



# THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*



NOVEMBER 2024

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

## **November Worship Schedule** Higganum Campus

### **November 3**

*Communion*  
Ruth 1:1-18  
Psalm 146  
Heb 9:11-14  
Mark 12:28-34

### **November 10**

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17  
Psalm 127  
Heb 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

### **November 17**

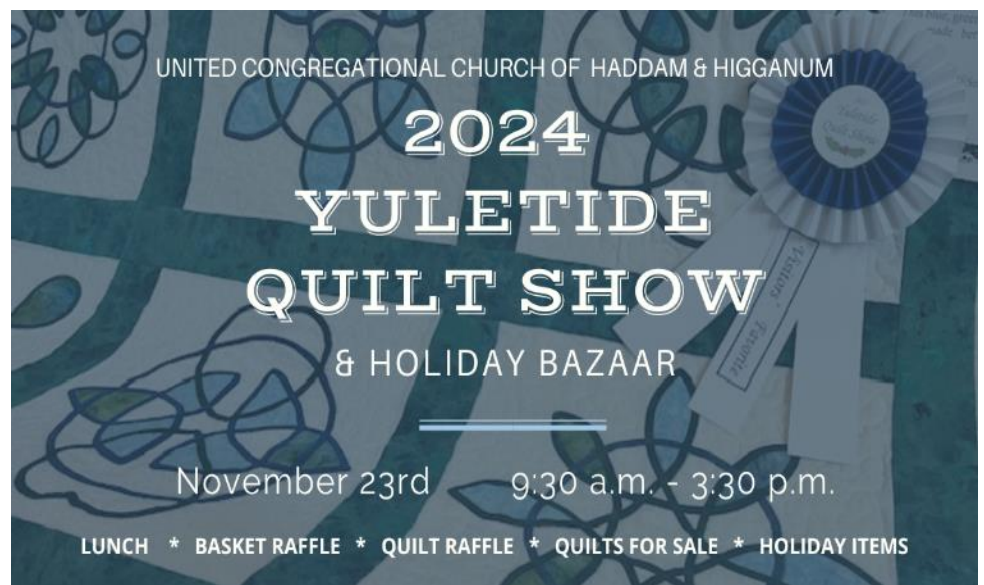
1 Sam 1:4-20  
Psalm 16  
Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8

### **November 24**

*Reign of Christ*  
2 Sam 23:1-7  
Psalm 132:1:1-12, (13-18)  
Rev 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

### **November 26**

*Thanksgiving Service*  
Joel 2:21-27  
Psalm 126  
1 Tim 2:1-7  
Matt 6:25-33



# November 2024



Hello Dear Friends,

What a gorgeous display of beauty we are enjoying this autumn. Although it is a prelude to winter, still I am reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-27 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?"

Recently many of us walked together down the road in Chatfield Hollow State Park as part of the Haddam-Killingworth Crop Walk, a fundraiser to address world hunger. It was a gorgeous day for a walk in the woods and we enjoyed fellowship together and our common concern for food scarcity, both in our town and beyond. As it was also World Communion Day, I felt some solidarity with Christians around the world. It seemed a very fitting way to extend our communion beyond our church community.

What does communion mean? When we gather around the communion table, we remember the words of Christ at the Last Supper, where with friends, he gave thanks for food and drink, and after blessing it, asked that he be remembered in this way, as we eat and drink from the gifts of God's bounty.

Through our prayers, the bread and wine of our symbolic meal become a living spiritual sustenance that nourishes our spiritual journeys. Fused into this is every meaningful moment we have shared around the table with family and friends and the understanding that life is built of these precious moments together. Communion is an act of hope for sharing meals that nourish body, mind, and spirit. We take a moment to enjoy our memories of the love that binds us in community, anchored by our thanksgiving to God for the many blessings that shape our lives.

By walking together in the Crop Walk to raise funds and awareness for those suffering from hunger, we extended our communion prayer to include those around the world without meals, and we lived Jesus' mandate to "Feed the People."

On this same day, one of our long-standing church and choir members, Norm Manning, was also enjoying God's beauty displayed in its glorious autumnal array. After sharing his meal with family and stacking firewood, he decided to cut through the Cockaponset woods to get home. He had done this before successfully, and he had done it before unsuccessfully. On the unsuccessful time, he had found the road and a house and knocked on the door, asked to use the phone, and called for a ride home. Matter of fact, no worry or fuss, Norm invested himself fully into his moments with family, the farm, and God's beauty in the woods. And while the community spent days searching, worrying, and praying, Norm was already safely home in God's hand.

