



THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*

APRIL 2025



*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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### Haddam Campus

#### April 6

*5th Sunday of Lent*

Isa 43:15-21

Psalm 126

Phil 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

#### April 13

*Palm Sunday*

Isa 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Phil 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40, 22:14-23:56

#### April 17

*Higganum Campus*

*Maundy Thursday*

Ex 12:1-14, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Cor 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

#### April 20

*Easter*

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

1 Cor 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

#### April 27

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 150

John 20:19-31

## HOLY WEEK

Sun., April 13

**Palm Sunday**

9:30 am

UCCHH Haddam

Campus

Thurs., April 17

**Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm

UCCHH Higganum

Campus

## EASTER SUNDAY

Sun., April 20

**Sunrise Service**

6:30 am

Haddam Meadows

**9:30 am Morning Service**

UCCHH Haddam Campus

Easter Egg Hunt

United Congregational Church of  
Haddam & Higganum

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 20th  
Following the 9:30 am service

UCCHH Haddam Campus  
905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT

**Looking  
for  
candy  
donations!**

**Small,  
wrapped  
candies  
can be  
dropped  
off starting  
April 6th.**



## Message from the Pastor

Hello Friends,

For those who take our liturgical seasons seriously, we are now deep in the Lenten Season. This is a time of renewing our prayer life with God, claiming victory over temptations, and giving alms. We focus on these three activities during Lent in remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer which concluded in his denouncing the devil's temptations and setting forth into his mission and ministry.

I love Lent, the time when God shelters us under her wing as a hen with chicks. I love Lent, the time one self-reflects and focuses on self-improvement. I love Lent, the time to give gifts in secret, in small ways and large, giving to an unfortunate or setting up an inheritance donation to a cause you admire. I love the entire reliance upon God's love during Lent, the personal relationship with God, the quietude that provides the inner strength to overcome temptations, and the sweetness of anonymous acts of kindness.

May you feel God's profound love during this season. May you know yourself to be stronger than any fault or false start you have made. May you discover the courage and strength to rely upon God and turn away from temptations that undermine your life. May you know the joy of offering support to others.

Blessings and Peace,

*Rev. Hilary McLellan*



### Help Decorate our Sanctuary!

A floral arrangement sign-up chart is located in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to provide flowers for our chancel for May and June.

**WINE TASTING  
FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, May 17th, 6 - 9 pm

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

FOOD  
RAFFLES  
LIVE MUSIC

**\$25/person \$40/couple**

For more info, contact **Kristin Battistoni** or **Sue Craffey**.

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF  
HADDAM AND HIGGANUM

**TAG SALE**

May 3, 2025  
8 am - 2 pm

UCCHH Higganum Campus  
23 Parsonage Road  
Higganum, CT

Donations can be dropped  
off on Friday, May 2nd  
3pm - 7:00 pm



# Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair



## 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
- Travel-size 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
- Travel-size toothpaste
- Travel-size stick deodorant
- Travel-size lotion

*(Travel-size is 3.4 oz. or smaller)*

## 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.**

### CWS "Compassion in Action" Statistics for 2024

Last year, CWS distributed 27,275 blankets, 278 backpacks, 17,610 school kits, 10,084 emergency clean-up buckets, 11,179 period packs, and 60,580 hygiene kits. Wow! We are so proud to partner with CWS each year!

## Welcome Home, Lincoln!



Lincoln was given the gift of life on March 4, and after over 300 days in the hospital, he came home on March 17! Prayers were answered! He was given a parade send-off in Massachusetts and a welcome parade as they came home to CT! Thank you for all your support!



Thank you for supporting our community outreach at **Harvest House** at St. Stephen's Church in East Haddam on March 9th. We served 25 members of the community! Our next opportunity to serve again will come on October 26<sup>th</sup>.



Thank you to all who supported the HK Backpack program by donating shelf-stable milk in February and March!



# Music News

Submitted by Brian Frazier, Music Director



It is hard to believe the calendar year is going so quickly. I began writing this month's entry for the newsletter on March 4, 2025. When I was growing up, we always referred to this day as Fat Tuesday. Tomorrow will be Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. By the time this newsletter entry is read, we will have celebrated several weeks of Lent together.

In selecting the music for Lent, I tried to keep in mind the many sounds that I've experienced that meant Lent. I am hoping you have seen a slight shift in the tone of the music. I've tried to select music that allows people to contemplate and reflect on the messages of the scripture readings. Palm Sunday commemorates the day that Jesus triumphantly arrived in Jerusalem and was met by a crowd of people waving palms. However, as we know, the tide quickly turns throughout Holy Week, leading up to Good Friday. I have tried very hard to reflect those changes in the musical selections this year.

