



THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*



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



In the Year of Our Lord 2021



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

Dear Haddam and Higganum Friends,

Last month I wrote about Stress. This month I want to write about Hope.

As floods rise and fires burn, Hope?
As refugees flee and soldiers lament, Hope?
As schools open in uncertainty and stressed businesses consider closing, Hope?
As medical workers are overworked to the point of exhaustion and politicians and pundits still profit from division, Hope?

When else?

One of the shelters [World Central Kitchen](#) is supplying in Haiti is named “*Espwa*,” creole for “Hope.” WCK writes, “A nourishing meal is a powerful tool to heal communities in times of crisis—it is **hope** and it means that you are not alone.”

Hope is key for [parents and kids](#) in these times. “Hope” even appears as a character in [Kimberly Hoffman's book](#) showing how children have been processing their experience of the pandemic.

Hope is central for people of faith. “Christian Hope” is another expression for what theologians call “Eschatology,” the “doctrine of the last things” in which we picture how our individual lives and the state of the world ultimately will be sorted out by a powerful, just, and loving God.

[Romans 8](#), St. Paul's great reflection on Hope, concludes, *“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Today, this month, and ever,
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

-Romans 15:13

Blessings.
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, masks if unvaccinated) and/or to meet in the Pastor's Study (fully-vaccinated individuals or households, masks required). (Please note: NO Office Hours September 28th.) Pastor Michelle sometimes works from home, and her day off varies with family needs, so contact her to schedule a visit ([860-597-4223](tel:860-597-4223) mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com).

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Our current guidelines for public worship are unchanged from last month (see page 6 of the August *Belfry*). In addition, the Joint Church Council at the recommendation of the Physical Reopening Committee asks that **masks be worn by all persons indoors at either of our campuses until further notice**. We remind all church committees/groups that any **in-person meetings of the church should offer a remote option** as well. (Please contact the church office for assistance with arrangements if needed.) **Unvaccinated individuals** should wear a mask outdoors on the church campuses except while eating or drinking (at which time they should practice social distancing).

See page 11 of this September *Belfry* for additional information about our Physical Reopening Team, and check your email for updates prior to Sunday services as our safety protocols may change with local conditions.



Tuesdays, 1-4pm
Thursdays,
9am to Noon

Please note that the office will be closed on Thursday September 2nd.

Until further notice, please plan to wear a mask when visiting the Church Office regardless of your vaccination status. Thank you!

PREPARATION

CALL TO A SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING September 26, 2021

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Haddam:

Notice is hereby given of a special congregational meeting to be held following morning worship on September 26, 2021, at First Congregational Church of Haddam.

Agenda:

Motion: Should the Higganum Congregational Church and The First Congregational Church of Haddam combine to form a new church?

(Note: this motion will be the only order of business for this meeting. Amendments will not be accepted.)

First Congregational Church of Haddam
Haddam, Connecticut
Patty Blodgett, Clerk

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Agenda:

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(Note: this motion will be the only order of business for this meeting. Amendments will not be accepted.)

Higganum Congregational Church
Higganum, Connecticut
Terry Smith, Clerk

Please plan to attend (in person or via Zoom) your church's Q&A/Discussion Meeting as well as the joint Q&A/Discussion. This is especially important if you have not actively participated in programs over the past several years in which members and friends have discussed the two churches' ministry and options.

**Higganum Congregational Church
Member Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 7th, 7pm at HCC

**First Congregational Church of Haddam
Member Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 14th, 7pm at FCCH

**Joint FCCH and HCC
Member and Friend Meeting:**

Wednesday, September 22nd, 7pm at HCC

BALLOT and VOTING INFORMATION

Church Members should watch their USPS mail for their ballots and supporting materials. **If you are an active member who has not received your packet by September 7th**, please contact your church Clerk, Moderator, Diaconate Chair, or the Church Office so that replacement materials can be delivered and any needed corrections to our records addressed by the Deacons at their September 13th meeting.

All voting will be by confidential paper ballot. Ballots must be submitted in an envelope marked with the member's name and dated signature. Envelopes and stickers with spaces for signature and date will be provided in the ballot packets, and extras available on the 26th.