While we are missing Norm, he is still helping us to remember that we are all already safely in God's hand. Even when we are suffering from physical illness or emotional distress, we are sheltered and protected in God's care. We are always already safely in God's hand.

We are also always a part of a larger communion, even in our loneliest moments. This communion includes the saints and prophets from times of old, as well as those around the world who choose to nourish themselves with the word of God. God's word is written in the fabric of our beings and in the fabric of the universe. We are given the beauty of this earth. We are given so many moments of life to share with each other. We are given the love of God that binds the universe and calls us each by our own names.

As we prepare for winter, may we remember the meaning of communion, and celebrate our thanksgiving for this communion together.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your heart.

Rev. Hilary McLellan

## November Meetings

**Adult Study**, Tuesdays, 9 am (LH)  
**Worship Team**, Thursdays, 6 pm (LH)  
**Choir Practice**, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)

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**Property**, November 11, 5:30 pm (LH)

**Diaconate**, November 11, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

**CE**, November 12, 6:30 pm (LH/Zoom)

**Outreach**, November 18, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

**Quilt Show**, November 19, 6:30 pm (LH)

**Council**, November 19, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK



DECEMBER 14, 2024

9 AM - NOON

UCCHH HIGGANUM CAMPUS  
23 PARSONAGE RD ~ HIGGANUM

We need lots and lots of cookies for this year's Cookie Walk! *Now is a good time to bake and freeze your cookies.* See Linda Hansen to sign up to bake.

## Stewardship

Kristin Battistoni, Dawn Alger, Mark Soneson, Amy Harlow

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign will kick off on November 3rd and conclude with Consecration Sunday on November 24th!

On each Sunday in November, you will hear from members of the Stewardship Committee talk about our biblical inspiration for this campaign: Philippians 3:13-14.

*"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."*

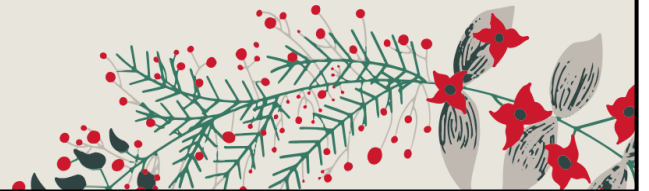
Paul's words remind us to not dwell on the past but to look to the future and where God is calling us to go.

United Congregational Church of Haddam & Higganum  
PRESENTS

# A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 24, 6:00 PM

UCCHH HIGGANUM CAMPUS  
23 PARSONAGE RD, HIGGANUM, CT



JUST  
PEACE  
PLAYERS



**Just Peace Players**

**November 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30 am service**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Just Peace Players will return to perform *Hey, Save the Earth*, the second of a five-play series as part of an initiative from the SNEUCC.



# Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-chair



## CROP Walk Update

A HUGE thank you to the 30+ participants from UCCHH and KCC who collectively raised over \$3600 for the CROP Walk to end worldwide hunger. 25% of the total raised will stay local with the Haddam Food Bank, Killingworth Helping Hands Food Pantry, and HK Backpack Program receiving this benefit.

## THANKSGIVING DINNERS



This year, we are providing Thanksgiving dinners for ten Haddam families in need. The Boy Scouts will decorate the delivery boxes, and items will be collected until November 24th. The supply slips will be in the sanctuary.



Thank you to all who donated to the annual **UCC Neighbors in Need Collection**. \$469 was collected.



## Christmas Gifts for YFS

For December, we are awaiting a wish list from HK Youth and Family Services. Details will be in the upcoming weekly news email and next month's newsletter.



A huge thank you to Dena L., Sue C., Lori C., and Carol M. for making twenty-six Christmas stockings for the Solnit Center. What a great outreach project—they look terrific!

# Visioning Update

Submitted by Lori Chadwick

## VISION DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY

Minutes from the first Second-Hour Meeting can be found on page 9.

Please make your plans to join the discussion either Saturday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Glen Stebbins, or Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, after worship. It is important that we hear your voice!

*Sign up for a meeting [HERE](#).*

*View just the Visioning Summary Report [HERE](#).*

*View the Summary Report and **APPENDIX I** [HERE](#).*

*View **APPENDIX II** [HERE](#).*



## Church Fall Clean Up Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am

Our fall cleanup will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> for **BOTH** campuses. We will be starting at the Haddam Campus at 8:30 am. Please come and lend a hand. Attendees are encouraged to bring rakes, tarps, blowers, and pick-up trucks for leaf hauling to the transfer station.

Quilt Show Exhibitors Needed!

The Quilt Show Committee is looking for quilts to display at the Yuletide Quilt Show. It takes over 100 quilts to fill the sanctuary and we need your help!



