



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry



AUGUST 2024

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

August Worship Schedule

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#### August 4<sup>th</sup>

##### **Haddam Campus**

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a

Ps 51:1-12

Eph 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

#### August 11<sup>th</sup>

##### **Haddam Campus**

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 18:5-9,15, 31-33

Ps 130

Eph 4:25-5:2

John 6:35,41-51

#### August 18<sup>th</sup>

##### **Higganum Campus**

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10—12,3:3-14

Ps 111

Eph 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

#### August 25<sup>th</sup>

##### **Higganum Campus**

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:22-30,41-43

Psalm 84

Eph 6:10-20

John 6:56-69



### *Message from the Pastor*

Hello Friends,

Summer is rolling along with many gorgeous days, a few sweltering ones, a lot of rain, and some hours resounding with so much rumbling thunder and lightning that if you are caught outside, it is enough to strike fear into your soul. That feeling of fear or awe, that knowledge of the world being so much larger than yourself, and yet yourself as part of this world and connected to it, is one of our foundational experiences of God.

The word for this overwhelming feeling of being connected to this larger, unwieldy, and unfathomable energy was translated as “fear” in the King James version of the Bible. In other versions, it is sometimes translated as “awe” or even as “love”.

It is a powerful and overwhelming feeling to be connected to something so much greater than ourselves that just touching it is more than we can bear. The ancient Hebrews thought they would die instantly if they actually saw God because this feeling would annihilate them entirely.

Ironically, remembering this feeling, the feeling of the power of the universe that is beyond our comprehension, is something that can give us great comfort and security. God is so much larger than we are.

Even when we are going through tough times, remembering that we are not in control helps. Remembering that we are reliant upon God and others is the first step in staying present with yourself in all circumstances. It is a first step in problem-solving.

Some things cannot be changed or helped by your personal effort. Remember that God is with you in all circumstances, and God’s design is larger than your imagination. So, leave all the impossible things to God and focus on doing all the good that you can do each day, celebrating God’s presence in all circumstances. Leave the rest in God’s hands.

In other words, “Have faith”.

May your faith grow and be renewed this summer, whatever the weather.

Blessings and regards,

*Rev. Hilary McLellan*



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Booth Mission Golf Outing – September 15<sup>th</sup>

*PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
GLORIOUS DAY OF GRAND  
GOLF, GOOD FOOD AND  
GREAT MEMORIES!*

**\$145 for 18 holes,  
\$100 for 9 holes**

*Includes: Greens Fees, Cart,  
Lunch & Community Dinner*

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED  
ON THE TURN**

### **POST-GOLF COMMUNITY DINNER**



Beginning at 3pm, dinner served at 5pm

*At the residence of The Gascoyne Family,  
130 Dublin Hill Road, Higganum,  
overlooking the Connecticut River*

#### Featuring:

- ◆ A grilled picnic dinner (chicken and steak), with a wide array of delicious appetizers, side dishes, salads and desserts
- ◆ Cocktails and other beverages included
- ◆ Tournament prize awards
- ◆ Raffle fun for everyone!

### AWARDS & PRIZES

- Low Team Gross & Low Team Net - 1st and 2nd Places
- Longest Drive Contest - Categories for Senior Men, Men and Women
- Closest to the Pin Contest - Men and Women's Winners
- Putting Contest
- 50/50 Hole
- Hole-in-One



Photo Consent: photos taken at the event may be used for our website and social media. Please notify us if you wish to withhold your consent.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated in memory of Ron Booth to The First Tee of Connecticut. The First Tee was created to expose golf to underprivileged youth who might not normally have access to the game.



United Congregational Church of  
Haddam & Higganum



**RON BOOTH  
Mission Golf Outing**



**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

**8:30 Registration  
9:30 Shotgun Start**

**Lyman Golf Club**  
Middlefield, CT

*A benefit event for the missions of the  
United Congregational Church of  
Haddam and Higganum*

## **Volunteers Needed!**

This is the largest church fundraising event of the year and it takes a lot of people (members and friends) to make it a success. Please get in touch with the leaders listed below to volunteer. Help is needed for all of the following activities:

- Golf Registration – Dawn Alger
- On Course Support (50/50 Hole, Longest Drive) – Terry Smith
- Sponsor Signs – John Edmondson
- Dinner Venue Set-Up/Parking – Mark Soneson
- Grilling – Jack Murphy
- Food – Linda Hansen
- Beverages – Alan Chadwick
- Raffle Prizes – Ginny Murphy
- Trophies and Scoring – Greg Shields
- Prayers – Rev. Hilary McLellan
- Sponsors – Terry Smith
- Publicity – Nancy Soneson
- Thank You Notes – Lori Chadwick

**Scan the QR code to  
register to play,  
purchase a  
sponsorship, or get  
dinner tickets.**





# Outreach/Mission

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair

## School Bags for Church World Service



Our annual school supply drive is underway!

