



# THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*



Monthly Newsletter of  
Higganum Congregational Church and  
The First Congregational Church of Haddam

Open and Affirming  
Members of the United Church of Christ



In the Year of Our Lord 2022



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

Church websites:

[HigganumChurch.org](http://HigganumChurch.org) and [HaddamChurch.org](http://HaddamChurch.org)



Hello my friends,

This week I have the wonderful treat of being invited to Rudyard Kipling's house in Naulakha, New Hampshire. Kipling was a writer and Nobel Laureate, and the house I am visiting is where he wrote the *Jungle Book*, and some of the *Just So Stories*, among other works.

I want to share a bit about his childhood with you because my preparation to visit his house in Naulakha coincides with my preparation for the baptism of Travis Murphy. Travis' baptism will be the first baptism in our churches since covid began. Beyond the importance of any baptism, Travis' baptism is, for me, a celebration of our outreach to the next generation's spiritual formation.

The fact that I happen to be preparing to visit a place where Kipling's imagination and work produced amazing children's stories when I am celebrating the idea of Travis' upcoming baptism feels Providential to me. Kipling wrote wonderfully from his imagination to ways that capture the child's innocent mind as it grapples with complex concerns of coming-of-age. Simultaneously in parallel, we as two churches are struggling with our own identity concerns as we are also "coming-of-age."

For me this unexpected invitation to Naulakha and Travis' baptism are like a wonderful sign of God's Presence and larger perspective reaching in to help me gain a deeper appreciation of a broader context for these special moments in our lives and a deeper compassion for our own growing pains and frustrations as we are moving forward into a new unified structure that is as yet still forming and struggling to express our meaningful identity.

Kipling's focus on children and children's stories emerged from deep identity

struggles that he grappled with and shared in a lovely, amusing, and artistic way, so that even over a century later (he wrote *Jungle Book* in 1894), these themes are relevant to us today. So, I'd like to share with you something of his childhood.

Kipling was born in British India in 1865 and died in 1936. His parents had met and married at Rudyard Lake in Rudyard, Staffordshire, England, and after they married, they moved to India in 1865. His father was a professor at the J.J. School of Art in Bombay. Kipling grew up immersed in British Colonialism and the complex identity concerns of having roots and ties to the "empire" while having formative relationships with native caregivers. While perhaps interpretations of his position have changed over time, his narrative artistry gives a window into the experience of a sensitive and articulate person grappling with all of the identity concerns that having stakes in different cultures and classes produces.

When Kipling was five, he was uprooted and taken to the United Kingdom, as was the custom for children in his situation. The home in Southsea, Portsmouth was a place Kipling later described in his autobiography as "The House of Desolation." There he experienced, "...calculated torture - religious as well as scientific." Perhaps astonishingly, he credits this abuse as giving him the foundation of his literary effort. He continues in his autobiography to say, "...Yet it made me give attention to the lies I soon found it necessary to tell and this, I presume, is the foundation of the literary effort."

This ability to recognize how suffering can produce refinement of character calls to mind several scriptural references, like

Romans 5:3-5, "we celebrate our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. And hope does not desert us, because God's Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who

has been given to us." and 8:28, "All things work together for good for those who love God..."

Later, Kipling was moved to other homes and settings, and near the end of his education, as someone determined he lacked the academic ability to land a scholarship at Oxford, his father, who was then serving as Principal of the Mayo College of Art and Curator of the Lahore Museum, got him a job in a local paper there as assistant editor of the Civil and Military Gazette.

Kipling was almost 17 when he returned to India and was astonished to find himself responding in vernacular full sentences he did not fully comprehend. He felt fully changed, as though his English years fell away and never fully returned.

