



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry

OCTOBER 2024



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

OCTOBER

Worship Schedule Haddam Campus

October 6th

*World Communion
NIN Collection
Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Heb 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16*

October 13th

*21st Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Heb 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31*

October 20th

*22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Heb 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45*

October 27th

*23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Heb 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52*



Yuletide Quilt Show & Holiday Bazaar

Planning for this year's Quilt Show is underway!

Last year we raised over \$4,700 and we would love to raise even more this year but we need your help!

What you can do:

- Show your quilts! Ask friends and family to show any of their quilts
- Sell tickets for the Quilt Raffle - we have 500 tickets to sell at \$2 each
- Make a basket or solicit a basket for our Gift Basket Raffle
- Make a soup or pie for lunch
- Volunteer during the show – we need lots of help setting up, serving lunch, and being a floor monitor in the sanctuary
- Invite friends and family to come to the show

Thank you in advance for your support!

For more information, contact Nancy Soneson, Dena Liedke, or Linda Hansen.





Message from the Pastor

Hello Friends,

May Christ's radiance glow in your heart, warming your soul and inspiring peace and calm through each moment.

Recently, I attended our SNEUCC annual Justice Summit at Wesleyan University. The theme was about how to navigate the political dimensions of our spirituality while practicing Christ's mandates. Sometimes in our polarized communities, this practice is tough: reflecting peace in our hearts while loving neighbors as ourselves. Ministers from all around our conference came to build community and encourage one another. It was wonderful to see colleagues and to hear new voices and concerns all shared together and gathered up in worship and love. We were encouraged by our fellowship and reminded to uplift Jesus' mandate to love the neighbor as the self.

This is a terrific time to really practice this mandate, right here and now in our "purple" community. Where our spiritual and political commitments differ, we are encouraged to listen to others with open hearts and to voice our understandings as we glean them from our contemplation of Jesus' life and teachings.

When Jesus began his ministry, his first words were that he came to bring "Good news to the poor!" He announced that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, and then shared foundational ethical concepts about Justice and Peace. He talked so much about Justice and Peace that if you count his words, "justice" and "peace" are the words that he uses most often. "Justice" is often re-translated from the Greek as "righteousness." This gives the idea of justice as personal piety or personal ethical behavior because the Greek translation of the word that Jesus used had that personal flavor. Yet if you look at how the words were used back in the day and culture of Jesus' times, the message wasn't about personal piety, at all. There was not even a word for the individual in Jesus' language, Aramaic. Nothing was personal. Everything was always about the people. Jesus spoke of "my people", and the word for "justice" he used translates into Social Justice.

Social Justice and Peace are an intertwined foundation of Jesus' teachings, and his two commandments, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, and soul; and to love your neighbor as yourself, work together. Jesus said these were commandments. They were not faith or belief in the personal heart alone, they were about holding these values in your heart and having them shape your decisions and your conduct in the world. Working for peace and justice in our hearts and families is a spiritual mandate, and working for peace and justice in our communities is how Jesus taught us to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven. Spirituality is in our hearts, but Jesus talked also about *doing*. He said, what you have not done for the least of these, you have not done for me.

Fortunately, *doing for the least of these* is already in our "wheelhouse". Our mission outreach constantly fosters projects that have a positive impact on our community and beyond. We support our local social services, food bank, fuel bank, Church World Service projects, and many local nonprofits, including the Nathaniel Field Memorial Foundation. October will begin with our sponsorship of the Haddam-Killingworth Crop Walk. We are encouraging people to "walk and talk" about who we are as a community, who we are as a church, and how we want to reflect Jesus' teachings in our community life and the things we are *doing*.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, may Christ be with you and guide you through this passage of your life.

Blessings and regards,

Rev. Hilary



A BIG thank you to all who made the 2024 Golf Outing a success!

Submitted by Terry Smith

We had a beautiful day for golf, although not every ball went straight or in the hole! All 77 golfers had a wonderful time while enjoying the course, team spirit, and having a tasty lunch.

Following the round of golf, we spent a delightful evening at the Gascoyne's (thank you, Sue and Danny). What a glorious vista, delicious food (prepared and served by Jack Murphy/Linda Hansen & team), music by the Dave McComas group, and 71 raffle prizes (organized by Ginny Murphy and team).