Members may cast their ballot by mailing or arranging for delivery of their ballot to their respective church by the **absentee deadline of Friday, September 24th**, or **vote in person on Sunday, September 26th**.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Golf Pln. – Wednesday, Sept. 1st, 7pm
(Chadwicks')

HCC Members Q&A/Discussion – Tuesday,
Sept. 7th, 7pm (HCC/Zoom)

Golf Pln. – Wednesday, Sept. 8th, 7pm (HCC)

Joint Diaconate – Monday, Sept. 13th, 7pm by
Zoom (hosted access at FHCC)

FCCH Members Q&A/Discussion – Tuesday,
Sept. 14th, 7pm (FCCH/Zoom)

Crop Pln. – Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 5:30pm
(FCCH/Zoom)

Golf Pln. – Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 7pm (HCC)

HCC Finance – Mon., Sept. 20th, 7pm (HCC)

Joint Council – Tuesday, Sept. 21st, 7pm by
Zoom (hosted access at HCC)

Joint FCCH and HCC Q&A/Discussion –
Wednesday, Sept. 22nd, 7pm (HCC/Zoom)

Special Business Meetings of FCCH and HCC
– Sunday, Sept. 26th, 10:30am (FHCC)

Mission/Outreach – Wednesday, Sept. 29th,
7pm by Zoom (hosted access at HCC)

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

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Keep our Pastoral Search Committee in prayer
as they continue interviewing candidates.

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

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION



Online
Meetings

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

RON BOOTH MISSION GOLF OUTING

September 19, 2021
at Lyman Orchards Golf Club

Now is the time to sign up as a Sponsor.

Now is the time to sign up to play golf.

Now is the time to sign up for Dinner Only (if
not playing golf).

Now is the time to give a Raffle Prize.

Now is the time to volunteer to help at the golf
course or at the dinner.

Less than three weeks to go. We would like a
count for Dinner Only Guests and Sponsors by
September 5. This will give time to order food
and prepare Sponsor signs.

Check with your relatives, friends and business
contacts and invite them to participate.

Contact Steve Bull or Terry Smith for more
details or to turn in reservations, sponsorships,
and raffle prizes or to volunteer to help.

We need help with the Dinner: 1-2 cooks
(grilling) and food servers. Please contact Jack
Murphy if you will help with cooking and Linda
Hansen if you will help with serving food.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up as a golfer, diner, or
sponsor. Click [HERE](#) or call the church for
a printable registration form.



9:30am SUNDAY WORSHIP at FCCH through September

September 5th
Worship with Holy
Communion



“Set” Series: *Mission*
(rescheduled due to Hurricane Henri)

September 12th
Outdoor “Worship at the Fair”

Rally Day Program and Luncheon

September 19th
NO IN-PERSON
9:30am WORSHIP

8am In-Person Worship at the Gazebo
and Pre-recorded Online Worship available
beginning Saturday, September 18th
on our YouTube Channel with
Special music recorded by Joint Church Choir

September 26th
Psalm 124, Mark 9:38-50
(Revised Common Lectionary)

Planning continues for the September 26th
Special Business Meetings regarding Church
Joining. There will be three pre-meeting
communication meetings with church
members.

HCC Meeting - Tuesday, September 7th
FCCH Meeting - Tuesday, September 14th
Joint Meeting - Wednesday, September 22

The schedule for the September 19th Golf
Tournament needs to be set at the next
Council Meeting.

We will continue to use the individual elements
for Communion.

The Organ Concert date will be affected by the
virus status and will be determined by Eric
Lundin and the Music Committee.

It is essential that we communicate when
services change locations to avoid confusion.

Another Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission on
the Gulf Coast is in the planning stages for
January.

Our new Administrative Assistant is working
out well. Regular hours for the office are
Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

The Physical Reopening Team will need to
continue to meet in order to make adjustments
to services as the virus requires.

Rally Day is September 12.

Homecoming Sunday is scheduled for October
17th.

-Submitted by Liz Anderson



In-Person and Live Stream Service--Some
people do not like wearing masks.

Since the UCC is not scheduling any in-person
meetings until at least October, our plan for the
racial justice meeting we are attempting to
schedule may be affected.

Three second interviews with settled pastor
candidates have been scheduled.

SERVICE STREAMING



Access to the service by
livestream at YouTube is
provided. Visit and subscribe
to our YouTube Channel

<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 **8am Sunday services at the Gazebo** run through September 19th. Join us to learn about Jesus' first disciples and be encouraged in our own discipleship.