Due to the surplus of donations last year, we only need single-subject notebooks, pencil sharpeners, and a few boxes of crayons. We also need volunteers to sew some of the school bags. See Sue Craffey if you can help.

## Haddam Social Service Wish List

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

August Wish List:

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Mayonnaise and condiments
- Laundry detergent
- Snacks for kids
- Wet dog food

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

**Pennies from Heaven for The Nathaniel Field Memorial Foundation**, collected from January to June 2024, raised a whopping \$1,601! Thanks to several individuals who were touched by their motto, "You are worth it." Thank you to foundation founders, Howie and Marie Field, who spoke during worship on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and shared more information and literature during coffee hour. Such a worthy cause in Haddam. For more info see: <http://www.nathanielfield.org>



## Annual HK Crop Walk

October 6, 2024 ~ noon  
Chatfield Hollow State Park

We are coordinating this event with The Congregational Church in Killingworth. Register online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/haddamct>

More information will be in the September newsletter, or you can contact Sue Craffey.



Please remember to save your pull tabs from your summer beverages and cat/dog food cans. Collecting pull tabs is an easy way to raise funds for the Ronald MacDonald House Charities!

**GLADYS BURR PECK MEMORIAL  
ORGAN  
CONCERT**

with BRIAN PARKS

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2024  
7PM**

**FREE ENTRY**

**UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM AND HIGGANUM**  
23 Parsonage Rd  
Higganum, CT  
[www.haddamchurch.org](http://www.haddamchurch.org)



## Bread For Heat Ministry

**SATURDAYS**

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

We're looking for people to help sell! See Nancy Soneson or sign up online [HERE](#).

## Tag Sale Fundraiser Results

Thank you to everyone who helped with our annual tag sale in May. The final numbers are in and we raised \$3,215. A huge thank you to Jeanne Calhoun for sorting out a few of the exceptional pieces, which brought in \$1,220!

**Follow Us on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/haddamchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/haddamchurch/)



# Music News



As we continue to sing our praise to God as a community and as we move through our visioning process as a congregation, I thought it might be helpful to look at the history of congregational singing. In the next few newsletters, I will include information about the history of liturgical music and try to bring us right up to the present day. I would like to give credit to the website [www.worshiplibrary.com](http://www.worshiplibrary.com) for the valuable information I was able to find there.

From the earliest times, the people of God have raised their voices in song to praise God. These never-ending expressions of faith have been tremendously varied, both in textual content and musical style. At times, these heartfelt songs have been but simple, brief responses of affirmation by the gathered congregation. At other times, congregational songs of praise and prayer have been both lengthy and complex. Biblical songs are to be found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. The earliest recorded song is the Song of Moses, and the last song is found in the book of Revelation. Many of the songs in the Bible are also referred to as canticles.

The very word hymn comes from the Greek *hymnos*, which means a song of praise to a god or hero. Early Christians wrote many hymns that have become models for hymn writers over the centuries. When we sing hymns, the most common format that we use is the chorale. The chorale was Martin Luther's important contribution to church music. Featuring strong rhythmic tunes and vernacular texts, the early chorales were songs for all worshiping people to sing. Since the Reformation, a long line of hymn writers, especially in Germany and Scandinavia, has contributed to this genre, leaving behind one of the richest bodies of music in the Christian church. Many of the hymns that we know and love, particularly those in the Pilgrim Hymnal, are written in chorale format with four-part voicing and keyboard accompaniment.

*Brian Frazier*  
UCCHH Music Director

## **SOLD** Update on Trinity House

We completed the sale of the Trinity House and closed on July 8<sup>th</sup> for \$285,000. The sale was made to Kevin Dodd acting for Valley Railroad. New tenants are already moving in. The proceeds have been deposited into our account with Essex Financial. We anticipate that we will need to address a few deferred maintenance projects in the coming months, including a new furnace for the Lewis House. Special thanks to Jeanne Messick who handled the closing on behalf of the Church.