He captured the dreamy coming of age of Mowgli, raised by jungle creatures of loyalty and courage, complexity of family. While hopefully we are more enlightened now than might have been possible for a man shaped by colonialism, still Kipling's depiction of the context in the Jungle Book is very rich food for thought for us today. He created a sacred society in the jungle, where all creatures knew their places in the hierarchy of both jungle and colonialism. He gives a window into many controversial topics of our day, including diversity and identity, and importance of rules of law, from his vantage over a century ago.

My prayer for us is that we face our new beginnings with Hope. And that we draw from scripture and from examples like Kipling's imagination, humor, and artistry as we continue to build....and that we celebrate each new baptism as a new life growing and unfolding in our midst and care, bringing us all hope for an unknown future where spiritual formation has a home and life beyond our limits and beyond our dreams.

Through Christ's Loving Heart,  
Pastor Hilary McLellan



# If

***If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:***

***If you can dream -  
and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;***

***If you can hear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:***

***If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'***

***If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!***

Rudyard Kipling





**Regarding the Name  
for our new Merged Church  
October 30, 2022  
Congregational Meeting**

The voting for a possible new name (Hearthstone Congregational Church) for our merged churches did not pass. Therefore, our merged church name will remain 'United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum'. A 75% majority of each church was required to select a new name. Those voting in favor of a name change were: FCCH - 74%; HCC - 42%. See Meeting Minutes below.

**REPORTS AND MEETING MINUTES**

**Congregational Meeting Minutes**

October 9th Minutes [HERE](#)  
October 30th Minutes [HERE](#)

**JT Council Meeting Minutes**

September Approved Minutes [HERE](#)  
including JT Mission Outreach Summary

**2021 Annual Reports**

Higganum Congregational Church [HERE](#)  
First Congregational Church of Haddam [HERE](#)

**New Church ByLaws**

Revised May 1st [HERE](#)



**COVID GUIDELINES**

We will continue with “**Mask Optional**” during worship, when speaking from the Chancel or singing, in Sunday School, and any other time on the churches’ property. Distance seating during worship is available. Either door may be used to enter/exit the church, and **Fellowship will be held after worship**. View our complete Covid-19 response [HERE](#).



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
November 20, 2022**

Notice is hereby given of a special Congregational meeting to be held **following morning worship on November 20, 2022, at Higganum Congregational Church**. The last step in the legal process to approve the merger of our two churches is for each congregation to approve three resolutions. This will include approving the Plan of Merger. The meeting agenda is for you to vote on the acceptance of these resolutions. This will require a 2/3 majority vote of each congregation to be approved. The official ‘**Call**’ which also includes a **Proxy Vote Form** is attached [HERE](#), three **resolutions** and for your review only (no vote required), the **Plan of Merger** [HERE](#), the **Plan of Merger Exhibit A (Bylaws)** [HERE](#), and two other documents: **Certification of Merger** [HERE](#) and the **HCC Incorporation document** [HERE](#). All links are also included in the weekly emails. **All members have the option to use a Proxy to cast votes**. Please return the Proxy Vote Form located within the Call **by November 17, 2022**.

Patty Blodgett, Clerk FCCH  
Terry Smith, Clerk HCC

**BUDGET BRAINSTORMING**

Our Council has been brainstorming about our budget and is inviting Committees to include budget brainstorming as a topic at meetings. If individuals or committees **would like extra time with Rev Hilary on this topic, please reach out to her**.



**NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH!**



**Diaconate October Report:**

- 1. Baptism - Travis Samperi October 23
- 2. Community Thanksgiving Service - November 17 at 4pm; Location TBD
- 3. Blue Christmas Service at HCC - December 14 at 7pm
- 4. New member series Sundays after church in November

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**

Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed Saturday night. **Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00am on Sunday, November 6th.**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday 9:30am Worship Service**

November at HCC | December at FCCH

*Please note the dates, times, and locations of our special worship services for the upcoming holidays:*

