



THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*

MARCH 2024



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

Worship Schedule

Haddam Campus

March 3rd

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Cor 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 10th

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 17th

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jer 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrew 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

March 24th

Palm Sunday

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-20

Mark 11:1-11

John 12:12-16

March 28th

Maundy Thursday

Higganum Campus

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 31st

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Cor 15:1-11

John 20:1-8

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Sun., March 24

9:30 am

UCCHH Haddam

Campus

Maundy Thursday

Thurs., March 28

7:00 pm

UCCHH Higganum

Campus

EASTER SUNDAY

Sun., March 31

Sunrise Service

6:30 am

Haddam Meadows

Rt 154, Haddam

9:30 am Morning Service

Easter Egg Hunt

UCCHH Haddam Campus

905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam

United Congregational Church of
Haddam & Higganum

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 31st

Following the 9:30 am service

UCCHH Haddam Campus
905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT



Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter Lent, I am inviting you to consider your personal relationship with God again, this time using the imagery of covenant. We began our Lenten season by considering the story in Genesis 9, when God gave us the rainbow as a promise to Noah to never again bring devastating flood to the earth. It is interesting to note that God says, "I establish my covenant with you" at this time. Why did God not establish a covenant during creation? Why at that time? And also, isn't it interesting that God includes in this covenant, along with Noah and his family, all the diverse creatures who came forth from the ark in this promise? What does that mean to you?

God's covenant with us is again revisited in our liturgical reading for February 25th, which includes the Genesis 17 story of God's new covenant with Abram, who at that time changed his name to become Abraham. The new inclusion of the letter "H" in his name signifies God's presence in his identity. The Hebrew letter "H" or "Hei" is drawn as an open hand and literally means "Grace of God." Abraham's new self is based upon God's presence and reflects God's presence to all around him.

Our covenant with God can transform our identity. This is why I invite you all to consider your covenant with God during this Lenten season. How would you like God to transform your identity? And what signs do you give to God that you take your covenant seriously?

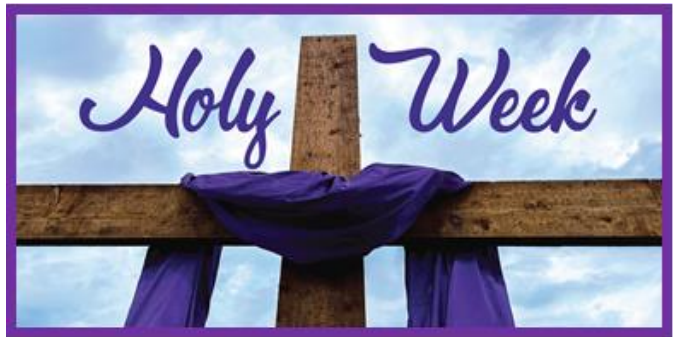
Everything we do as Christians begins with this one central aspect of our lives: our personal covenant with God. My prayer for you this month is that you renew and restore this relationship so that it may refresh you with new life.

Amen,

Rev. Hilary McLellan

[CLICK TO
DOWNLOAD THE
EASTER FLOWER
ORDER FORM](#)

Order your Easter flowers by March 3rd. See Ginny Murphy for questions or details.



March 24

 PALM SUNDAY
Communion, 9:30 am
Haddam Campus

March 27

Maundy Thursday
Service of Tenebrae, 7 pm
Higganum Campus

March 31

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am
Haddam Meadows State Park

Coffee & Conversation, 7:30 am
Haddam Campus

Easter Morning Service

9:30 am
Haddam Campus

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March Meetings

Study Group, Tuesdays, 9:30 am (LH/Zoom)

Choir Practice, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)

Property, March 11th, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

Diaconate, March 11th, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Christian Ed, March 12th, 6:30 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Outreach, March 18th, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Council, March 19th, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Quilt Show, March 27th, 7 pm (Zoom)



Pennies From Heaven Collection



The Pennies from Heaven collection tube is out and collecting for **The Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation**.

The mission of the Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc. is to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, to reduce the stigma of mental illness, and to provide hope and support.

Bring in your extra change on any Sunday and leave in the collection tube located on the church chancel. The funds will be dispersed in June.

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## Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair



## **Milk & Snack Collection**

**Now thru  
March 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Outreach/Mission Committee invites you to bring in shelf-stable milk (usually located in the cereal/coffee aisle of the grocery store) and healthy snacks (granola bars/fruit cups) for the HK Backpack Program.

The collection baskets are located in the Haddam church vestibule.

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March 10th

We will be making and serving dinner at Harvest House, a ministry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, East Haddam. Dinner preparation is at 3 pm, dinner at 4 pm. Thank you to our volunteer cooks!



One Great Hour of Sharing Collection March 10th

Collection envelopes will be in the worship bulletins and in the Haddam Fellowship Hall.

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.

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## **Bread For Heat Ministry**



**SATURDAYS**

Starting in June

Higganum Farmers' Market

We will be making and selling our artisan breads again this year. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Linda Hansen.





The church received several more thank you notes this month. Heartfelt notes came from Mission at Eastward, HK Youth and Family Services, Middlesex Hospital Spiritual Care, and Back Bay Mission.

## Christian Education News

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director

Hello from CE!

Easter is fast approaching, and I am looking for candy and small toy donations to fill Easter eggs. We have plenty of eggs to stuff, so there is no need to buy new ones, as pretty as they are! If you can't make it to the store and want to donate money to a shopper, that will also be much appreciated. Individually wrapped candy works best. Thank you in advance!