---Greg Shields, on behalf of the Finance Committee



### Memorial Garden Outdoor Service

August 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 am

Come join us for worship in the UCCHH Higganum Campus Memorial Garden. Let the beauty of God's creation surround you and uplift you! Please remember to bring your own chair.

## August Meetings

**No choir practice is scheduled for August**

**Worship Team**, Thursdays, 6 pm (LH)

**Bread Ministry**, Fridays, 9 am – 1 pm (Haddam)

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**Adult Study**, August 6, 9 am (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, August 12, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

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

**CE**, August 13, 6:30 pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

**Outreach**, August 19, 7 pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

**Council**, August 20, 7 pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

**Vision Team**, August 28, 7 pm (Lewis House)



### Just Peace Players

September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:30am service

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Just Peace Players will perform the first of five plays for us as an initiative to bring more adult education programming from the SNEUCC into our church.

The troupe was founded in the 1990s by five ordained ministers in the Metropolitan Boston Association of the historic Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, which is now part of our SNEUCC. They are a liturgical drama troupe committed to sharing the many visions of peace and justice in the greater UCC through the dramatic arts. The troupe is funded by a grant that allows them to travel and perform, and they have generously agreed to bring us their entire current series of five plays throughout the programming year, in order to help us develop our new church's peace and justice statement.

They will perform the first play of this series during worship service on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, *Women of the Greatest Generation: Stories of Faith, Hope, Love and Courage*. This play uses the original words of women who lived through World War II, telling their stories to help inspire us to share our own stories and discover how and where we want to work together for peace now, in our present era.



The August coffee hour schedule is as follows:

- August 4 . . . . . CE Committee
- August 11 . . . . . Delegates & At-large members
- August 18 . . . . . Bread Ministry
- August 25 . . . . . Property Committee

| July Worship Attendance |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| July 7 . . . . .        | 25 |
| July 14 . . . . .       | 30 |
| July 21 . . . . .       | 31 |
| July 28 . . . . .       | 32 |



### Caring Connection

Don't hesitate to contact one of the following Caring Connection members if you, or a member you know, could use a caring hand (or a meal or two).

- Caring Connection contacts:**  
 Sue Craffey . . . . . 860-338-0216  
 Sue Henehan . . . . . 860-212-4807  
 Dave McComas . . 860-978-0462  
 Rev. Hilary . . . . . 860-316-3837



[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 monthly. Please contact the office to restore any prayer concerns that may have been prematurely removed.*



### 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!



**Zoom Login Information**

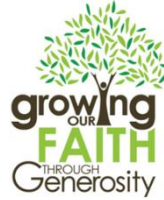
**ID: 391 987 2707**  
**Password: 90523**  
 Phone call-in number: +1 646 558 8656



### Card Angels

Thurs., August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5 pm ~ Lewis House

Come make homemade cards for people in cancer treatment centers and nursing homes. For more information, please get in touch with Jesse at [cardangelsct@gmail.com](mailto:cardangelsct@gmail.com)



## 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.

|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>2024 UCCHH Budget:</b>             | <b>\$ 256,218</b>      |
| <b>No. of pledging units to date:</b> | <b>45</b>              |
| <b>Total amount pledged to date:</b>  | <b>\$106,655</b>       |
| <b>Collected YTD:</b>                 | <b>\$ 64,969 (61%)</b> |



### Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- June Council Minutes – [June 18, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)
- May Council Minutes – [May 21, 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 5/22/24)

[Download a Pledge Card](#)



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.

### Online Giving

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

OR



This QR code will bring you directly to our secure Online Giving page:



### PLEDGE ENVELOPES

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

### 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

**NOTE: Rev. Hilary will be on a retreat 7/29 – 8/4**

Amy Harlow, CE Director  
Brian Frazier, 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



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
HADDAM AND HIGGANUM

# RON BOOTH MISSION GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024  
LYMAN ORCHARDS PLAYER COURSE

8:30 AM SIGN-IN  
9:30 AM SHOTGUN START

REGISTRATION INCLUDES GREENS FEE, CART, LUNCH,  
AND GRILLED STEAK/CHICKEN DINNER  
OVERLOOKING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE.



# HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

FALCON GROVE  
144 PROUT HILL RD,  
MIDDLETOWN, CT

TIME  
4:30-7:00 PM

FREE ENTRY

Sponsored by the Polish  
Falcons of America Nest 519  
and the Nathaniel B. Field  
Memorial Foundation, Inc.