Leashed dogs are welcome! Please dress for the weather and bring your own chair.

Sept. 5th Morning Worship
 Sept. 12th Worship with Holy Communion
 Sept. 19th Morning Worship

Unvaccinated persons are asked to mask.

“SET” SERMON SERIES

This summer, we were getting “Ready” and “Set” for church growth.



The August *Belfry* included links to review the July “Ready” Sermon Series drawn from Loren Mead’s *More Than Numbers*.

Click the links below to see the August “Set” Series from David Ray’s *Indispensable Guide for Smaller Churches*.

August 8th: [Combined Stretch Session/Sermon](#)
 August 15th: [Stretch Session \(Worship\); Sermon “Worship”](#)
 August 29nd: [Stretch Session \(Education\); Sermon “Education”](#)



CHOIR PRACTICE and RECORDING

Singers are invited to join Music Director Eric Lundin for a first fall Choir Practice and recording session **on Thursday, September 9th at 7pm at FCCH**. In addition to regular rehearsal, we will record music for the September 19th online service.

9/11 20TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

At **8:46am on Saturday, September 11th**, our churches will join in tolling our bells in memory of those lost twenty years ago this year at the World Trade Center, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon.



From the
SUPERINTENDENT

Hello from Christian Education!

Our committee has met and decided that we will continue with the “Dig In” Curriculum. It offers options for both in person and online learning. I will continue to hold an online component and also be ready to teach an in person lesson as the need arises and COVID allows... Our tentative fall schedule is available by expanding or clicking the picture below, and will be printed as part of the worship bulletin on Rally Day.

Speaking of which, Rally Sunday is just around the corner! Join us Sunday September 12th for Rally Day at the Fair!

Don't miss your chance to enter our "All's Fair Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Exhibit" where any entry is welcome and EVERY entry is a winner!

Fair Fare will be provided along with drinks to wet your whistle and desserts to tempt your tummy. A food sign up is available [HERE](#).

As always I look forward to seeing you, and I am grateful for your continued support.

Peace and blessings,
 Amy Harlow, CE Director

FCCH/HCC SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE – FALL 2021

September						
Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Comunion Sunday No IP Sunday School						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Rally Day at the Fair 9:30am @FCCH				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Self Tournament No 9:30am IP Service No IP Sunday School				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
26	27	28	29	30		
IP Sunday School @CCH				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		

November						
Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Comunion Sunday No IP Sunday School				6pm Sunday School on Zoom	Veterans Day No Zoom Sunday School	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
IP Turkey Box Decorating @FCCH				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
IP Turkey Box Filling @CCH				No Zoom Sunday School		
28	29	30				
IP Advent Calendar Project @CCH						

October						
Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
World Communion Sunday, CIOF Walk, Dedication @HCC, No IP Sunday School				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Holiday Weekend No IP Sunday School				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Homecoming Sunday IP Sunday School @HCC				No zoom Sunday School	21 Trunk or Treat @HES	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
IP Sunday School @HCC				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
31						
IP Costume Parade @HCC						

December						
Sunday	M	T	W	Th	F	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Comunion Sunday No IP Sunday School				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
IP Sunday School @HCC				6pm Sunday School on Zoom		18 Cookie Walk @HCC
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
IP Sunday School @HCC				6pm Sunday School on Zoom	24 Christmas Eve @FCCH	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Holiday Wknd No IP Sunday School				No Zoom Sunday School		