To show a quilt, download a registration form from [www.haddamchurch.org/events/quilt-show](http://www.haddamchurch.org/events/quilt-show).



We are also in need of volunteers to make soups and pies. Please see Nancy Soneson or contact the church office with what you would be willing to donate.

*Thank you in advance!*

**QUILT SHOW**

**Basket Raffle FUNDRAISER**

Please consider donating to one of the following themes:

Death by Chocolate	Coffee & Tea
Game Night	Pasta Night
Wine Lovers	Mom's Basket
Make-Your-Own Basket (A favorite!)	

Items can be left in the designated baskets in the church vestibule (Haddam) or Social Hall (Higganum)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT NANCY SONESON

Seeking donations for the **Yuletide Quilt Show**

**"Crafty" Tag Sale**

Time to clear out your craft closet (and ask your friends and family to do the same!)

All fabric/notions/craft items accepted.

Last year the "crafty" tag sale raised almost \$400 for our outreach ministries!

Contact Nancy Soneson for further information.

**YULETIDE QUILT SHOW QUILT RAFFLE**

We've got 500 Quilt Raffle tickets to sell!



Raffle tickets for the Yuletide Quilt Show Quilt Raffle are now available for purchase. Please consider taking a few packs of 5 and selling them for us. Tickets are \$2 each. Packs will be available from Dena Liedke and the church office.

**Fall Back**  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**



# Music News

Submitted by Brian Fraizer, Music Director



For our November Music Corner, I've decided to give a little bit of an overview of the three hymnals that we use to support congregational singing in our sanctuaries. Since the moment I began substituting at UCCHH, I have heard varying feedback about each hymnal, and I began to investigate the history of these hymnals. I did not grow up in the UCC Church, so I was not familiar with any of the hymnals.

The Pilgrim Hymnal was originally published in 1935, with a revision in 1958. Although we own several copies of the 1935 version, which are stored at Lewis House, these books are not generally in circulation anywhere. The 1958 version of the Pilgrim hymnal is the one that can be found in the pews of the UCCHH. You may have noticed that the Pilgrim hymnals at the south campus have a blue cover and the Pilgrim hymnals at the north campus have a red cover. Aside from the color of the outer cover, these books are identical. All of the contents of the 1958 hymnal were collected prior to 1950, from various hymn sources. The Pilgrim hymnal contains a mix of American hymns and music that was previously published in earlier hymnals. The American music in the Pilgrim hymnal was a mix of intentionally composed sacred music and spirituals that were documented (written down) during the early part of the twentieth century. The Pilgrim Hymnal had a strong emphasis on congregational singing and reflects the cultural and theological context of the early twentieth century.

The Pilgrim Hymnal remained the stand-alone hymnal in most UCC churches until 1974 when the Hymnal of the United Church of Christ was published. We have approximately 40 copies of this hymnal stored at Lewis House. The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ became unpopular within just a few years of its publication and the UCC general synod formed a committee in 1977 to begin revising the most recent revision of the hymnal. The committee did not begin its work until 1989. This committee was chaired by James

W. Crawford, who was pastor of Boston's Old South Church at that time.

The resulting new hymnal was approved and published in 1995. This hymnal was intended for use beyond the year 2000, and was, of course, entitled the New Century Hymnal. When it was published, the New Century Hymnal was approved by the UCC general synod as the only official hymnal of the UCC. The New Century Hymnal combines a variety of musical styles and includes music in several different languages. The intention of the New Century Hymnal was to provide more inclusive language for both traditional and new hymns that reflect current social justice issues for congregational singing.

The Hymns of Truth and Light was published in 1998 and was created by the First Congregational Church of Houston, Texas. This hymnal was created in response to the other hymnals available but included even more revisions of the texts of hymns that had been published prior to 1958. Spearheaded by a group of Unitarian Universalists, the Hymns of Truth and Light included further culturally diverse musical repertoire, contemporary music, and a variety of musical styles and genres. This hymnal features themes of enlightenment and the search for truth that draws from a variety of philosophical ideologies. In general, this hymnal was intended to appeal to a modern audience who might be seeking spiritual exploration.

Each of these hymnals serves a unique role in their respective faith communities, reflecting differing theological perspectives and cultural contexts. The "Pilgrim Hymnal" offers a foundation of traditional worship, the "New Century Hymnal" pushes for inclusivity and social relevance, and "Hymns of Truth and Light" embraces a broad, pluralistic approach to spirituality. Together, they represent a rich tapestry of contemporary hymnody, catering to diverse worship needs and styles.

