



THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*



MARCH 2025

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

Worship Schedule Higganum Campus

March 2nd

HADDAM CAMPUS

Service and Pancakes

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Cor 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

March 9th

First Sunday in Lent

Deut 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Rom 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16th

Second Sunday in Lent

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Phil 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23rd

Third Sunday in Lent

Isa 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Cor 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30th

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Josh 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Cor 5:16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b - 32



Worship Location Change March 2nd

Due to the pancake breakfast, we will have the March 2nd worship service at the Haddam Campus.

CONFIRMATION

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

March 2nd
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Haddam Campus



Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Many of you may have heard by now that a bat flew into our last visioning meeting, startling the bejesus out of me and sending me in search of a bat expert to foster its rehabilitation. As a person who sees God's love in all creatures and seeks to understand God's spiritual meaning of unexpected encounters, I have been pondering spiritual interpretations of a "bat visitation" in our visioning process.

The bat is such a different creature from ourselves, conjuring fears, myths, and legends across centuries and cultures. I admit, it was challenging to overlook its fearsome appearance to see it as a strange neighbor in need of aid, beloved by God. Its dramatic entrance and swooping flight awakened primal fears: fears of the bat itself, of the unknown, of the mystery of its appearance, fears of disease, of not knowing how to meet its needs, fears of its mystery.

How wonderful it was for me to discover a bat specialist in our area, equipped to take the bat, and nurture it back to its community! What a relief to pass it on to her! It was as though God liberated me from my fears, saying, "All is well. You don't need to do everything yourself. I am here. The Body of Christ *is*."

Before we fully forget the bat, let's ponder its spiritual interpretations together.

In Mesoamerican tribal rituals, bats symbolized death and rebirth. The fact that bats live in caves and hibernate resonates both as a symbol of passing through death to resurrection and a symbol of deep healing in the unconscious.

In Gothic architecture, bat-inspired gargoyles were used as spiritual protections in the building of churches to guard these buildings from all evil forces. They were incorporated as ornaments on the drainage flow of rainwater, so that drain water spouted from their mouths, making a gurgling sound. As water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and baptism, this bathed the building in continual spiritual protection and inspired awe in those who entered.

My prayer for us is that we store these ideas in our hearts, pondering our concepts of death, resurrection, deep healing of Christ, and spiritual protection. How do these concepts relate to our visioning process as we stand together, building our common vision for the future?

May God add illumination and joy to our thoughts and prayers,

Rev. Hilary

Ash Wednesday Services March 5, 2025

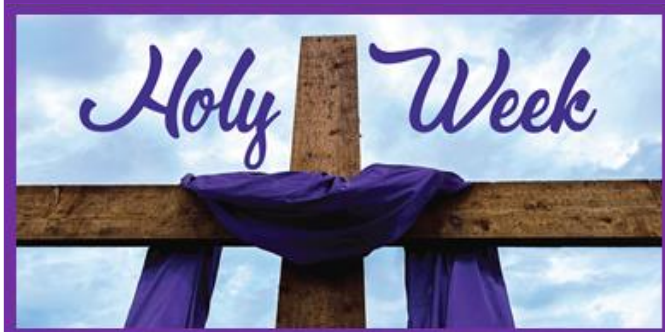


St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Noon – 1 pm Ashes To Go
6:30 pm service

Deep River Congregational Church

7 pm – 8 pm service



April 13th

PALM SUNDAY

9:30 am
Haddam Campus

April 17th

Maundy Thursday
Service of Tenebrae, 7 pm
Higganum Campus

April 20th

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am
Haddam Meadows State Park
Coffee & Conversation, 7:30 am
Haddam Campus

Easter Morning Service 

9:30 am
Haddam Campus
~

Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair

Thank you to all who supported our two *LOVE the Children* campaigns in February, showing our love to local children via the HK Backpack Program and gift cards and birthday cards for Lincoln! Due to our service cancellations, we are extending these collections through March.

The Mission Outreach project for March is to help those locally and globally with hygiene supplies!



CWS Hygiene Kit Collection

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

Supplies needed for one kit:

- One 1-gallon Ziploc bag
- 3.4 oz shampoo
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (at least 6" of teeth)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the package
- 3.4 oz toothpaste
- 3.4 oz stick deodorant
- 3.4 oz lotion

Haddam Social Services Hygiene Supply Collection

Wish list: laundry detergent (small containers), body wash, shampoo, toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, and dish soap.

Collection baskets are located at each church.

March 2025



March 9th
4 pm – 7 pm

Join us for cooking and serving dinner at Harvest House at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in East Haddam. Please contact Sue at jcraffey@snet.net if you are interested in helping.



**One Great Hour
of Sharing**
March 30th

Collection envelopes will be in the worship bulletins and the Higganum Social Hall. *The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.*



Submitted by Brian Frazier, Music Director

It is hard to believe that the month of March is already upon us and very soon we will enter the season of Lent. Lent is a time of solemn reflection as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. On a personal note, Lent has always represented a time to reflect on why we come to church and celebrate as a community. Jesus spent 40 days alone in the desert, but we are fortunate that we are able to celebrate Lent together.