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

Thursday, November 17 | 4pm | Location TBD

**Blue Service**

Wednesday, December 14 | 7pm | HCC

**Christmas Eve Worship**

Saturday, December 24 | 7pm | HCC

**Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 25 | 9:30am | FCCH

**HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE**

**for Sunday Worship**

**November:** Joint Diaconate

**December:** FCCH Prudential/Finance & HCC Finance/Trustees

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

- 30 on October 2nd (cool, overcast)
- 38 on October 9th (cool, clear)
- 39 on October 16th (cool, clear)
- Homecoming
- 55 on October 23rd (cool, cloudy) Baptism
- 46 on October 30th (cold, sunny) Congregational Meeting



**Sundays 9:30am**

**Higganum Congregational Church**

with Rev Hilary McLellan



**November 6th**

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost  
*(Daylight Savings Time ends)*

**November 13th**

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

**November 20th**

Reign of Christ  
Congregational Meeting following worship

**November 27th**

First Sunday of Advent



**SERVICE STREAMING**

Visit and subscribe to our YouTube Channel for access to services on Sundays at 9:35am or any other time to view archives.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7SxL2fMB-DZu4BxaM6hWNq>

**COMMUNION AT HOME**

Contact the church office at 860-345-2742 or [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com) and your request will be shared.

**LAY READERS**

All ages are welcome! No experience necessary. We can give you a few pointers! Contact the church office if you are interested.



### FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

A sign-up sheet is available in church to donate flowers for the altar. You will have the option to include a dedication which will be printed in the bulletin.

#### October flowers were donated by:

Jeanne Messick in honor of Fall.  
Clare Hoover in memory of Rusty Hoover.  
Dick and Carol Matregrano in honor of Colette and Breyden's 10th.  
Alexa Flora in honor of Lily's birthday.  
Ginny Murphy in honor of All Souls.



### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Click [HERE](#) for the current Prayer List including Luke 6:21-30.

*The need for prayer is sometimes personal and difficult to clarify. We would like to keep our prayer list as current and active as possible. Since often we do not receive the good news of recovery, we will remove names monthly. Please feel free to contact the church office to restore any prayer concerns that are removed prematurely. There is no time limit on prayer concerns.*



### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Join Rev. Hilary for a movie and discussion on **Justice Awareness** followed by **What's the Word?** Bible Study held on **Mondays at 10am** in the Lewis House or on Zoom.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the **first Wednesday of every month 10am at HCC**. Newcomers are welcome! For more information on this ministry, please contact Carol Ricker or Edie Williams.



### MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM MUSICIANS

We welcome Kevin Dodd who has joined Joel Spinetti in sharing their musical gifts during worship.



### MEMORIAL GARDEN

Thanks to all your support, we were able to raise the \$250 needed very quickly to procure a memorial stone for the Higganum Congregational Church Memorial Garden in Deb Livingston's memory. It has been 5 years since her passing.

Deborah Ann Jones Livingston was born in 1975 and died at the age of 42 from breast cancer. Deb earned a BS in Recreational Therapy from Springfield College and MS in Social Work from UCONN in 2005. Deb was one of the most easy-going individuals. She married Daniel Livingston in 2005 and their son Adam "AJ" was born in 2008. Deb loved to sing in the choir, Christian Education and she was quick to lend a hand for any Mission project.

The memory of Deb will now be laid in a tangible place to worship and visit for friends and family. Thank you again for your support!

- Sue Craffey and Sabine Nyenhuis

*A stone is a great addition to the Memorial Garden at HCC as well as a place for friends and family to visit. Contact the church office for more information.*



### NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS

Join Rev. Hilary for New Members Meetings held in **November** at Higganum Congregational Church after the 9:30am worship service. **Are you uncertain about where you would fit into our churches or how Christianity relates to your life?** Make an appointment with our pastor to meet and explore your spiritual journey or attend New Members Meetings. If you are already a member, please share this information.



Hello from CE!  
It has been a busy start to the CE year!