A big THANK YOU to all those who not only supported this major church event but also to those who attended the activities. It takes a lot of people working very hard to create this event and many more people to help with advertising, taking pictures, staffing registration desks, buying food/beverages, setting up/taking down tents, tables, and chairs, creating data technology and to solicit sponsors, raffle prizes and organize golf foursomes.

The net result is that we expect to raise about \$17,000 for our church and its missions.

In addition, we once again donated \$1,000 to the First Tee Organization:

“We enable kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum, we create learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids carry to everything they do.”

We look forward to 2025 and hope you will continue to support this event.

Terry Smith



Thank you to the **Music Committee** for providing coffee hour refreshments for the month.



The **Diaconate** will host in November.

October Meetings

- Worship Team**, Thursdays, 6 pm (LH)
- Choir Practice**, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)
- Bread Ministry**, Fridays, 9 am – 1 pm (Haddam)
-
- CE**, October 8, 6:30 pm (LH/Zoom)
- Finance**, October 8, 7 pm (Lewis House)
- Quilt Show**, October 9, 6:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)
- Vision Team**, October 9, 7 pm (Lewis House)
- Diaconate**, October 14, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)
- Property**, October 14, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)
- Council**, October 15, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)
- Outreach**, October 21, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)
- Quilt Show**, October 23, 6:30 pm (Lewis House)



Bread For Heat Ministry

Higganum Farmers' Market
9-noon

The last Market is October 19th

**YULETIDE QUILT SHOW
QUILT RAFFLE**

The Quilt Committee needs your help! Raffle tickets for the 13th Annual Yuletide Quilt Show Quilt Raffle are now on sale! We have 500 tickets to sell!

Please consider taking a few packs of 5 and selling them for us. Tickets are \$2 each. Packs will be available during coffee hour and in the church office.

First Prize

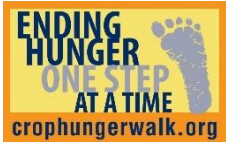
“Into The Woods on Christmas”
Created by Dena Liedke



Outreach/Mission

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair

Annual HK CROP Walk



Our CROP Walk will be on Sunday, October 6th at noon at Chatfield Hollow State Park. Donations and participants are desperately needed! Go to the website page listed below to register and to donate online. 25% of all funds raised stay local, which would be approximately \$270 each to the Haddam Food Bank, Killingworth Helping Hands, and the HK Backpack Program!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/haddamct>

Neighbors in Need Collection Sunday, October 6th

This month we hold our annual collection for Neighbors In Need. One-third of the offering supports the Council for *American Indian Ministry (CAIM)*. Two-thirds are used by *Justice and Witness Ministries* to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as support to a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

VA Christmas Stockings

UCCHH will be helping to fill Christmas stockings for 500 men and 100 women at the West Haven VA. The supply list of ideas includes full-size soap, socks, shaving cream, toothbrushes, medium-size deodorant, hand and body lotions, granola bars, Chapstick, puzzle books, new pens, wrapped hard candies, gum, peanut butter crackers, Slim Jim snacks, candy canes, and handmade cards. We do NOT need to supply the stockings! The deadline to bring items in will be early November.

We are in the process of arranging an open house/tour of the Haddam Veteran's Museum hopefully around Veteran's Day.

Candy Collection for YFS Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat

The Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services is sponsoring a Fall Festival at Grim's Haunted House, and a Trunk or Treat activity this month.

They need lots and lots of wrapped candy as over 100 children and youth participated in the festival last year!