In preparation for Lent as a church musician, I have always contemplated how to represent what Lent should sound like. As part of my own education, I had many opportunities to learn about and perform many musical selections from a variety of time periods and cultures. I have determined that different people have created different sounds based on the time they lived in, the values that were held at that time, and the resources they had available. I am pleased to say that I have always found beauty in the variety of ways that music can express emotion. Lent is a perfect example of that emotional expression.

Liturgical music during Lent plays a vital role in creating a reflective and penitential atmosphere for worship. Lent, a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, is marked by a shift in musical style and tone. Hymns and anthems during this time tend to be more somber and introspective, reflecting the themes of sacrifice, reflection, and spiritual renewal. The use of certain musical elements, such as quieter tones, minor keys, and slower tempos, helps to emphasize the solemnity of the season.

In selecting music for Lent, I worked closely with our worship team and choir but also strove to select a variety of different sounds. Although Lent is definitely a more somber time, I hope you will hear that our music selections still represent a varied repertoire, representing a variety of times and cultures. I have selected music that is representative of the themes of self-reflection, simplicity, honesty, and above all, a feeling of being welcomed to the church. Church music during Lent invites worshippers to enter more deeply into the spiritual journey of the season, preparing hearts and minds for the joy of Easter. Each week, our service begins with the statement "No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here." My hope is that our musical selections throughout the year, especially during Lent, help to express that sentiment.

**WINE TASTING
FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, May 10th, 5 - 8 pm

**UCCHH Haddam Campus
905 Saybrook Rd
Haddam, CT**

FOOD
RAFFLE
LIVE MUSIC

If you've begun your spring cleaning...
Don't forget to save your unwanted treasures for our
Annual Tag Sale
on May 3rd.

Details coming soon!

2025 Church Goals

At the January Church Council meeting, the council approved the following as the UCCHH 2025 Church Goals:

- a. Develop and propose a resolution of the two-campus dilemma.
- b. Create a UCCHH tri-fold brochure.
- c. Apply for Green Church designation.
- d. Improve church marketing (communications, signage, etc.)



[Click for Prayer List](#)

Note from the church office:
We would like to keep our prayer list as current as possible and will review entries monthly. Please contact the office to restore any prayer concerns that may have been prematurely removed.

March Meetings

Study Group, Tuesdays, 9:00 am (LH/Zoom)
Worship Team, Thursdays, 6 pm (Haddam)
Choir Practice, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)

Property, March 10th, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

Diaconate, March 10th, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Christian Ed, March 11th, 6:30 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Outreach, March 17th, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Council, March 18th, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)



The **Diaconate** will be hosting coffee hour in March. The **Christian Education Committee** will host in April. Thank you!



LEARN MORE ➔





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 2025 year.

2025 UCCHH Budget: \$ 268,858
No. of pledging units to date: 42
Total amount pledged to date: \$ 105,037

If you have not pledged yet, we encourage you to do so.

[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!



Zoom Login Information
ID: 391 987 2707
Password: 90523

Inclement Weather?
 Check **WFSB Channel 3** or **wfsb.com** to see if the **Sunday Service** is still on.
 Look for **UNITED CHURCH OF HADDAM & HIGGANUM.**

The Candlewood Farm Arts Foundation presents



Exponential Ensemble
April 11, 2025
7 pm
 United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum
 Higganum Campus
 23 Parsonage Rd
 Higganum, CT

More info: 

FREE and open to the public
www.haddamchurch.org
www.candlewoodfarmartsfoundation.org



Card Angels

Thurs., March 27th

5 – 7:30 pm ~ Lewis House

Come make homemade cards for people in cancer treatment centers and nursing homes. For more information, contact Jesse at cardangelsct@gmail.com



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

February Worship Attendance

- February 2 29
- February 9 canceled
- February 16 canceled
- February 23 31

March 2025



Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

January Council Minutes – [February 18, 2025 \(Draft\)](#)

December Council Minutes – [January 21, 2025 \(Approved\)](#)

[UCCHH Annual Report for 2024](#)

[UCCHH 3rd Annual Meeting Minutes](#)

[UCCHH ByLaws](#)

[UCCHH Church Policies](#)



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**

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



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



Sunday Services Live on YouTube!

We live-stream each Sunday service; tune in at 9:40 a.m. and watch live or previous recordings. Click on the [HERE](#) to get started!



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Super Saturday 2025

March 8th

9 am – 4 pm

Shrewsbury, MA



SAVE THE DATE

The Nathaniel Field Foundation

Spring into Hope Celebration

Saturday, April 26th ~ 2- 5 pm

Falcon Grove, Middletown

\$25 donation

Church Contact Information

Rev. Hilary McLellan

revhilarymclellan@outlook.com

(860) 316-3837

Office hours: Tues. 9 am – noon

& Thurs. 5 pm – 9 pm

Days off: Friday & Saturday

**NOTE: Rev. Hilary will be on vacation
February 27th – March 6th**

Amy Harlow, CE Director

Brian Frazier, Music Director

Nancy Soneson, Office Administrator

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

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.