Just a friendly reminder that when children attend Sunday service, I need a second pair of hands in the Sunday school classroom in order to be in compliance with Safe Church rules. Please consider being that second pair of hands when needed.

Thank you so much for all of your continued support!  
*Amy*



## Adult Study Group

Submitted by Lindamae Peck

The adult study group will begin its next course in early March. 'Singing the Unsung' is a series of 9 videotaped sessions that "escorts participants through a reflection of the Church's song as well as offering practical techniques on how we can sing and pray together with integrity." The sessions are led by John Bell, a musician and theologian. A study guide accompanies each session, which typically lasts one hour, i.e., viewing the video followed by discussion among attendees.

The study group has been meeting Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the Lewis House and on Zoom. In addition to Rev. Hilary, regular participants include Liz Anderson, Lori Chadwick and Lindamae Peck. The tentative start date for 'Singing the Unsung' is March 12. If you would like to participate but cannot attend on March 12 or on Tuesdays in general, please contact the church office or Rev. Hilary.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS



[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.*



The **Diaconate** will be hosting coffee hour in March. The **Christian Education Committee** will host in April. Thank you!



If you've begun your  
spring cleaning...  
Don't forget to save your  
unwanted treasures for our  
**Annual Tag Sale**  
on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Details coming soon!*



### Zoom Login Information

**ID: 391 987 2707**

**Password: 90523**

Phone call-in number: +1 646 558 8656



## Stewardship & Pledge Update

Thank you to all the friends and members of the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum who have submitted their pledges for the 2024 year.

**2024 UCCHH Budget: \$ 256,218**

**No. of pledging units to-date: 40**

**Total amount pledged to-date: \$ 98,264**

If you have not pledged yet, we encourage you to do so. The large gap that remains between the 2024 budget and the amount pledged to-date poses serious challenges for the church's financial wellbeing.

[Download A Pledge Card Here](#)

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

*Thank you for your  
generosity!*

## 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!



## OPEN SEW & QUILT WITH DENA LIEDKE



March 2nd  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Haddam Campus

RSVP Dena  
sewdena22@gmail.com

\$5 Donation to the church

Bring: Machine, projects, supplies, lunch and snacks

## February Worship Attendance

February 4 ..... 38

February 11 ..... 32

February 18 ..... 32

February 25 ..... 33



Welcome to our newest UCCHH members:  
Tammy and Lauryn Reinhardt!

## Goodwill Donation Cards

Don't forget to bring a Good Neighbor Donation Card with you when you donate clothes to Goodwill in Middletown. Your donation will then translate into vouchers for people in need.

Donation cards are located in the Higganum social hall, the Haddam vestibule, and the church office.



DO YOU PLAY RECORDER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO PLAY RECORDER?

There is a group of adults who have been meeting at the Haddam Campus on Monday afternoons at 2:00 pm to play recorders. We are at different levels of skill. There are some retired music teachers and some people who are just learning to play their instrument. You are invited to come and play with us. For more information, contact me!

---- Ginny Evensen



## Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

February Council Minutes – [February 20, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)  
January Minutes – [January 16, 2024 \(Approved\)](#)  
[UCCHH Annual Report for 2024](#)  
[UCCHH Annual Meeting Minutes](#)  
[UCCHH Bylaws](#) (updated 1/28/24)  
[UCCHH Policies](#) (updated 1/28/24)



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 06438**

Make checks payable to: **UCCHH**

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

## Church Contact Information

Rev. Hilary McLellan, Pastor  
[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  
[fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com) / [www.haddamchurch.org](http://www.haddamchurch.org)  
Church office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 9 am – 1 pm  
Office address: 905 Saybrook Rd, PO Box 215  
Haddam, CT 06438



JOIN US FOR A ONE-DAY

# women's conference

WITH GUEST SPEAKER ELLIE LOFARO

4.20.24  
10am-4pm

**valley bible church**  
220 TURKEY HILL RD., HADDAM, CT 06438  
Registration Required

**\$35 per person**

REGISTRATION INCLUDES 3 SESSIONS  
AND A CATERED LUNCH

**sessions include:**

- THE THEOLOGY OF JOY
- THE LIFESTYLE OF JOY
- JOY BUSTERS & JOY BOOSTERS

**register here**



[valleybiblechurch.com/get-involved](http://valleybiblechurch.com/get-involved)

## Words From the Conference Minister



*"The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves." Mark 6.30-32*

When I would come home from college absolutely exhausted from exams, my father would say, "Isaac, even Einstein rested." It was endearing because only the love of a parent would dare put my name and Einstein's in the same sentence. It was also tempering because it was my dad who would push me to turn Bs into As on my report card. Even while comparing me to Einstein, my dad reminded me of the need for rest.

"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." The disciples were out busy being Jesus-like in all their doing when **Jesus invited them into another Jesus-like behavior: rest!** Yes, rest to eat and care for one's body, but also rest to re-attune oneself to the Divine. Prayerful rest that assures our doing and being are Spirit-led.

I sometimes – okay, often – get overwhelmed by the task of ministering in such challenging times that rest seems like the last thing that I should be doing. However, Jesus reminds us that it is in those intentional, prayerful times of rest that we re-connect with the power of the Divine Spirit that works miracles beyond our wildest imaginations.

May you get the rest that you need,

Isaac

*Happy*  
**EASTER!**

**BE THE CHURCH**  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Forgive often. **Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*



*March 2024*

## Monthly Photo Album



### New Member Reception

