



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry



MAY 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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**MAY** worship is at the  
**Higganum Campus**

#### May 4<sup>th</sup>

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*Communion*  
 Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)  
 Psalm 30  
 Rev 5:11-14  
 John 21:1-19

#### May 11<sup>th</sup>

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*Mother's Day*  
 Acts 9:36-43  
 Rev.7:9-17  
 John 10:22-30

#### May 18<sup>th</sup>

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
*Confirmation Sunday*  
 Acts 11:1-18  
 Psalm 148  
 Rev. 21:1-6  
 John 13:31-35

#### May 25<sup>th</sup>

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
*Memorial Day Weekend*  
**Memorial Garden**  
 Acts 16:9-15  
 Psalm 67  
 Rev 21:10, 22-22:5  
 John 14:23-29  
 John 5:1-9

**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

Tickets on sale at door or contact  
 Kristin Battistoni or Sue Craffey.

- ❖ Come enjoy an evening of fun and friendship!
- ❖ Eight different wines to try!
- ❖ Raffle baskets to win!
- ❖ Dave McComas & friends will rock the house!

**Tickets** are on sale during coffee hour, from Kristin Battistoni and Sue Craffey, or sold at the door.

**Looking to help?** We could use food donations. See Kristin or Sue to sign up.

**Memorial Day Worship Service**  
**Memorial Garden**  
**May 25, 2025**



Hello Friends and Seekers,

*Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Welcome to Eastertide!

With the resurrection of Christ, we have emerged from Lent to another forty-day season, the season of Eastertide! This is a season of celebrating the wonder of God's presence.

With the resurrection of Christ, God is with us in a new way, a vibrant and healing relational love flows between us and God. We no longer know God simply through awe of creation, fear of calamity, or hope of survival. We have come beyond tribal and magical thinking. We have come beyond rituals, purity laws, and prayers as our primary connection to God. We are in the profound grips of deeper meanings in the cosmos than we imagined. And God is now among us, through us, and with us each day as we live into the power of the Holy Spirit, relinquish our wills and lives into God's care, and share Christ's love with family, friends, and strangers alike. The experience of God is too deep for words, too high for our understanding, yet it permeates our lives.

During Eastertide, we take a shared leap of faith together to follow this Love into new territory, territory that defies our logical minds and shatters our concepts of boundaries between us and God. The impenetrable lines between past and future, life and death, clan and humanity, are traversed. We are newly invited to live our lives according to Christ's presence and God's wooing. We are newly invited to stretch beyond our known limits to share in this "New Thing" that God is doing with us.

God's presence among us is so mysterious that sometimes the most devout followers don't recognize Jesus walking beside them and speaking to them. It is so profound that it integrates the history of the "chosen people" with the history of all of humanity. Christ has opened a path for us to glimpse a cosmic history and design beyond our comprehension. We puzzle with its meaning and how to integrate this into our choices and the fabric of our lives. As our preconceptions of the limits of God's love and purpose for our lives are shattered, we have a choice. We can close our hearts and cling to what worked in the past, or we can put down our nets, leave our comfort zones, and walk forward with God into new territory.

The light of God's presence is filtering into our lives, illuminating God's greater design. Let us integrate our new purpose statement with our worship and our steps forward together. Let us release anxiety and allow ourselves to celebrate as we follow God's call. Let us celebrate the miracles of life, joining each other with joy and love, magnifying God's presence.

May God's love flow more freely through our hearts into the lives of others.

May the Peace of Christ dwell in you during this Eastertide!

Blessings and regards,

*Rev. Hilary McLellan*



## Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair

Thank you to everyone who supported our Lenten collections:

- Pennies from Heaven for Lincoln raised over \$400.
- The hygiene collections for Haddam Social Services and CWS were dedicated on April 27th to benefit those near and far.
- The HK Backpack collection gathered 12 large and 8 small containers of shelf-stable milk, plus a wonderful selection of healthy snacks.

Thank you!



### Mother's Day & Father's Day Collections

To honor Mother's Day and Father's Day, we are supporting the CT Diaper Bank!