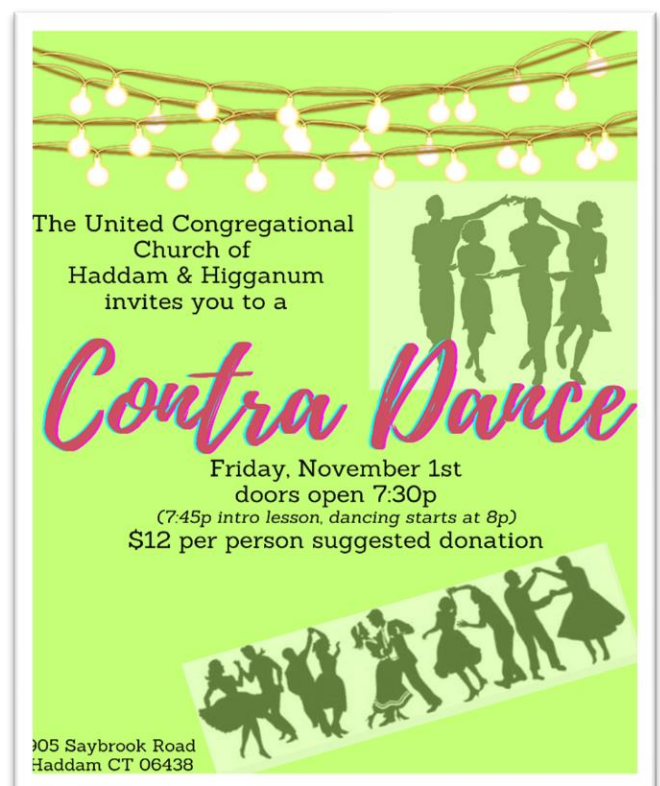
Candy donations can be left in the wicker collection basket at the Haddam church or brought to the church office on or before October 20th.

Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes

Donations to the Haddam Social Services Thanksgiving Dinner boxes will be collected starting on November 3rd with delivery scheduled for November 24th. Although the number of dinners needed is still unknown, it will probably be around 10.

Busy times at Mission Outreach, thanks for all your support!

Sue Craffey





Music News



Submitted by Brian Fraizer, Music Director



In my previous newsletter entries, I have been discussing the history of religious music leading to what we now know as hymns. One form of religious music that grew throughout American history was the Spiritual. The American Spirituals evolved over time and were not composed by professional composers, like many of the religious hymns of the 18th and 19th centuries, nor were they created in Europe, where Christianity was extremely prevalent. Spirituals are a truly American form of religious music that arose from the people of color who were later granted freedom at the conclusion of the Civil War. Prior to the end of the Civil War, many people of color were slaves and the Spiritual became part of an oral tradition, not to be written down until a much later time. The basis of the American Spiritual begins with the "blue" or bent note, a note that gradually increases in pitch to what we now know as the quarter tone or quarter step. The bent note can be attributed to a form of music called a "field holler" that was used to communicate across fields as people worked outdoors and sang to each other. The people of color who were alive during the 18th and 19th centuries incorporated bent notes into their music. And this later became the basis for jazz, Blues, and rock and roll musical forms.

The American Spirituals were sung as Christianity grew among people of color. Most Spirituals do not have a known author and are typically sung in a call-and-response form, with a leader improvising a line of text and a chorus of singers providing a solid refrain in unison. The vocal style abounded in freeform slides, turns, and rhythms that were challenging for early publishers of spirituals to document accurately. Many spirituals, known as "sorrow songs," are intense, slow, and melancholic. The written publication of collections

of spirituals in the 1860s started to arouse a broader interest in spirituals. In the 1870s, the creation of the Jubilee Singers, a chorus consisting of former slaves from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, sparked an international interest in the musical form.

It is important to note that most Spirituals reference Biblical text, but also parallel the lives of people of color prior to the Civil War, and also paralleled the aspirations of slaves who wished to be free. Many Spirituals also describe the journey that people of color took on the Underground Railroad to seek their freedom. The famous Hymn Go Down Moses, for example, references the Biblical story of Moses leading the Jews to freedom but also describes Harriet Tubman leading slaves to freedom. Other hymns, such as Wade in the Water, described the perils of traveling on the Underground Railroad and referenced the need to swim to safety and lose any trace of smell so that they could not be pursued by the bloodhounds of the people who pursued them on their journey to freedom. Nearly all Spirituals contain lyrics that are both Biblical and allegorical to the journey that slaves took on the Underground Railroad to gain their freedom.