### Spread the news about our **3W's Wacky Wonderful Wednesdays!**

Join us for CE Fellowship in the form of movies or games from 6-8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Higganum Congregational Church in Fellowship Hall. Pizza and popcorn will be available for purchase. Adults are welcome! Parents are welcome to drop off their children (3 yrs+) or stay and enjoy the night.

Mark your calendar for the next 3W's on **November 16th.**

Peace and Blessings,  
Amy Harlow CE Director



### MISSION OUTREACH UPDATE

#### Thanksgiving Dinners

We will be assembling 10 Thanksgiving dinners, not including the meat, for ten families in Haddam and Higganum. There will be a Thanksgiving poster in the Social Room at HCC with the items needed. **Please take ticket(s) off the poster and bring the items to church on Sunday, November 20th.** Please note, there are several fresh vegetables on the poster which cannot be purchased too early. The Mission Outreach Committee is providing the rolls and the pies. The Scout troop that meets at FCCH will be decorating the Thanksgiving boxes this year. **We will be assembling the dinners after morning service on November 20th and delivering them to the Haddam Social Services building.** THANK YOU for making Thanksgiving Day special for ten families in town.



#### Milk & Cookies Collection

This project was dedicated during worship on Sunday October 30th. THANK YOU for participating in this collection. It was very difficult to find the shelf stable milk. We had some success and it will be appreciated by the people who assemble the Weekend Backpacks for the school children.

#### Artisan Bread Ministry

Out baking and selling is done for this Farmer's Market season. We raised **\$2319 for the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank.** We hope you enjoyed our bread and will look for it again next summer.

- Virginia Evensen



### YULETIDE QUILT SHOW

The Quilt Show Committee is seeking your help. Please see the list of items that can be donated for the **Basket Raffle, “Crafty” Tag Sale, and homemade pies and soups for the Lunch. Volunteers are needed** for set up, clean up, serving lunch, and anywhere else needed. Thank you! Also, we are selling raffle tickets. Prizes are a Christmas quilt and an antique afghan. Proceeds of this show will be used for mission outreach on behalf of the joint church families. **The Quilt Show will be held on December 3rd 9:30am-3:30pm at FCCH.**

Click [HERE](#) for full size Quilt Show Flyer  
Click [HERE](#) for full size Quilt Raffle Flyer  
Click [HERE](#) for full size Basket Raffle Flyer

*Please see Quilt Show flyers and bulletin inserts in the following pages of the Belfry.*



### 15th ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Due to a large special order, your support is needed. **This is a plea for “all hands on deck”.** Please sign up to bake cookies and bring to HCC on December 1st and/or sign up to put together plates for our special order also on December 1st. We will deliver on Saturday, December 3rd. Contact Pam Crum, Edie Williams, or Linda Hansen for more information. The Cookie Walk will be held on December 17th from 9am-12noon at HCC. Grab a poster to hang in local businesses, take a postcard to share with a friend!



### SERRV CATALOG SALE

Our combined Outreach Committee is holding a catalog SERRV sale **after worship at HCC on November 6th and November 13th.** SERRV is a fair-trade nonprofit established in 1949 that empowers artisans and farmers around the world to earn a fair living from their work. Beautiful baskets from Ghana, South African vinegar/ oil, West Bank ceramics, Indian weavings, jewelry and so much more. Catalog features 14 pages of Nativity sets, ornaments for the tree and other holiday decor. Shopping for yourself or for Christmas gifts while supporting fair trade is a win win for everyone. Any questions please speak with Carol Matregrano or Peg Lewis. PS Catalogs are available for viewing. No payment necessary until items arrive



7,697 ARTISANS

To learn more about SERRV and to view their wares go to: [www.SERRV.org](http://www.SERRV.org). Their website shares: *For 70*

*years, our nonprofit has made it a priority to ensure that artisans and farmers living in poverty are treated with respect and dignity, and are paid fairly for their work. With your help, we're connecting families and strengthening communities worldwide.*

### A NOTE FROM ST. VINCENT de PAUL IN MIDDLETOWN

#### Open Your Closet, not your wallet

Thank you for joining in our Community Clothing Program! Since 2020 over \$10,000 worth of clothing has been distributed in our community. How? Pick up a YELLOW Goodwill Donation Card at your church or in your church office and include that card with your clothing donations to the Goodwill. These donation cards are turned into vouchers and given to social services agencies in our communities to share with families in need. These families enjoy the dignity of shopping for themselves and picking out their clothes in a retail experience.



