Oh, and I can't forget the oranges! That is the meal that we will be providing to the VBS campers on Thursday July 23rd. We will need to prepare and deliver this meal to the Methodist Church, hot, in to-go containers, and the orange slices in zip bags. I plan to have a sign up and collection box. As of

right now we do not have a number on the campers, so cannot give firm amounts needed. With that being said I do not want to wait until the last minute to begin a collection! In the event there is extra money or goods the committee will decide where to donate those items. There are also opportunities for high school students to earn community service hours by being a camp volunteer. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com.

Thank you for all of your support!

Peace and blessings,
Amy Harlow CE Director



Mission at the Eastward (MATE) Housing Ministry organizes volunteers to assist Maine residents with housing repairs. Our churches' mission trip in support of MATE is on for August 15th to 21st.

The Chadwicks' scouting trip was a success, and the leaders of the housing project are prepared to handle our group. The team has secured housing at the Farmington Conference Center and a local motel. Details surrounding arrival time and travel arrangements are yet to be finalized, but the participants are looking forward to a successful mission trip.

Please pray for the health of our volunteers, and if there is any late interest in joining in, call Lori Chadwick ASAP. The group will deliver any donations that members or friends want to contribute to MATE. See the August *Belfry* for more information on what is needed, as well as plans for dedicating these gifts and our volunteers as they go out to serve.

HYMN RECOMMENDATIONS



Now that we again are singing in worship, please contact Eric Lundin or Pastor Michelle with any requests so we can try to include them in an upcoming summer service.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Gavin Barile – HKHS
Claire Madsen-Bibeau – University of S. Maine
Luke Malone – HKHS
Paige Muscillo – Wethersfield HS
Colton Soneson – Champlain College

A Blessing at Graduation

*May you have wisdom in heart and mind;
success in every challenge you find;
courage to seek life's purpose for you;
belief in yourself to make it come true;
strength to do your best and endure;
and the guiding light of faith to ensure
that wherever you go, whatever you do,
God's love will always see you through.*

A NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank Pastor Michelle and all those who helped with Bruce's Memorial Service.

So many stepped up to make everything just the way Bruce would have liked.

Thank you.... all!

Carol Ricker

MEMBER'S CORNER



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



- 2 Amanda Chadwick
- 3 Bridget Harry
- 4 Christine Beecher
- 10 Kyle Tupay
- 16 Lydia Brassard
- 17 Kim Radowiecki
- 22 Denise Bouchard, AJ Livingston, Terry Smith
- 23 Jack Calhoun
- 25 Danny Richmond
- 26 Dick Matregrano, Betsey Booth, Nolan Sheppard
- 27 Colin Ellsworth
- 28 Sarah Shields, Kelly Beth Paradis



- 17 Jack and Ginny Murphy
- 23 Clark and Kamilla Gardner

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