RALLY DAY

at the *Fair*



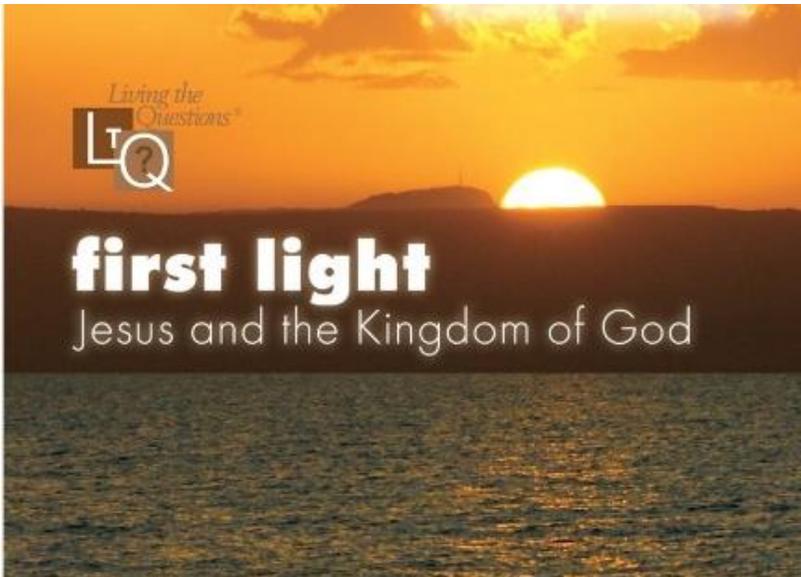
**Intergenerational
Rally Day Worship
at FCCH**
(outdoors if fair weather)
**Followed by Food, Fun,
and Fellowship**



Activities subject to change with Covid protocols. Please plan to wear a mask indoors (regardless of vaccination status) and outdoors (except when eating and distanced) if unvaccinated.

Bring something you have grown for an All's Fair Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Exhibit. Any entry welcome, every entry a winner!

FALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES



Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus — Divine, Son of God, God from God, Lord, Redeemer, Liberator, and Savior of the World — taken from a Roman emperor on the Palatine hill and given to a Jewish peasant on the Palestine plain? **Was it low lampoon or high treason?** Either way, the Romans were not laughing. **What** were the priorities of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom? **How** was the status quo of Roman imperial theology subverted by this obscure Galilean whose message continues to indict empire today?

This fall our **weekday study** will explore the **historical Jesus** and the challenge of his proclamation of the **Kingdom of God** in the context of the Roman Empire. We will use *Living the Question's* "First Light" curriculum which features **scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg** and **footage from biblical lands**. To see a sample of the video component, visit <https://youtu.be/Wp9fPTepD44>.

Join us at **Lewis House (masks required)** or **by Zoom Mondays at 10am** beginning on September 13th. (Tentative session schedule is below.)

Print out the [Readings](#) and [Discussion Questions](#) or request them in print form from the church office.

September 13th	The Matrix of Jesus	November 1st	Jesus as Lord
September 20th	The Advent of the Messiah	November 8th	Substitutionary Atonement?
September 27th	God's Great Cleanup	November 15th	Demonstrations in Jerusalem
October 4th	Collaborative Eschaton	November 22nd	The Crowd & the Crucifixion
October 10th	No Class	November 29th	No Class
October 18th	The Lake as the World	December 6th	Resurrection as Resistance
October 25th	Parables as Lures	December 13th	America as the New Rome



"RUTH AFTER HOURS" EVENING/ONLINE STUDY

Tune in **by Zoom** for 30 minute discussions Wednesday evenings OR sign up with the church office for access to **recorded sessions** of our study of the book of **Ruth** using *Living the Question's* "Uppity Women of the Bible" curriculum. See below for handout links and our schedule.

- Session 1 Worksheet [LINK](#)
- Session 2 Worksheet [LINK](#)
- Session 3 Worksheet [LINK](#)
- Session 4 Worksheet [LINK](#)
- Session 5 Worksheet [LINK](#)
- Session 6 Worksheet [LINK](#)
- Session 7 Worksheet [LINK](#)

7pm	Wednesday, October 6th	Bittersweet
7pm	Wednesday, October 13th	In Case of Emergency
7pm	Wednesday, October 20/27th	The Go'el?
7pm	Wednesday, November 3rd	A King's Ancestry
7pm	Wednesday, November 10th	Understanding Ruth
7pm	Wednesday, November 17th	An Uppity Woman?
7pm	Wednesday, December 1st	Grace and Hospitality

MISSION/OUTREACH NEWS

CROP WALK



The 37th CROP WALK in Haddam will occur on **Sunday, October 3rd at Noon**. Initially, all the Haddam churches were invited to be a part of the CROP WALK. About 10 years ago the churches in Killingworth joined us. Last year when we were only able to walk virtually, not together, we were one of the 20 most successful walks in New England. Now that is going to be a “hard act to follow”! The committee has decided to plan an in-person walk at **Chatfield Hollow State Park** on the first Sunday in October at Noon. We will have COVID precautions in place. We hope you will all be able to join the walk or to sponsor a walker. In addition, we will offer an **opportunity to walk virtually** depending on the State COVID guidelines. We will decide in mid-September if the in-person walk will take place. Plan to come to enjoy walking in the autumn sunshine and to help your neighbors have enough to eat. Visit our Team CROP Walk page [HERE](#).