## HaRRP: Haddam area Refugee Resettlement Project

October was a roller coaster for those involved in preparing for the arrival of a Refugee Family. The ups and downs of excitement, worry and fear of unresolved issues were manifest in lots of ways.

A second article appeared in the Haddam /Killingworth news and spread the word that we had a "Green Light" and could soon have a family arrive in Haddam.

We had contact with a family; a connection, known as a "US Tie". Gran Agha Haider Zai had a history with friends of Sue and Greg and they had made safe passage out of Afghanistan in late August. They went through the extensive process of qualifying for immigration - including medical exams, background checks and all the red tape necessary to ensure the safety of all. But we were missing an all-important case number. Correspondence was an almost everyday event. We eventually made that connection and were confident that this could work.

Being that close to having a family put pressure on agreeing on lease terms for the Trinity House; seeking donations of new mattresses for the family; getting a computer donated; changing out old carpet for excess carpet from HCC; practicing using new systems for calendars and case notes; finalizing training requirements; and preparing volunteers in ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) It was a non-stop flurry of activity!

We are grateful to the Prudential Committee for negotiating an agreement to a lease that will make it possible to for the family to become independent as soon as possible. All parties are winners, and we thank them for their support of the HaRRP mission. The rug donated by HCC Trustees has been installed in the Trinity

House. Bob's Furniture donated \$1,000 gift certificate to purchase the mattresses. Neal Sakash had a refurbished PC from his employer donated to HaRRP. And volunteers completed the ESOL training.

The family of Gran Agha accepted a resettlement in Virginia and arrived there on October 20th. (the family we thought would find their way to Haddam) We were disappointed but grateful that he and his wife and 5 children are safely in the United States. We wish them well as they embark on their adventures in Virginia as we at HaRRP continue to wait for the family meant to be with us.

May you keep them in your prayers as they wait for us and we wait for them. For more information about HaRRP and IRIS click [HERE](#)

As we wait for a family to arrive, **we have an opportunity to support one of our most generous donors to HaRRP.** The details are below and include another donation to the HaRRP effort. We are deeply moved by the generous efforts on behalf of Refugees. Let us show up in mass and be generous to our neighbors across the river.

### **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of East Haddam 12th Fall Serendipity Auction**

**Saturday, November 12th!**  
Silent Auction: 6:30-7:30pm  
Live Auction: 8:00-9:00pm

Tons of great items and experiences are up for bid including restaurant passes, handcrafted artisan items, theme baskets galore, and much, much more! Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments will be served. No charge to attend (donations are encouraged and appreciated). Bring your friends and neighbors for a great time for worthy causes. **A portion of the proceeds will support HaRRP.** The need is great. There are over 35 million refugees in the world today. This is a 25% increase in just a few months. IRIS has already resettled almost twice as many people this year as they usually resettle in one year.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM  
905 SAYBROOK ROAD, HADDAM

# Yuletide Quilt Show

& Holiday Bazaar

**December 3, 2022**

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Admission to Quilts: \$8  
Free Admission to Bazaar

QUILTS FOR SALE ~ QUILT RAFFLE  
HOMEMADE LUNCH ~ RAFFLE BASKETS  
VENDORS ~ CRAFT TAG SALE

11th Annual Yuletide Quilt Show

## Quilt Raffle



**First Prize**  
56" X 56"  
ALL WRAPPED UP



**Second Prize**

BUTTERSCOTCH DELIGHT  
ANTIQUA AFGHAN

Drawing December 3, 2022.

