



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry



JUNE 2023

The Newsletter of the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum
A member of the United Church of Christ

Worship Schedule

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**June worship is at the  
Haddam Campus**

#### **June 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Trinity Sunday*  
*Communion*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Cor 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-29

#### **June 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Second Sunday after  
Pentecost*

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

#### **June 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Third Sunday after Pentecost*

*Father's Day*

Genesis 18:1-15,21:1-7

Psalm 86:1-10

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8,9-23

#### **June 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Fourth Sunday after  
Pentecost*

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10,17-17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39



### *Message from the Pastor*

Hello Dear Friends,

May you always remember that God gives a home to the desolate, and Jesus came as a comfort for those who are suffering.

Our first funeral of the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum brought together community members with families whose loved ones suffer from addictions and mental illness, as we celebrated the life of Robert A. Casale together. The Haddam sanctuary was filled with an outpouring of love, our choir sang their hearts out, and our organist supported the emotions of the community with sublime music. And in this sacred gathering, the meaning and value of having a church in a community is clear. It is a wonderful thing, that we have places to gather people to share the depths of grief while celebrating the mysteries of faith, to sing comfort and hope while shedding tears, to be a balm to each other. This is the Easter story that Jesus gave to us. The hope of the resurrection, and the love and comfort of our people.

As we conclude the Easter season, and move into "ordinary time," the day of Pentecost puts an exclamation point on Jesus' teachings with the incredible story of the disciples speaking in tongues. The disciples spoke in other people's languages. We might not do it literally, but through caring action, we can overcome linguistic and cultural barriers that separate us. Our Haddam Area Refugee Resettlement Project (HaRRP) volunteers and coordinators do this every day with a family from Afghanistan. As they drive family members to medical appointments, or to and from work or the grocery store or to baseball practice, they are literally speaking in the tongues of compassion and support of neighbor that Jesus taught. They are transcending language differences and making a difference in the transition of this family. May we each be inspired by this to consider where we might speak in the tongues of compassion and hope.

Blessings and regards,

*Rev. Hilary McLellan*



**2023 UCCHH Golf Outing**

Registration forms will be sent in June to previous golfers and sponsors. We need your help to solicit additional golfers and sponsors as well as donating raffle prizes and working at the golf course and dinner. Notices will be sent to you regarding your past contributions. If you want to volunteer to help or have questions, please contact Steve Bull or Terry Smith. This is our church's largest fundraiser and your help and participation are needed to make it a success.



**Bread For Heat Ministry**

**SATURDAYS**  
 June 3<sup>rd</sup> – October 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Higganum Farmers' Market  
 9 am – noon  
 Haddam Elementary parking lot

We're looking for people to help sell – it's a lot of fun! See Nancy Soneson or sign-up online [HERE](#).



The **Music Committee** will be hosting coffee hour in June. The **Outreach Committee** will host in July.




**OPEN SEW & QUILT**  
 WITH DENA LIEDKE

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First Saturday of the month  
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
 Haddam Campus

RSVP Dena  
 sewdena22@gmail.com  
 All levels of expertise welcome!

**June Meetings**

**No Bible Study scheduled for May**  
*See you next month!*

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

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**Prayer Shawl**  
 Wednesday, June 7, 10 am  
 (Higganum Campus)

**PRC**  
 Wednesday, June 7, 5:30 pm  
 (Lewis House/Zoom)

**Diaconate**  
 Monday, June 12, 7 pm  
 (Lewis House / Zoom)

**Property**  
 Monday, June 12, 5:30 pm  
 (Lewis House)

**Mission/Outreach**  
 Monday, June 19, 7 pm  
 (Lewis House)

**Church Council**  
 Tuesday, June 20, 7 pm  
 (Lewis House/Zoom)



**Candlewood Farm Arts Foundation**  
**2023 June Concert Series**  
**presents**  
 Classical Guitarist  
**Jason Vieaux**  
**June 25th**  
**4 pm**  
 Doors open at 3:30 pm  
**UCCHH Higganum Campus**  
**23 Parsonage Rd**  
**Higganum, CT 06441**

## Outreach/Mission



### Father's Day Collection

The Outreach Committee invites us to honor our fathers this year with a donation for The Diaper Bank of Connecticut.

You can donate in three ways:

1 **Online:** Donate directly to **the church's donation page** [HERE](#).

2 **Checks:** Send a check to the church office with "Diaper Drive" in the memo line. **Make checks payable to UCCHH.**

3 **Cash** donation in church in an envelope indicating that it is for the diaper drive. (Checks payable to UCCHH.)

**This is a great way to honor** or remember your parents, your children who have their own children, or anyone who cares about the health and welfare of others.

### *Thank you from the Outreach Committee*

In April, thanks to all of you, we were able to create 52 hygiene kits for Church World Service (CWS)!!!! They will be dropped off at the Meriden CWS depot in July.

The May / June mission project is the Mother's Day and Father's Day Diaper Bank Collection. As of 5/21/2023, we have raised \$300+!

The May 6 tag sale raised over \$2600. Thank you to all who participated! Special thanks to Jeanne Calhoun, who's knowledge of estate jewelry raised an additional \$1000!

### **May Worship Attendance**

May 7 . . . . . 38

May 14 . . . . . 40 (Mother's Day)

May 21 . . . . . 38

May 28 . . . . . 36 (Memorial Day Weekend)





## 2023 Member Affirmation

During the three Member Affirmation Sundays, held on February 12, March 19, and May 21, fifty-four members reaffirmed their commitment to the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum, nine new members joined the church, and nineteen reaffirmed in absentia.