Founded in 2004, they have distributed more than 52 million diapers through 200 agencies in CT. Their warehouse is in high need of monetary donations to purchase diapers in bulk, period supplies, and incontinence products.

Donations can be made online at [thediaperbank.org](http://thediaperbank.org) or by check to UCCHH with Diaper Bank in the memo line. Handcrafted notes will be available to give in honor of your donation.

**Mission Outreach is looking for people who sew!** We are making 20 Christmas stockings for the Solnit Center in Middletown and CWS school bags! All materials and directions will be provided! Contact Sue Craffey [jcraffey@snet.net](mailto:jcraffey@snet.net) if you can help.



### Strengthen the Church Offering June 8, 2025

The **Strengthen the Church Offering** supports the expansion of ministry and the growth of UCC local congregations.

## Bread For Heat Ministry



Unfortunately, due to a lack of volunteers and the day and time change of the Farmers' Market, the Bread for Heat Ministry will not be making bread this summer. The team will only be making bread for the church tag sale on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Bread for Heat started 15 years ago with a grant for small congregations from the UCC. Through hard work and dedication, the Bread for Heat team of bakers and sellers donated approximately \$2,000 each year to the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all those who volunteered their time and talents to this ministry. And a special thank you to our wonderful Bread for Heat ministry leaders over the years: Rev. Michael Malone, Ginny Evensen, and Linda Hansen.



### Our Annual Tag Sale

**MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**8 am – 2 pm**

**UCCHH Higganum Campus**



**Linda's Hot Dog Tent opens at 9:30 am!**

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

**Drop off: Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 pm – 7:00 pm**



**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!





# Christian Education News

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director

Hello from CE!



We have been so busy! The Confirmands have been working hard on completing their studies and service projects. They helped paint the men's bathroom at the south campus on Sunday, April 6th. Great job! They will be confirmed on Sunday, May 18th. Please join us on this joyous day!

In other news, the Baileys have been so kind as to donate a beautiful, very soft washable area rug and two amazing play saucers/walkers. Thank you so much!!!! CE is looking for bible-based play toys. What we have is starting to have missing pieces and could use some freshening up. Please keep an eye out at tag sales and second-hand stores!



The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Dawn Alger and Kristin Battistoni for coming over to my house to help me stuff the eggs and gift bags that every child got to keep busy with during service! Thank you to everyone who donated candy and goodies! It takes a village (or church) to make all these things possible!

**We need nursery and Sunday School helpers!!!!** If you have an interest and would like to be on the helper or teacher list, please let me know. Safe Conduct (previously known as "Safe Church") training is required. The link to an online Safe Conduct course will be provided for all those willing to help in our Children's ministry. The more people who are trained, the merrier! (Further Safe Conduct training may be required in the future.)

As always, thank you so much for all your support! Enjoy the photos at the end of the newsletter!

Peace and Blessings,

Amy

## May Meetings

**Study Group**, Tuesdays, 9:00 am (LH)  
**Choir Practice**, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)

**Outreach**, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Property**, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Christian Ed**, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

**Council**, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)



## Church Spring Clean-Up

May 10<sup>th</sup>

9 am start

Many hands are needed to help clean up both of our church campuses. We will start at the Haddam campus and then move to the Higganum campus. Please bring your own rake.



The **Finance Committee** will be hosting coffee hour in May. The **Music Committee** will host in June.






Music News

Submitted by Brian Frazier, Music Director



Easter Season has arrived. As I write this newsletter entry, it is Monday, April 14, 2025, and it is the Monday of Holy Week. I am anticipating the beautiful music that we will have for next week's Easter

Sunday service, and I am reflecting on the music that we have sung and heard throughout Lent. When I think about all of this, I am quickly reminded of one message: Variety is the spice of life! Looking back over the music that we sang together during Lent, we incorporated traditional church music from our hymnals, along with contemporary music and spirituals from other sources. Each piece of music brought something extremely special and helped us to feel the important messages from our worship together. I had several people tell me over the last few weeks that there was a piece of music from the previous week that they simply could not get out of their head all week, and it was a different piece of music that someone was referencing each time that I heard this message.

