



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry



MAY 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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**May worship is at the  
Haddam Campus**

#### **May 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
*Communion*  
 Acts 10:44-48  
 Psalm 98  
 1 John 5:1-6  
 John 15:9-17

#### **May 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
*Mother's Day*  
 Acts 1:15-17,21-26  
 Psalm 1  
 1 John 5:9-13  
 John 17:6-19

#### **May 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Pentecost Sunday*  
 Acts 2:1-21  
 Ezek 37:1-14  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 Rom 8:22-27  
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

#### **May 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Trinity Sunday*  
*Memorial Day Weekend*  
 Isa 6:1-8  
 Psalm 29  
 Rom 8:12-17  
 John 3:1-17



### *Message from the Pastor*

Hello Friends,

As the Easter season continues, we are beginning our first visioning process since uniting. We have chosen to participate in an all-church vision/discernment process beginning with a workshop on April 27<sup>th</sup> at First Church of Christ in Old Saybrook, "Discerning God's Future for Your Church." We will continue this supported process for the next six months, and welcome your participation. Whether you were able to attend the first session or not, bring your faith, ideas, and concerns into the conversation!

Our work together as a church is both spiritual and political. We have the power to self-determine the ways we choose to reflect God's presence in our lives. Does our service to God reflect God's justice and mercy in our community at large? What is our impact on our community? How do we express our spiritual devotion through our collective choices and actions? How are our choices informed by our faith? How do our works as a church impact and influence our faith lives?

So much has changed during and since the COVID-19 pandemic. Our visioning process will extend beyond this workshop as we continue to explore our identity and purpose as a new church. As we move beyond the historic churches of Haddam and Higganum that shaped our faith, what is our vision and hope for the future?

May we "be the living scripture." May we never place a period where God has placed a comma. May we listen to God and discover the new ways that God is still speaking to us here in this community. May we bless each other and bless God with our worship and through our visioning process.

Peace,

*Rev. Hilary McLellan*



### Our Annual Tag Sale

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

**8 am – 2 pm**

**UCCHH Higganum Campus**



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

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

**Drop off:** Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm – 7:30 pm

Contact Kristin Battistoni for other drop-off arrangements.



### Bread For Heat Ministry

**SATURDAYS**

June 1st – October 19<sup>th</sup>

Higganum Farmers' Market

9 am-noon

At the Higganum Elementary School

We're looking for people to help sell our artisan breads on Saturday mornings. See Nancy Soneson or sign up online [HERE](#).



## PRIDEFEST 2024

**JUNE 1ST**  **AT 12:30 PM**

**WE'RE MARCHING IN THE PRIDE PARADE!**

Watch for more information in the coming weeks.



## Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair



### Strengthen the Church Offering

May 19, 2024

The **Strengthen the Church Offering** supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations.

### Haddam Social Service Wish List

To help support our community, we will publish a wish list monthly supplied to us by Haddam Social Services.

Wish List:

- Toilet paper
- Small boxes of sugar
- Snacks/chips
- Canned mushrooms
- Laundry detergent
- Dish and hand soap
- Dry cat food
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Jelly

Donations can be dropped off in the box outside their office on Jail Hill Road or given to a Mission Outreach member to transport.

Save The Date:

**CROP Walk**, Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Quilt Show**, Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>



On-going collections:

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



**OPEN SEW & QUILT WITH DENA LIEDKE**

May 4th  
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

**Attention sewers!**

The Outreach Committee seeks people willing to sew Christmas stockings for the Alfred J. Solnit Center in Middletown. Sewers will meet during the "Open Sew & Quilt" on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please let Sue Craffey know if you can lend a hand.



An updated church directory is available. Pick up your copy in the Fellowship Hall or church office.

**Middlesex Association Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC Middlesex Association will be held on **Monday, May 20, at 6:30 pm** at First Church, Middletown.

**Each church may be represented by five delegates in addition to the clergy.** Visitors are welcome, with a voice but no vote. **Please contact Greg Shields if you would like to attend.**

In addition to gathering for fellowship and worship, the business of the Association will be conducted. Reports of the officers and committees of the Association will be received and voted upon. The fiscal year 2024-25 budget will be presented for adoption.