**\$2 a ticket**

See Carol Matregano or  
Ginny Evensen for tickets.

Seeking donations for the  
**Yuletide Quilt Show**

## "Crafty" Tag Sale

Time to clear out your craft closet (and ask your friends and family to do the same!)

All fabric/notions/craft items accepted.

Last year the "crafty" tag sale raised almost \$400 for our outreach ministries!

Contact Nancy Soneson for further information.

## QUILT SHOW

# Basket Raffle FUNDRAISER

Please consider donating to one of the following themes:

Death by Chocolate	Coffee & Tea
Game Night	Pasta Night
Wine Lovers	Mom's Basket
Make-Your-Own Basket (A favorite!)	

Items can be dropped off in the Church Vestibule (FCC) or Social Hall (HCC)

All proceeds go to our Outreach Ministries - Thanks for your support!

For more information please contact Nancy Soneson



# Yuletide Quilt Show

The Quilt Show Committee is seeking help and donations for this year's Quilt Show. Please check off all items you would be willing to help with or donate.

Thank you in advance!

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate to the BASKET RAFFLE:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Death by Chocolate
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Game Night
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Tea & Coffee
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Gourmet Cooking
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Wine Lovers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ A Man's Basket
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Make-your-own complete basket

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate CRAFT ITEMS for "crafty" tag sale

- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a PIE  
Type of pie: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a SOUP  
Type of soup: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Help:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Set up / Clean up
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary "white glove" service
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Serving lunch
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Anywhere needed

Additional Comments:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place completed form in offering plate.



## COFFEE HOUSE MUSIC NIGHT

Mark your calendars for **December 9th** and attend a new & fun event called "**The Coffee House Music Night!**" held in the HCC social room. Enjoy listening to one or two musicians play folk or light rock tunes. Church members will be encouraged to play if interested. Outside talent will be invited to join us as well. Food & drinks will be available. Please bring cards or board games. We are hoping to attract members of the community too. If successful, this could be a monthly or bi-monthly gathering.

*Your input or suggestions would be appreciated, please reach out to David McComas. We look forward to the first Coffee House Music Night!*



## LETTUCE GROW FARMSTAND

Are you interested in learning how to care for the Farmstand? Contact the church office or **Sue Craffey** for more detail about this once-a-week volunteer opportunity. You don't have to have any gardening experience to learn how to operate and maintain this system. It's fun and rewarding!



## FUN FRIDAY

Join us on **November 4th at 7pm at the Higganum Campus** for a carefree night of playing games like set back, hand and foot, 5 crowns and we will try any games you bring along. Bring your beverage, a couple of dollars to enter the 50/50 drawing and a few dollars to donate to the Churches general fund. It is the perfect way to relax and get to know each other better. **The following Fun Friday will be on December 2nd.**

November

## NOVEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Updates can be found on our Online Church Calendar [HERE](#). Please contact Committee Chairs for Agenda and additional meeting information.

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**Justice Awareness followed by *What's the Word?* Bible Study** with Rev. Hilary Mondays, 10am (Lewis House / Zoom)

**Choir Rehearsal** Thursdays 7pm (FCCH)

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**Prayer Shawl** Wednesday, November 2nd, 10am (HCC)

**Fun Friday!** Friday, November 4th, 7pm (HCC Social Room)

**Quilt Show Planning** Monday 7th, 6:30pm (FCCH Fellowship Hall)

**JT Diaconate** Monday, November 7th, 7pm (Lewis House / Zoom)

**HCC Finance and FCCH Prudential** Monday, November 14th, 5:30pm (Lewis House / Zoom)

**JT Church Council** Tuesday, November 15th, 7pm (Lewis House / Zoom)

**3W's Wacky Wonderful Wednesday!** November 16th, 6-8pm (HCC)

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** Thursday, November 17th, 4pm (location TBD)

**Quilt Show Planning** Thursday, November 17th, 6:30pm (Lewis House / Zoom)

**Congregational Meeting** after worship Sunday, November 20th (HCC)

**Belfry Articles Due** Sunday, November 20th to [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com)

**JT Mission Outreach** Monday, November 28th, 6:30pm (Lewis House / Zoom)



## ZOOM LOGIN

Please use the Zoom login below for access to FCCH HCC meetings, adult education, and fellowship programs.