BREAD MINISTRY

The Bread Ministry is taking a brief vacation. The Higganum Farmers’ market will resume in mid-September. Our project has been very successful. We are well on our way to the \$2000 goal for the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank. There are still chances to help bake or sell bread - sign up [HERE](#).



“NECESSARIES” COLLECTION



The project to collect underwear and socks for children who receive services of the back program has been completed and the clothing delivered to the Social Services office to be included in the next backpack. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success. As usual our members and friends gave more than was requested. In addition to the “undies”, we are donating three new backpacks- a truly wonderful way to begin the new school year.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL BAGS



Thanks to all who helped us send CWS **60** school bags this August!

BACKPACK PROGRAM NEED for SEPTEMBER: MILK

As you enter worship at church, you will find either a basket (FCCH) or cart (HCC) for non-perishable food donations. Any unexpired food contribution is welcome, and high-protein items (peanut butter, chili, stew, etc.) always are especially needed. As school starts up this September, please consider donating **shelf-stable milk** (boxes in one-liter or individual serving containers) which are needed for the HK Backpack program.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

It was about December 15, 2020 when Terry Smith asked me to “check out” a mission option for the two churches. Exactly eight months later six eager souls representing the two churches arrived in Farmington, Maine, to serve MATE (the Mission at Eastward).

Al and I met Gwen and Bruce, friends of Greg and Sue, who shared their story and desire to serve others. We are grateful that they joined us. We enjoyed their love of life and service, becoming coworkers and fast friends.

Sunday afternoon we met Rothea Kornelius (Executive Director) and Dan Flint (Construction Manager) who introduced us to the work of MATE. They showed us the staging area where materials and tools are stored and discussed the projects they had lined up for the week ahead.

They then showed us Mission at the Eastward’s newest outreach program to provide temporary transitional housing to families and individuals in need of a warm safe place to live. The struggle to find affordable housing in Farmington and Franklin County is dire. There is a critical shortage. To help address limited community housing options, extensive renovations and outfitting of the McCleary House located next to Fairbanks Union Church in Farmington are underway. We spent some time contributing to the demolition of interior walls which created lots of dust and memories of similar activities in our own home years ago.



During our time with MATE, Sue, Greg, Gwen, Bruce, Alan and I worked side by side improving the conditions for families in Wilton and Farmington, Maine.

- The work included replacing a badly damaged storm door (literally the bottom 10” was missing, allowing all kinds of critters into the house), insulating and installing a new kitchen floor, and replacing and relocating lighting throughout the living space for Edith.
- At Annemarie’s we installed a movable ramp into her home that allows her to enter and exit the home in her wheelchair easily and safely. The movement of the ramp allows snow to accumulate without blocking the exit.
- At Heidi’s we replaced and enlarged a deck off the bedroom making it easy for her to move her husband (who is recovering from a stroke) in and out of the house for fresh air and to enjoy the beautiful gardens that filled the property.

Edith, Annemarie and Heidi were all very grateful for the work we accomplished, and we the MATE team of 6 are proud of the difference we made in their lives. Thanks to all for the generous donations made on behalf of this outing. Consider joining us next time. The rewards are considerable.

Submitted by Lori Chadwick



NOTES from the PHYSICAL REOPENING TEAM

Thank you to everyone for helping to keep one another as safe as possible as we minister in the pandemic. From getting vaccinated, to wearing masks, to moving activities outside, to providing online options, your efforts on behalf of our members and community are appreciated!



Physical Reopening Team meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and are held by Zoom using the usual church sign on. The next meeting is planned for **Tuesday, September 7th, at 8:30am**. Our regular participants include staff, Moderators Greg Shields and John Edmondson, and representatives of the Diaconate and Music Ministries as well as Prudential/Trustees.

