



# THE GOOD NEWS

## *From the Belfry*



APRIL 2024

*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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April worship is at the  
**Higganum Campus**

#### **April 7**

*Communion*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2

John 20:19-31

#### **April 14**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

#### **April 21**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

#### **April 28**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8



### *Call to* *A Special Congregational Meeting*

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Higganum Campus**

Following the morning service

To the members of the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum,

Notice is hereby given of a special congregational meeting to be held following the morning worship on April 28, 2024, at the Higganum campus.

Agenda:

- Review, discuss, and vote to accept a minor bylaw change.
- Review, discuss, and vote to determine the future use of the Trinity House. This will require a 75% majority to determine future usage.

Terry Smith, Clerk



**UCCHH Annual**

**Tag Sale**

**MAY 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Save up your treasures!*

Items may be dropped off on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 7 pm or by arrangement.

***Back by popular demand: Linda's Hot Dog Tent!***

We need lots of help, not only with donations but also with setting up, selling, and cleaning up. Sign up during coffee hour or contact the church office if you can help out.



## *Message from the Pastor*

Hello Friends,

May the peace of the Lord resonate in our hearts!

As we have been walking along our Lenten journey, considering our covenant with God and the signs we offer to God, I wanted us to consider another reading and revisit the topic of shame, which we have been talking about during Lent.

Earlier in Lent, I encouraged people to pray about discovering their own healthy "middle way" of shame, for too much shame is crippling, and too little shame allows our flaws to reign unchecked in our lives. The "middle way" of shame helps us see our flaws and gives us the desire to try to redeem ourselves from society. We were talking then about how we feel about our internal shame or shame we feel inside our hearts.

Now let's think about external shame, or shame that others try to make us experience.

Isaiah 50:4-7, one of our lectionary readings for Holy Week, reads, "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning, he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who stuck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insults and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame."

This external shame is the aspect of shame Jesus faced from the time of the Last Supper and into the crucifixion: social shame, rejection, and punishment. External shame could be deserved or unjust, and for Jesus, this shame was a direct consequence of living out his passion and spiritual truth. Isaiah describes how the teacher knows how to sustain the weary with a word. The one who listens spiritually to God's language as it is spoken through the fabric of the universe is often not understood by others. These sensitive spiritual souls sometimes face indifference, misunderstanding, and even ridicule, anger, or violence from others.

When facing this kind of external shame, Isaiah and Jesus both "did not hide their face from insult and spitting." Though socially disgraced, they could hold their heads high and maintain inner dignity, relying upon their relationship with God and their knowledge of God's teachings. For, as Isaiah says, "the Lord God helps me."

My prayer for you as you walk beyond Holy Week and into the Easter season is that the Lord God will be with you and will help you. May God protect you in the face of any unjust social shame. May God give you the strength and clarity to speak your spiritual truths to others simply. May you resist any temptation to socially shame others. May you reflect upon these deeper mysteries in prayer, and may God grant you the patience and will to practice forbearance and forgiveness and a deepening of faith through the love of Christ.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your heart,

*Rev. Hilary McLellan*

# Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair

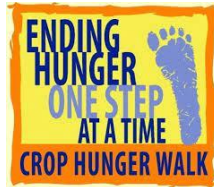


Thank you for all the wonderful snacks and 18 boxes of shelf-stable milk collected for the HK Backpack Program last month!



Thank you for supporting our community outreach at **Harvest House** at St. Stephen's Church in East Haddam. We served 14 members of the community! This worthwhile opportunity is extended to our church twice a year, in March and October. Come join us in the fall!

Save the date... **CROP Walk** is Sunday, October 6 at noon at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth.



Mission Outreach continuous collections:

- **Pull tabs** for Ronald MacDonald House Charities
- **Pennies from Heaven** for the Nathaniel Field Memorial Foundation



## Congratulations!

We collected \$1,836 for One Great Hour of Sharing last month!



An updated church directory is available. Pick up your copy in the social hall.



The **CE Committee** will be hosting coffee hour in April. The **Finance Committee** will host in May. Thank you!