A large part of my role as Music Director is selecting music, teaching music to the choir, and supporting congregational singing. I continue to be challenged (in a good way) by how to balance our musical repertoire to appeal to everyone. It is always helpful to hear from people about which selections they like or dislike each week. Because I spend so much time with the choir members, I hear from them the most frequently. We've been able to engage in some discussion about the types of music we are singing, sometimes the history behind a piece of music, and why it was selected. I have also heard from people who have shared their preference for music accompanied by the organ, while others have expressed how much they have enjoyed hearing the piano, percussion instruments, guitar, and other instruments when we have been able to incorporate them. People have also shared their preference for hymns written in Shakespearean English, while others prefer the more modern song lyrics that have been rethought in

contemporary English. Beyond the choir and Reverend Hilary, there is rarely an opportunity to speak with other members of the congregation about this. Despite this being a lot of information to take in, it really is helpful to hear from everyone so that when we meet as a worship team, we can make the best decisions possible.

Some people have expressed that they love the traditional music that they have been singing since childhood, while others are very grateful for the new music that we have learned together. During staff meetings, the worship team deliberates over how to balance the musical selections for the upcoming months, and often we fall back on what we know best. We try to look at the music for one month at a time, and balance traditional selections with new music selections. In addition, we try to vary the styles of music to be sure that we are including spirituals, contemporary music, opportunities for solos and duets, and opportunities for people who play instruments. We also try to be mindful of music that we have heard complaints about. So many ideas are taken into consideration when we are selecting the music!

One idea that continues to be in my mind is how to appeal to the person who may be coming to our church for the first time or viewing our worship on YouTube. What music would appeal to the total stranger, who we hope will want to join our congregation? Does our music selection support our vision statement: United as an inclusive congregation, following Christ's message, growing through worship, fellowship, and service, striving towards a just, loving society? Does our music express to the first-time visitor to our church that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here? Selecting our music is almost like preparing a buffet dinner for a large crowd, and making sure that there is something to appeal to everyone's different tastes as they come through the buffet line. As we continue on our spiritual journey together, I hope to continue to use a variety of musical repertoire so that everyone can find something appealing about the music at our church.

Brian



**CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT**

**SUNDAY**  
JUNE 22, 2025

UCCHH Higganum Campus  
23 Parsonage Rd, Higganum

TIME TBD  
FREE Admission/Freewill Donation  
Presented by The Candlewood Farm Arts Foundation



[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!

### Middlesex Association Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC Middlesex Association will be held on **Monday, May 19, at 6:30 pm** at UCCHH Higganum.

**Each church may be represented by five delegates in addition to the clergy.** Visitors are welcome, with a voice but no vote. **Please contact Greg Shields if you would like to attend.**

In addition to gathering for fellowship and worship, the business of the Association will be conducted. Reports of the officers and committees of the Association will be received and voted upon.

 **Online Meeting** **Zoom Login Information**

**ID: 391 987 2707**  
**Password: 90523**



### UCCHH Environmental Justice & Green Church Designation

Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in our new campaign. Many people have said in passing that they would like to be included. If you have, please send me an email so I can make a master list. As soon as the Wine Tasting Fundraiser is over, I will schedule our first meeting.

Thank you for your patience with getting this off the ground.

Kristin Battistoni  
[Battistoni.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:Battistoni.kristin@gmail.com)



### Church Documents

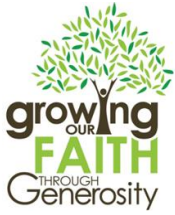
Click on the links below to view various church documents.

- March Council Minutes – [April 22, 2025 \(Draft\)](#)
- February Council Minutes – [March 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.



### April Worship Attendance

|                    |    |                 |
|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| April 6 . . . . .  | 39 |                 |
| April 13 . . . . . | 40 | Palm Sunday     |
| April 17 . . . . . | 35 | Maundy Thursday |
| April 20 . . . . . | 51 | Easter sunrise  |
| April 20 . . . . . | 66 | Easter 9:30 AM  |
| April 27 . . . . . |    | not available   |

### 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

### UCCHH Purpose Statement

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





Photo Album



Palm Sunday







Easter morning







Click [HERE](#) to hear the choir