**ID: 391 987 2707**

**Password: 90523**

**Phone call-in number: +1 646 558 8656**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please update your contacts with Rev. Hilary's new church-work email address: [RevHilaryMcLellan@outlook.com](mailto:RevHilaryMcLellan@outlook.com).

If you would like to speak with Rev Hilary, please text or call her church-work cell phone **860-316-3837**.

You can reach the church office:

[fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com)

860-345-2742

860-345-4304

*The church email & voicemail are only monitored during office hours.*

## OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Tuesdays from 9-12noon and Thursdays from 1-4pm. **The church office will be closed during Thanksgiving week November 21st-25th.** Beginning November 28th, the NEW OFFICE HOURS will be Mondays and Tuesdays from 9-12noon.



Please submit your newsletter articles and photos on or before the **20th** of each month to [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com). Thank you!

## FAREWELL MESSAGE

Dear friends,

*I have enjoyed meeting you and assisting in the good work of the churches.*

*Unfortunately, I have given my notice. The need for predictable hours is necessary for my other commitments to family and personal projects. My last day will be November 17th.*

*I am grateful to have had this opportunity and will miss everyone and my time at Lewis House.*

- Lynn Pandiani

## WHAT'S NEXT IN THE OFFICE?

Rev. Hilary and Lynn have determined the tasks that can be taken on by our new part-time Office Admin, Esther Rosado.

Lynn will continue training Esther however volunteers will be needed to complete other tasks.

Esther will :

- create the final drafts of both versions of the Bulletin
- maintain the church email
- check voicemail, answer phone, welcome visitors
- maintain the desk calendar
- pick up and sort mail from the PO box and purchase stamps
- order office supplies
- address copier issues and order ink
- provide access to the buildings
- assist Pastor Hilary as needed



## MEET ESTHER ROSADO

Esther Rosado has worked managing a meditation supply company for 10 years and in churches for over 25 years, first as administrator and then in various life stages of faith development. Esther is a mother of two children and a grandmother

of a darling pair of twins. She splits her time between New York and Massachusetts. When not “in transit” she enjoys nature walks, reading and seeking joy in the ordinary. Esther ends her email correspondence with “Paz/Peace. Welcome Esther! **Esther will be working at the Lewis House on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9-12noon after Thanksgiving.**

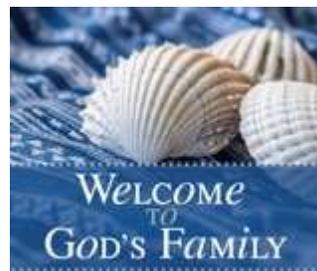


There will be an immediate need for assistance in the church office areas listed below.

Please reach out to Lynn or Rev. Hilary if you are interested. Lynn can walk you through the steps and will leave an updated detailed binder in the Lewis House to help with the transfer of information and processes.

## Office Volunteers are needed:

- on Thursday to finalize, print, and distribute the Bulletins
- on Thursday or Friday to create and send out the weekly email and any other dedicated emails
- weekly to create and insert the cover slide artwork for the online worship video
- weekly to update the online church calendar and the H-K Now calendar
- monthly between the 20th and 1st to create, print, and distribute the Belfry
- on the 1st of each month to email the Belfry
- in January to compile, print, and distribute the Annual Reports
- for any Congregational meetings, Church merger, Stewardship, or other printing and mailings
- as needed to update Church Windows database and the Church Directory



Given your participation at the Small Church Summit held earlier this year, we wanted to share information about an upcoming opportunity for community and collaboration that is focused on our SNEC small churches.