In the 1920s and 1930s, prominent classically trained artists such as Marian Anderson, Roland Hayes, and Paul Robeson spotlighted spirituals in their repertoires. The tradition has continued into more recent times with classical stars like Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman frequently performing spirituals in their recitals. While spirituals continue to have a presence in the concert hall, the centrality of the form to African American Churches has waned in the twentieth century with the rise in popularity of Gospel music. We continue to incorporate Spirituals into our repertoire of musical selections. One has only to look through any of the hymnals that we use in our church to find a multitude of Spirituals included in the diverse repertoire of religious music available to aid us in raising our voices in praise of God.

Brian





Visioning Update

Submitted by Lori Chadwick

The Visioning team continues to gather information, review scripture and Rev. Knickerson’s coaching Newsletters, and pray about the process.

We are gathering all these elements and developing a report to be provided in the next few weeks. We will be sharing the details and providing a summary of what has been studied, prayed over, and discussed.

The next step after the report is completed, we will begin meeting at 2nd-hour sessions and will have small group meetings to get your input. The purpose of the meetings is to develop a Purpose Statement. We will use the following questions.

Why do we exist as a church?

What is the primary “business” of your church? What should we be doing as a church? What is the scriptural mandate?

Another way of asking is: What should we be “producing” as a church or what is our “end product”?

Still another way of asking the question is: If I am a member of your Church, for several years, how will I be different?

The schedule for 2nd-hour meetings:

October 13th immediately after Worship

November 17th immediately after Worship

Small Group Meetings:

Tuesday, October 22nd, 6pm at the home of Kristin and Mike Battistoni

Saturday, November 9th at the home of Glen Stebbins

Tuesdays October 15th, 22nd, and 29th at the Lewis House at 9am (or later if arranged in advance)

We ask that you sign up for the small group sessions so that we can let the Host Member know who and how many to prepare for.

This is a critically important phase of the process. We encourage you to participate in these sessions, however, if you need us to come to you, please let us or the Caring Team know and we will schedule a visit.

HOMECOMING SERVICE



Please join us on **Sunday, October 27** at 9:30 am as we recognize and honor our long-time members. We will honor church members celebrating 40 years and over and recognize those who have a 5, 10, 20, 30, and 35-year anniversary.



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!

JUST PEACE PLAYERS



Just Peace Players

November 10th

9:30 am service

On November 10th, the Just Peace Players will return to perform the second of a five-play series as part of an initiative from the SNEUCC.



Card Angels

Thurs., October 24th
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



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 and click on *Online Giving* on the menu bar.

OR



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



 **Zoom Login Information**

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

September Worship Attendance

September 1	36
September 8	40
September 15	Golf Outing
September 22	34
September 29	36



[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.



Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- September Council Minutes – [September 17, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)
- August Council Minutes – [August 20, 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)

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www.facebook.com/haddamchurch/



News From The
Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus



Stewardship & Pledge Update

Weekly Devotionals Available



Did you know?

Every Monday, the Conference sends out the *Starting With Scripture* newsletter.

In it, a local church pastor or lay person writes a reflection - usually on the week's Lectionary text - and includes a prayer. The newsletter also includes prayer requests from around the Conference, as well as links to obituaries when clergy with standing in the Conference pass away.

[Read the latest issue here](#)

[Subscribe here](#)



You're invited to the
**Installation of the
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Caronna
as Co-Pastor of
1st Congregational Church of
Deep River**
Sunday, October 6th, 2 pm

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: 45

Total amount pledged to date: \$106,655

[Download a Pledge Card](#)

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
(860) 316-3837

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

NOTE: Rev. Hilary will be on vacation 10/10-10/17

Amy Harlow, CE Director
Brian Frazier, Music Director
Nancy Soneson, Office Administrator

fchaddam@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





October 2024



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM AND HIGGANUM



YULETIDE QUILT Show

& Holiday Bazaar



NOVEMBER 23, 2024

9:30AM - 3:30PM

QUILTS * BASKET & QUILT RAFFLE * HOLIDAY ITEMS
VENDORS * HOMEMADE SOUP & PIE LUNCH

**United Congregational Church
of Haddam and Higganum**

905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT 06438

**ADMISSION TO VIEW QUILTS: \$8
FREE ADMISSION TO HOLIDAY BAZAAR**



FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SHOW A QUILT, VISIT
HADDAMCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS/QUILT-SHOW



A Few Golf Photos