In 2020 as the pandemic began, the Joint Church Council at first met weekly by Zoom and subsequently authorized the Minister and Moderators to operate by consensus to make decisions about closures. Later in the year as the churches anticipated a return to in-person activities, the Physical Reopening Team was formed to provide recommendations for safety procedures to the Joint Church Council for any/all church gatherings and space use.

Currently, the Physical Reopening Team:

- **monitors** Haddam and Connecticut Covid alert levels and transmission rates
- **reviews** updated recommendations from the United Church of Christ, the CDC and WHO, and Connecticut state and federal government agencies, and
- **researches** areas of particular interest (for example: food safety, Insurance Board requirements, national music organizations' recommended best practices)

If you or a church or outside group have a space use request, please communicate with

the Team well in advance through the church office or one of the regular attenders. It is most helpful to the Team if you are able to provide the following information with your inquiry:

- **Where and When** you would like to gather (indoors/outdoors, date, duration of event)
- **Who** you anticipate will attend (number, church members or the wider public, adults or a mix of adults and children (and ages), from Haddam only/drawn from throughout the state/potentially from multiple states)
- **What** activities are proposed
- **Which** Covid precautions already are planned (universal mask use, vaccination requirement, timed attendance, spacing).

The Team may make additional requests. For instance, due to the timing as school begins, an outside group planning an event at FCCH in September has been asked to do temperature checks. Outside groups using the church also will need to indicate to participants (as our churches do in our own publications) that attendance is at one's own risk.

The Team and the Church Council are trying to be responsive to conditions in real time, so our policies do change. As an example: earlier this year fully-vaccinated church groups were able to meet indoors without masks or spacing. Currently, in light of the prevalence of the Delta variant and the possibility of waning vaccine protection, we have reinstated a universal mask requirement for all indoor gatherings of more than one household.

We continue to ask that all church events arrange a remote option (for instance, the opportunity to attend by telephone or Zoom video call; a variation on this is the provision for absentee ballots for the September 26th special business meetings which cannot be simultaneously broadcast).

Finally, we are delighted to let you know the Coop Preschool at FCCH is restarting this fall under its own guidelines, including universal mask use (except during SNACKS!), cohort grouping by days, and additional spacing. Many thanks to **Mark Soneson** for making sure the Preschool's windows open, too!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEAL!

Members of HCC and FCCH were delighted to celebrate Neal Blodgett's 100th birthday (August 30th).

A semi-surprise party was held at Neal's home on Saturday, August 28th, and our worship service on Sunday the 29th featured some of Neal's carved pieces on our worship centers, plus the chance to sing Neal's favorite hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross" and hear the choir present "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" in recognition of Neal's military service.

FCCH member Mark Soneson is writing a two-part article based on his interview of Neal; [click here to read Part I.](#)



Happy Birthday to a jolly good fellow!

HCC FOUNDATION REPAIR COMPLETE

Many thanks to Brian Thayer for coordinating work this summer to repair the foundation on the sidewalk side of the Higganum Congregational Church Meeting House.



- 5 June Lamoureux
- 7 Washington Malave
- 9 Jennifer Thayer
- 10 Ron Alger
- 15 Olivia Harry
- 16 Eliza Williams
- 20 Kenneth Roberts
- 24 Jordan Tupay
- 26 Brian Thayer, Danny Hollenbeck
- 29 Catherine Morill

WELCOME to the UCC

We join with the churches of the Middlesex Association and the Southern New England Conference in celebrating with **First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational** following the congregation's recent vote to unite with the United Church of Christ. A service of covenant will be held on September 12th.



You are cordially invited to join us in a
"Service of Reception of a Local Church"
 The Congregation of First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational invites you to join us in celebration of our inauguration in covenant with
 The United Church of Christ
 in our sanctuary
 366 Main Street, Old Saybrook
 Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 10:00 am
 Refreshments on the front lawn will follow
 RSVP by September 5 to the church office 860-388-3008
 Or email info@firstchurchsaybrook.org



First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational
No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here



- September 4 Alan and Linda Hansen
- September 7 Ken and Catherine Wendt

Please contact us at fcchaddam@gmail.com if there are omissions from or corrections to our birthday and anniversary lists.

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



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10am on **Wednesday, September 1st and Wednesday, October 6th at HCC.**

Newcomers are welcome to join us! For materials or more information on this ministry, please contact Carol Ricker or Edie Williams.

MEMBER'S CORNER



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