The Center for Transformational Leadership is pleased to announce the first of **3 Small Church Roundtable discussions, to be held over Zoom**. These roundtables offer a setting in which our small churches can come together to celebrate the joys, hopes, challenges, and unique nature of these churches.

Through your participation, we hope to:

- Gather folks with like interests and love of small churches for discussion.
- Meet others with a passion for small churches.
- Bring diversity as well as affinity to the discussion circle.
- Share practices, strategies, resources, and more without whine or brag.
- Connect, network, and create community and companionship with others who love small churches.

The first of these sessions will be held on Zoom on **Tuesday, 11/8/2022 from 10:00-11:15 AM for clergy, and from 7:15-8:30 for clergy and laity**. Future roundtable meetings will take place in March and June of 2023.

If you are interested in joining this gathering, please [register here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you on the 8th!

In Partnership,  
Karen E Ziel (she/her)  
Assistant Director  
[Center for Transformational Leadership](#)  
Southern New England Conference,  
United Church of Christ  
(860) 761-7104





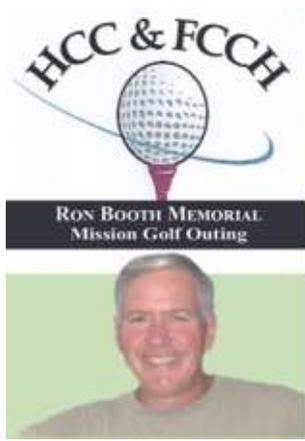
Our annual CROP WALK was held on October 2nd at 12noon in Chatfield Hollow State Park and virtually.

The CROP WALK was a success! The day was overcast but our spirits were high. Thirty people of all ages and from several local churches walked in Chatfield Hollow State Park. The youngest participant was Blakely who is seven weeks old. We received a blessing before walking by Rev. Hillary McClellan.



Thank you to everyone who walked and to everyone who donated! A portion of funds raised will be sent to the Haddam Food Bank, the Killingworth Helping Hands and the Haddam / Killingworth Backpack program that provides nutritious food for school children on the weekends.





**RON BOOTH MEMORIAL  
MISSION GOLF OUTING**  
September 18, 2022

Enjoy photos of this wonderful day [HERE](#).



A big THANK YOU to all who participated, supported, and volunteered!

**Final Accounting**

Net Income = \$ 19,318.06  
(Split equally between the 2 churches)

- 84 Golfers
- 54 Sponsors
- 48 Dinner Only Paying Attendees
- 68 Raffle Prizes



**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

Lyman Orchards Golf Club

Community Dinner Hosts:  
Sue and Dan Gascoyne

-Terry Smith

- 01 Paul Blodgett
- 04 Mary Aduskevich
- 04 Ryoko Morin
- 05 Kellen Crum
- 06 Stewart Gillmor
- 07 Dan Wendt
- 08 John Anderson
- 08 Boden Booth Hettrick
- 10 Joan Bragoni
- 17 Jan Berry
- 17 Jason Aresco
- 18 Suzanne Ellsworth
- 19 Stella & Caroline Moore
- 23 Michelle Wendt
- 29 Joe Tupay
- 30 Morgan Crum
  
- 22 Paul and Peg Lewis
- 24 Alan and Lori Chadwick



**GIVING INFORMATION**

Our Ministry and Mission are maintained by your generosity. Thank you for supporting FCCH and HCC with your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Financial contributions may be made at in-person worship services or mailed to the addresses below anytime.

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

Higganum Congregational Church  
23 Parsonage Road  
Higganum, CT 06441

Online gifts to FCCH may be made [HERE](#). It also should be possible to set up direct payments from your own bank to either FCCH or HCC; contact your bank for more information.