Brian



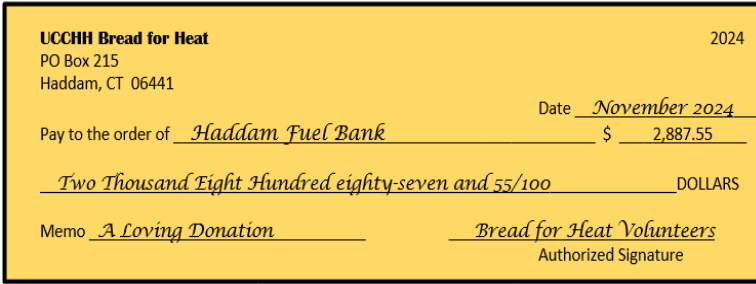
Thank you to the **Diaconate** for providing coffee hour refreshments for November.



The **Finance Committee** will host in December.

**Bread for Heat  
Finishes the Year Strong!**

It was another great year for our Bread for Heat Ministry. They made 744 loaves of bread this year! We are proud to be able to give the Haddam Fuel Bank a check for \$2,887.55.



**Help Decorate our Sanctuary!**



A floral arrangement sign-up chart is located in the Higganum campus social hall. Please sign up to provide flowers for our chancel.

**IN SYMPATHY**



Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of long-time member **Normand Manning, Jr.** who passed away on October 12<sup>th</sup>.



[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.



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



MOBILE GIVING

The QR Code will bring you directly to our secure Online Giving page.



**October Worship Attendance**

- October 6 . . . . . 37
- October 13 . . . . . 57
- October 20 . . . . . not available
- October 27 . . . . . 34 Homecoming



**Church Documents**

Click on the links below to view various church documents.


- September Council Minutes – [October 15, 2024 \(Draft\)](#)
- August Council Minutes – [September 17, 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)



### 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

### Church Contact Information

Rev. Hilary McLellan

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

(860) 316-3837

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

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



**Free and Open to the Public**

# Fall Concert

**Sunday November 3 at 4pm**

**Deep River Congregational Church**  
 1 Church Street  
 Deep River, CT 06417



**Enjoy an hour of not-so-spooky classical music and some popular selections!**

**For more information... please call 860.526.5045 or 860.304.5062**

[www.ctrivervalleysymphonicband.org](http://www.ctrivervalleysymphonicband.org)



## 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.*

Let Us Give Thanks





## VISIONING DISCUSSIONS

Notes from the **Second Hour meeting on October 20th, 2024**. United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum. Discussion of the visioning process.

Attendance: John and Liz Anderson, John and Barry Edmondson, Carol Ricker, Sandy Nightingale. Alan and Lori Chadwick, Nancy Soneson. Lindamae Peck, Linda Hansen, Glen Stebbins, Judy Hodgson, Kate Rizzo, Sue Henehan and Greg Shields. Brief appearance by Brian Fraser.

Greg led the discussion. Greg gave a brief overview of the process leading to the report.

1. The team studied scriptures
2. Looked at Demographics
3. Engaged In conversations with community leaders

(See appendix for details of the above)

all in an effort to better understand how we can adapt to the changing needs and develop a “Purpose statement.”

Two examples were included in the Summary Report

Open discussion was lively and everyone contributed.

Greg asked for thoughts on “Why We exist”

Katie Rizzo offered that for her, the fellowship is important. A place for getting centered. (or recalibrate as someone mentioned) And doing things together for others. A reminder that our own problems are minor in the big picture.

Alan suggested that it was to do God's work, acting as disciples, using Jesus as our model.

Liz explained that the sanctuary is important. It is a place to get together and in touch with God, with people who are like minded, and a way to get back to knowing what is important.

John Edmondson offered that when we go through the rest of the week, and all that is going on in the world, Sunday is a celebration.

The role of Worship was discussed and the importance of Community, Message and Music. Even with the many different religious backgrounds of our members, all are welcome. Where are the children?

Passing the Peace was discussed with mixed reactions. For now, especially going into flu season it is on hold.

Greg asked the question, where does charity fit in?

The story of the Good Samaritan was brought up.

And the fact that we can do more as a group than we can as individuals.

Judy offered the act of Paying it forward, and shared the story of how the Salvation Army helped her mother's family during the depression, and then her mother making donations back to them when they were on their feet, and so she continues to do that.

Greg next asked us to discuss the role of Music in worship.

This part of the discussion was rich with ideas and thoughts of how important music is to bringing others in. The need to bring in diversity of music while keeping traditional hymns that bring comfort to many. Lots of inspiring experiences were shared and a consensus that budgeting needs to be increased to achieve these ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:30.