Thanks to all for your willingness to respond to our inquiries and to participate in these celebrations.

Sincerely,  
Sue Craffey and Sue Henehan



### Introducing Caring Connection

Caring Connection is a new initiative that acts as a first contact point for members seeking special fellowship support or assistance from church leadership.

#### Caring Connection contacts:

- Sue Craffey . . . 860-345-3908 (H), 860-338-0216 (C)
- Sue Henehan . . .860-212-4807 (C)
- Rev. Hilary . . . 860-316-3837 (C)
- Ginny Murphy . .860-214-6837 (C)



[Click for Prayer List](#)

#### Note from the church office:

We would like to keep our prayer list as current as possible and will be reviewing entries on a monthly basis. Please contact the office to restore any prayer concerns that may have been prematurely removed.

## Christian Education

Hello from CE! We have been busy planning for this year's CKC 2023! This year we will be holding Children's Kindness Camp (CKC) on August 14th-18th, 9am-12pm. CE will need helpers that week! Please reach out to me at [amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com) if you would like to be included on our email list to get updates on items needed and ways to help!



We have some very creative teens in our midst that are creating one-of-a-kind clothing items. Sew.....On June 2nd we will be holding our Jr. Sew Creative Night at the UCCHH Haddam Fellowship Hall from 6pm-8pm. Our aim is to give them a space to connect, collaborate and create their unique one-of-a-kind pieces of clothing and accessories. We will provide sewing machines, basic sewing supplies, ironing board and our knowledge of sewing and creating. We will gladly take any donations of fabric, thread, embroidery thread and fabric. Also, jean jackets are currently an in thing to upcycle sew, please check your closets, we will happily take your donations!

As always thank you so much for your continued support!

Peace and blessings,  
Amy Harlow, CE Director



- Sally Blodgett – University of Wisconsin
- Bridget Harry – Rochester Institute of Technology
- Emma Sonesson – Oxford University
- Missy Thompson – Pratt Institute
- Jordan Tupay – Quinnipiac University
- Thomas Williams – Bryant University



### Zoom Login Information

**ID: 391 987 2707**

**Password: 90523**

Phone call-in number: +1 646 558 8656



### Sunday Services Stream Live on YouTube!

We live stream each Sunday service - just tune in at 9:40 a.m. to watch live or watch previous recordings.

Click [HERE](#) to get started!



### Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- [April Council Minutes – Approve](#)
- [May Council Minutes - Draft](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Report for 2023](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UCCHH ByLaws](#)



Our Ministry and Mission are maintained by your generosity. Thank you for supporting UCCHH with your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Financial contributions may be made at in-person worship services or mailed to the following address

**United Congregational Church  
of Haddam and Higganum**  
Attn: Collector  
P.O. Box 215  
Haddam, CT 0643

Make checks payable to: UCCHH

Automatic payments for your pledge can be set up for most banking institutions; contact your bank for more information.



## Stewardship & Pledge Update

### Invisible Vision 2023

Thank you to all the friends and members of the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum who have submitted their pledges for the 2023 year.

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>2023 UCCHH Budget:</b>             | <b>\$243,325</b> |
| <b>No. of pledging units to-date:</b> | <b>44</b>        |
| <b>Total amount pledged to-date:</b>  | <b>\$105,059</b> |

[Download a Pledge Card](#)

Pledge cards may be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate during Sunday worship.

### PLEDGE ENVELOPES

If you would like pledge envelopes please see our collector, Judy Hodgson, or contact the church office.

*Thank you for your generosity!*



**Words From the Conference Minister**



Trying to lose weight can be difficult. If you are like me, then you know the long-term effort involved. From eating healthier, exercising regularly, and sleeping better, I surprisingly lost significant weight during pandemic. However, as things have gotten back to “normal,” so have some habits that led to weight re-gain.

I find myself wishing that I could just go back! Not back to pandemic, but back to a certain weight and into clothes that now fit just a bit too snugly. Ironically, as I’ve been wishing to “go back,” I’ve been inviting you all to be more forward looking. To imagine that the best days of the church are not behind us but ahead ... and then to make it so!

Irony turns into hypocrisy if I refuse to allow my own invitation to lovingly convict me too. When I now catch myself wishing to go back, I stop and invite myself to honor my journey and keep moving forward. I invite myself to build upon lessons learned and wisdom gleaned. I invite myself into a space of grace and love.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15.13

Blessings,

Rev. Isaac Lawson

Area Conference Minister - South Central Region  
Southern New England Conference, UCC



**HADDAM SENIORS PICNIC**

Monday, June 19

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St James Community Hall

501 Killingworth Road, Higganum, CT

All seniors welcome

Normal Picnic fare.

Rain or shine

Entertainment

Please RSVP by checking at Club 60 meeting, Senior Center or Marge DeSola (860)345-4103 to make your reservations. A \$5 deposit to hold your seat is required and returned when you attend the picnic.

**Church Contact Information**

Rev. Hilary McLellan

[revhilarymclellan@outlook.com](mailto:revhilarymclellan@outlook.com)

(860) 316-3837

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am – noon  
or by appointment

Amy Harlow, CE Director

[amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com)

Joel Spinetti, Choir Director

Kevin Dodd, Organist

Nancy Soneson, Office Administrator

(860) 345-2742

Church office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 9 am – 1 pm

Office address: 905 Saybrook Rd, PO Box 215

Haddam, CT 06438





*June Photo Album*



Tag  
Sale  
Hotdog  
Stand



Contra  
Dance







May 21<sup>st</sup> Member Affirmation Sunday



Memorial Day Parade