## Bread for Heat Ministry



### SATURDAYS

June 1<sup>st</sup> – October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Higganum Farmers' Market  
9 am-noon

We are so excited to see this mission opportunity continue! We raised over \$3000 for Haddam Fuel Bank in 2023!



## OPEN SEW & QUILT WITH DENA LIEDKE

April 6th  
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

On Easter morning, our sanctuary was beautifully decorated with lilies, tulips, and hyacinths.

Click [HERE](#) to see the list of those honored or celebrated.

## Christian Education News

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director



Happy Spring from CE! March was a busy month! In March, we held the first of our evening adult education classes. We are following the Living the Question Series, Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of Its Non-

Violent God. Professor and author John Dominic Crossan summarizes the essence of his bestselling HOW TO READ THE BIBLE & STILL BE A CHRISTIAN: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis Through Revelation and shows the way forward for those seeking an authentic Christianity for the 21st century. The lecture begins with the story of Adam and Eve. Professor Crossan states that it "is a story of conscience. It says to get over the delusion of immortality and accept the responsibility of conscience." A very interesting thought, in my opinion. Very different from what I believed the story was meant to teach us. I am looking forward to the next video to see where he takes us next! Adult Ed with CE is held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings, 7 pm- discussion closes, at the Higganum campus. We will supply you with everything else you will need; just bring your listening ear and an open heart!



On March 23, 2024, the confirmands, Joe Rizzo and Ryan McCue, and I stayed overnight at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme. We joined the FCCOOL confirmation event called Sharing Our Humanity. Guest speaker Kathy told us about her story of how she became homeless two different times in her life. She spoke openly about her struggles with addiction, loss, and her journey to recovery. She is currently on the hunt for an apartment and hopes to move out of the Homeless Hospitality Center located in New London, CT, in the upcoming months. We then assembled 95 toiletry kits! Kits included socks, soaps, hygiene wipes, toothbrushes, razors, shave cream, shampoo, conditioner, ChapStick, feminine hygiene products, and deodorant. The kits will be delivered during Holy Week for distribution at the shelter. We met new friends and learned a lot. We left early on Sunday morning to head back to attend Palm Sunday service, but not before the boys and I had a good hearty breakfast at Jack's and picked up Norm Manning for church! The boys were very respectful, helpful, and polite. Thank you, Joe and Ryan, for making me proud!

CE meets next on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 via Zoom. For convenience, Dawn Alger lets us use her Zoom account, so if you would like to attend, please reach out to me, and I will get you on the email chain. If you would like to mentor our confirmands, please attend our next meeting for details. Meeting these guys will be YOUR pleasure!

That's it for now!

Thank you for your continued support.

*Amy Harlow*



**March Meetings**

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

**Choir Practice**, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)

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**PRC**, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 pm

**Property**, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Christian Ed**, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

**Study Group**, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Higganum)

**Outreach**, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Council**, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

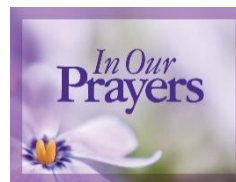
**Study Group**, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Higganum)



[Click for the Prayer List](#)

Note from the church office:

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



**IN SYMPATHY**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of long-time FCCH member **Laura Porter**.

Her moving obituary can be seen [HERE](#).

**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!



**April Worship Attendance**

- March 3 ..... 30
- March 10 ..... 39
- March 17 ..... 28
- March 24 ..... 39 (Palm Sunday)
- March 28 ..... 26 (Maundy Thursday)
- March 31 ..... 56 (Easter Sunrise)
- March 31 ..... 41 (Easter 9:30 am service)

**Congratulations to Jack & Ginny Murphy for being inducted into the HK Hall of Fame!**

See page 7 for details on how to get tickets to the HK Hall of Fame Dinner to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

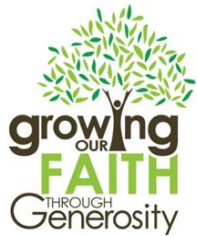


**Online Meeting**



**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: 44**

**Total amount pledged to date: \$106,159**

[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!*



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

### Online Giving

Visit [www.haddamchurch.org](http://www.haddamchurch.org) and click on *Online Giving* on the menu bar.