**Save these Important Middlesex Association Dates:**

- Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>,** Middlesex Association Annual Meeting, First Church Middletown 6:30 pm
- Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>,** Middletown Pride Parade, March with the Association churches.
- Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>,** Rev. Todd Yonkman's Service of Installation, Old Saybrook
- Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>,** Middlesex Association and New Haven East Consociation Clergy Retreat
- Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>,** Pulpit Swap Sunday

**May Meetings**

- Study Group,** Tuesdays, 9:30 am (LH/Zoom)
- Choir Practice,** Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)
- 
- Study Group,** May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Higganum)
- Property,** May 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)
- Diaconate,** May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)
- Christian Ed,** May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
- Study Group,** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm (Higganum)
- Outreach,** May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)
- Council,** May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**RON BOOTH**  
MISSION GOLF OUTING

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**



**Lyman Orchards Player Course, Middlefield**  
Followed by community dinner in Higganum with a river view

To benefit the United Congregational Church of Haddam & Higganum

**Memorial Day Worship Service**  
**May 26, 2024**



**CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT**  
 RENÉ IZQUIERDO  
**SUNDAY**  
 JUNE 23, 2024  
 UCCHH Higganum Campus  
 23 Parsonage Rd, Higganum  
 STARTS AT 4PM  
 FREE Admission/Freewill Donation  
 Presented by The Candlewood Farm Arts Foundation



[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 member **Neal Blodgett, Sr.** who passed away on April 8<sup>th</sup>.



On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the congregation said goodbye to organist Kevin Dodd and music director Joel Spineti. Thank you, Joel and Kevin, for providing us with such wonderful and joyful music! We will miss you!



The **Finance Committee** will be hosting coffee hour in May. The **Music Committee** will host in June.



**Vote Results: Trinity House to be Sold**

After much discussion at the Special Congregational Meeting held following worship on April 28th, the congregation voted to sell the Trinity House. See the meeting minutes [HERE](#).

**Thompson Meal Train**



A meal train has been set up for Tracy Thompson and her family. If you would like to provide a meal, please sign up here: <https://mealtrain.com/9qe38l>

**Pasta Fundraiser** for the Thompson Family, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7 pm. See page 7 for details.

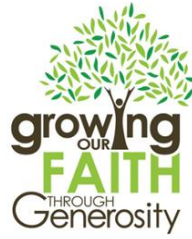


### Zoom Login Information

**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](#)

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

*Thank you for your generosity!*



### Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- April Council Minutes – [April 16, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)
- March Council Minutes – [March 19, 2024 \(Approved\)](#)
- April Special Meeting Minutes – [April 28, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Report for 2024](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UCCHH Bylaws](#) (updated 1/28/24)
- [UCCHH Policies](#) (updated 1/28/24)

### April Worship Attendance

- April 7 . . . . . 41
- April 14 . . . . . 37
- April 21 . . . . . 36
- April 28 . . . . . 49

### Church Contact Information

Rev. Hilary McLellan

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

(860) 316-3837

Office hours: Tues. 9 am – noon  
& Thurs. 5pm – 9pm

Amy Harlow, CE Director

Brian Frazier, Interim Organist/Music Director

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



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.



# Come out and be a Card Angel!

Next meetings:  
Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>  
5-7:30pm

UCCHH Haddam Campus, 905 Saybrook Road, Haddam

What is a Card Angel you ask? We are a group of volunteers who make homemade cards with happy messages for those in cancer treatment centers and rehab/nursing homes. Just bring yourself. All materials provided. No card-making experience required.

Hope to see you soon!

Donations of embellishments are accepted and appreciated.

For more information, please contact Jesse at [cardangelsct@gmail.com](mailto:cardangelsct@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook @CardAngelsCT



May 2023

# Spaghetti Dinner

## FUNDRAISER

To benefit Tracy Thompson & Family

**FRIDAY, MAY 17TH**  
**5PM - 7PM**



**HADDAM FIREHOUSE**

439 Saybrook Rd, Higganum, CT 06441

*Come for  
the food,  
Stay for  
the games!*

**TICKETS:**

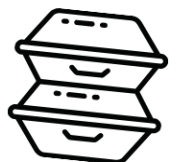
**\$20 - ADULTS**

**\$10 - CHILDREN  
OVER 5**

Please contact Kristin at [taxclerk@haddam.org](mailto:taxclerk@haddam.org)  
to purchase your tickets or make a donation!

**TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE!**

PASTA, RAFFLES, GAMES AND MORE!





# Monthly Photo Album

## Kevin and Joel's Farewell

To the Tune of "He Leadeth Me"

Joel leadeth us, O blessed thought!  
 On Thursday nights, his attention caught,  
 Howe'er we do, what troubles be,  
 By Sunday morn, we'll sing on key!

Sunday in winter's deepest gloom,  
 On days when hands are cold and blue,  
 By pedals rocked and pipes that boom,  
 Still Kevin's chords command the room!

Refrain  
 They leadeth me, they leadeth me  
 By their own hands they leadeth me,  
 Their faithful followers we would be,  
 For by their hands they leadeth me.



Easter Sunrise