The sounds of Easter Sunday will definitely be triumphant and upbeat to commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am happy to announce that we have hired section leaders for Easter Sunday, so we will be singing some extra-special music. In the weeks following Easter Sunday, you will hear the recurring theme of Jesus Christ's Resurrection and life. We will continue to work hard to provide exciting music throughout the season of Easter. We hope that the sounds of Lent and Easter season help you to feel the emotions attached to this journey through Lent to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ.

*Brian*



*Brian and the choir are working on special music for our Easter 9:30 am service. It will be something you won't want to miss!*

# Christian Education

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director

Hello from CE!

The Confirmation Mardi Gras Pancake breakfast was a huge success that raised \$610 thanks to all of your donations! With Jack at the griddle and the boys expediting, refilling, and cleaning up, the breakfast was smooth sailing! The Confirmands are hoping to use the money to do service projects for the church and for their church family. If anyone has suggestions you can reach out to me, Katy Rizzo, or Rev Hilary.



Easter is just around the corner and that means I'm collecting candy for the Easter Egg hunt! I'm looking for wrapped candy and non-candy items that will fit inside an egg.

As always, thank you for your support.

Peace and blessings,

*Amy Harlow*

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](http://www.haddamchurch.org)  
[www.candlewoodfarmartsfoundation.org](http://www.candlewoodfarmartsfoundation.org)



# Coffee Hour

The **CE Committee** will be hosting coffee hour in April. The **Finance Committee** will host in May. Thank you!



## Bread for Heat Ministry

**WEDNESDAYS**

June 4<sup>th</sup> – September 17<sup>th</sup>

Higganum Farmers' Market  
Brainerd Memorial Library  
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**NEW VENUE!! NEW TIME!!**



## UCCHH Environmental Justice Plan

Are you passionate about creating a more sustainable environment? Do you want to find ways to create environmental justice in Haddam and our surrounding communities? If you are interested in creating an environmental justice plan for UCCHH, contact Kristin Battistoni, [battistoni.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:battistoni.kristin@gmail.com).

*We will work on becoming a Green Church while becoming better environmental stewards in our local and global community.*



## Sanctuary Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 12  
9 - noon

Nancy, our Haddam campus cleaner, had knee surgery and will be out until June. While she is out, we will be our own cleaners! Please come prepare for Holy Week by helping to clean the Haddam sanctuary on April 12th.



Plans are underway to march again in this year's **Middletown Pride Parade on June 7<sup>th</sup>**! This is the state's largest Pride Parade, right at our doorstep! Please plan on joining us!



**May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Following the morning worship service

Doug Dole from the Haddam Fire Department will meet with us on May 4<sup>th</sup> for CPR and AED training. It would be great if we all learned how to save a life!

## April Meetings

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

**Christian Ed**, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Property**, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Outreach**, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Council**, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

## March Worship Attendance

- March 2 . . . . . 39 (Pancake Breakfast)
- March 9 . . . . . 30
- March 16 . . . . . 42
- March 23 . . . . . 32
- March 30 . . . . . not available



[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.

### 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



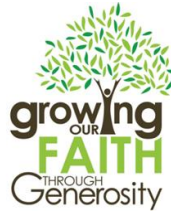
### Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- March Council Minutes – [March 18, 2025 \(Draft\)](#)
- February Council Minutes – [February 18, 2025 \(Approved\)](#)
- [UCCHH Annual Report for 2024](#)
- [UCCHH 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UCCHH ByLaws](#)
- [UCCHH Church Policies](#)

### 2025 UCCHH 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.)



## 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!*



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:

**UCCHH**  
**Attn: Collector**  
**P.O. Box 215**  
**Haddam, CT 06438**

Make checks payable to: **UCCHH**

### Online Giving

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



OR

Use this QR code to go directly to our secure online giving page.





**Earth Day**  
 April 22, 2025  
 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438

Join the Haddam Sustainability Committee and the Haddam Garden Club to start your own flower and vegetable plants

5:00 pm-6:30 pm Planting and Gardening Q&A  
 All ages are welcome

6:30 pm -8:00 pm Regular HSC meeting with guest speaker Kim Price a member of the Chester Fair Committee on creating waste free programs

Both events are free and open to the public

Email [HaddamSustainabilityCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:HaddamSustainabilityCommittee@gmail.com) or call Kristin at 860-345-8531 X 206 with questions and to sign up

**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  
 Days off: Friday & Saturday

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

**DRUG TAKE BACK DAY**

**SATURDAY  
 APRIL 26TH, 2025  
 10:00AM – 2:00PM**

**KILLINGWORTH PHARMACY**

**NUTMEG PHARMACY**

**HADDAM KILLINGWORTH COMMUNITY COALITION**

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES OF HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH INC.**  
 Strong families equal strong communities

**UCCHH Purpose Statement**

*United as an inclusive congregation, following Christ's message, growing through worship, fellowship and service, striving towards a just, loving society.*

**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.*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST





# Photo Album

## Confirmation Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