OR



Use this QR code to go directly to our secure online giving page.



## Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- March Council Minutes – [March 19, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)
- February Council Minutes – [February 20, 2024 \(Approved\)](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Report for 2024](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UCCHH Bylaws](#) (updated 1/28/24)
- [UCCHH Policies](#) (updated 1/28/24)

## 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

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

(860) 345-2742

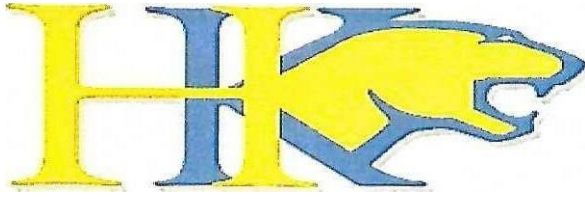
Church office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 9 am – 1 pm

Office address: 905 Saybrook Rd, PO Box 215  
Haddam, CT 06438

Please send your announcements to be included in the next addition to [BelfryEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BelfryEditor@gmail.com). All submissions must be in by the 20th of the month.



April 2024



# HALL of Fame

TICKETS NOW on SALE for

## The HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH

### ***HALL of FAME DINNER***

Thursday May 9, 2024 at 6PM

\$45 includes Dinner & Dessert

The River House  
Bridge Road / Haddam, CT

There will be a Cash Bar and an Online Silent Auction

### **2024 Inductees**

Rudolph "Rudy" Durinick

Jack and Ginny Murphy

Sarah Neal

Amber Newcomer

NOTE: Tickets for the dinner must be purchased by May 1, 2024. No tickets will be sold at the door.

If you are interested in reserving a table or purchasing tickets, please contact

Elaine Jackson (860-424-6178) or Lisa Wiese (860-301-7608) at [hkhalloffame09@gmail.com](mailto:hkhalloffame09@gmail.com)

In addition, congratulatory ads may be purchased for the Program Booklet. The deadline for ads is April 30, 2024. Prices are % page \$25, h page \$50, Full Page

\$100. Please contact Elaine Jackson at [hkhalloffame09@gmail.com](mailto:hkhalloffame09@gmail.com) Make checks payable to HK Hall of Fame & send to PO Box 24, Higganum, CT 06441



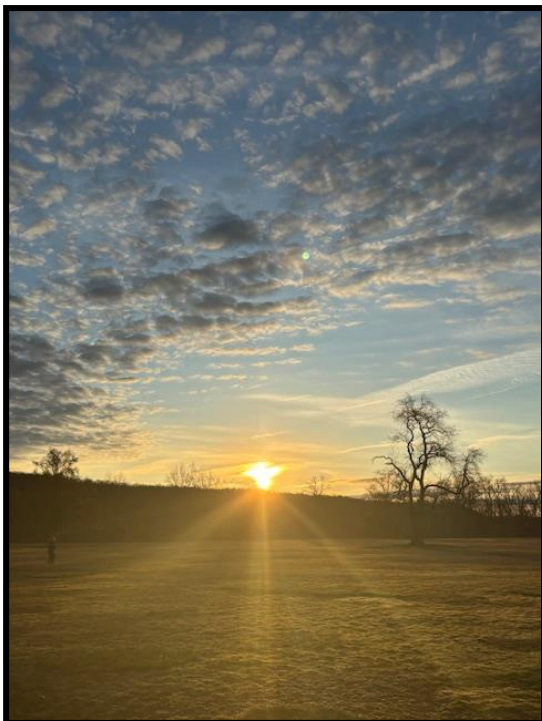
Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc.

# SPRING INTO HOPE CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 27, 2024 2PM - 5PM  
144 Prout Hill Road, Middletown, CT  
Donation: \$25

*Live music by Beth and the Boys  
Appetizers, Games, Raffle Prizes*

## Monthly Photo Album



Easter Sunrise Service