



# THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*



MARCH 2026

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

## Worship Schedule Haddam Campus

### March 1<sup>st</sup>

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Gen 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Rom 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

### March 8<sup>th</sup>

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Ex 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Rom 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

### March 15<sup>th</sup>

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

1 Sam 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Eph 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

### March 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Ezek 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Rom 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

### March 29<sup>th</sup>

*Palm Sunday*

Isa 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Phil 2:5-11

Matt 26:14-27:66

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matt 21:1-11



### March 29<sup>th</sup>

PALM SUNDAY

9:30 am

*Haddam Campus*

### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Maundy Thursday

Service of Tenebrae, 7 pm

*Westbrook Congregational Church*

### April 5<sup>th</sup>

*Easter Morning Service*

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am

*Haddam Meadows State Park*



Easter Service 9:30 am

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 am

*Higganum Campus*

## Upcoming Pulpit Supply

|                                       |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>March 1</b><br>Rev. Tim Haut       | <b>March 8</b><br>Rev. Chris Horvath  | <b>March 15</b><br>Rev. Terry Schmitt |
| <b>March 22</b><br>Rev. Chris Horvath | <b>March 29</b><br>Rev. Chris Horvath | <b>April 5</b><br>Rev. Chris Horvath  |
| <b>April 12</b><br>Rev. Kathy Peters  | <b>April 19</b><br>Christine Sima     | <b>April 29</b><br>Christine Sima     |



Order your Easter flowers by March 8<sup>th</sup>. See Ginny Murphy for questions or details.

## Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair



**March 8th**  
4 pm – 7 pm

We will be cooking and serving dinner at Harvest House, located at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in East Haddam, on March 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a very rewarding experience, and if you are interested in helping at our next dinner in October, contact Sue Craffey at [jcraffey@snet.net](mailto:jcraffey@snet.net).



**One Great Hour**  
of Sharing  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Collection envelopes will be in the worship bulletins and the Haddam Fellowship Hall. *The need has never been greater. It's time to share.*

### Haddam Food Bank Collection

Our mission project for March and April is stocking the Haddam Food Bank.

Their wish list:

- Hand soap
- Cereal
- Vegetable soup
- Tissues
- Marshmallows
- Laundry detergent
- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Dish soap
- Baby wipes
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Paper towels

Thank you to all who supported our collection of shelf-stable milk and healthy snacks for the HK Backpack Program. We really helped stock their shelves!

We have concluded our utensil collection for St. Vincent DePaul with over 2 sets of cutlery collected!

*Sue Craffey, Chairperson of Mission Outreach*

### March Meetings

**Study Group**, Tuesdays, 9:00 am (LH/Zoom)

**Choir Practice**, Thursdays, 7 pm (Haddam)

**Property**, March 9, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, March 9, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Christian Ed**, March 10, 6:30 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Outreach**, March 16, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Council**, March 17, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Green Church**, March 23, 7 pm (Lewis House)

March 2026

## Christian Education News

Submitted by Amy Harlow, Christian Education Director

Hello from CE!

The Fruit of the Spirit for February is Self-Control — a tough one for all of us! As Lent begins, it's a meaningful time to reflect on how we allow God to guide our actions, words, and thoughts.

CE has an Adult Education survey that Lori Chadwick has put together. We are hoping to receive a few more responses so we can begin preparing an Adult Study program that is both fun and engaging. The survey is very short and can be found in the narthex or online. It can be completed by anyone involved with CE.



Now that the Safe Church Policy is officially in place, I have been working on organizing the Safe Church filing cabinet and am pleased to announce that it is set up and securely locked. Everyone in the church is encouraged to participate in the Safe Church Conduct Policy training.

At the last Council meeting, it was approved that there will be two levels of helpers and corresponding training requirements:

- Certified Helpers: Individuals who are fingerprinted and background-checked and may serve as class leaders.
- Approved Helpers: Individuals who are not fingerprinted and may serve only as a second helper.

I hope to have a basic policy knowledge presentation ready by May. All are encouraged to attend this workshop — even if you do not intend to work directly with children.

A special thank you to Dawn Alger, who has been a wonderful teacher and helped me learn the basics of setting up a spreadsheet to track everyone's training and credentials.

I'd also like to give a big shout-out to all the CE members — you are a fantastic team! Thank you for your continued support and dedication. You truly make this committee awesome.

Please join me in welcoming Lindsey Meyer aboard. I look forward to working together in the coming year!



Easter is just around the corner, so please keep an eye out for deals on small candy and treats to help stuff eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Thank you for your continued support.

Peace and blessings,  
*Amy Harlow*



[Download the  
Adult Education Survey](#)



Submitted by Brian Frazier, Music Director

### **The Sound of the Season: Music in Lent and the Hope of Easter**

As we enter the season of Lent, many things in our worship life begin to feel subtly—but unmistakably—different. One of the first places we notice this shift is in the music. Lent has its own sound; the music becomes quieter, more reflective, and more deliberate. The brightness and rhythmic energy that often mark other times of the church year give way to melodies and harmonies that invite us inward. There is more space. More stillness. More contemplation. This is intentional. Lent is a season of examination, repentance, and spiritual preparation, and the music helps guide us into that posture of the heart.

You may notice that the tone of our hymns and anthems feels more restrained, sometimes even somber. The tempo slows. The keys often darken. The textures become simpler. All of this works together to create an atmosphere that mirrors the journey we walk during these forty days—a journey that follows Christ toward the cross. This year, each week during Lent, we will include a hymn that centers on the cross—not only as a symbol, but as a reminder of the very real burden that Jesus carried for all of us. These hymns give us language to reflect on sacrifice, mercy, and grace. They allow us to dwell on the depth of Christ’s love in a way that words alone cannot express. Through singing, we do more than remember; we participate in the story. The choir is also preparing the **Kyrie** from the Franz Schubert **Mass in G** (Mass in G), a setting whose pleading, prayerful character beautifully matches the spirit of the season. We will be joined by a guest soloist for this piece, adding another expressive voice to this moment of musical prayer.



And yet, Lent is never the end of the story. Even as the music turns inward, there is always an undercurrent of hope. The quiet of Lent prepares us to fully experience the joy that is coming. The restraint makes the eventual celebration more profound. The stillness sharpens our awareness of what Easter truly means. And Easter is right around the corner. On Easter Sunday, we will once again be joined by our four guest section leaders, whose presence adds depth, strength, and brilliance to our choir’s sound. Their return is part of what makes our Easter celebration so musically rich each year. The fuller harmonies, the expanded choral sound, and the joyful energy of the music will stand in beautiful contrast to the reflective tone of Lent.

This contrast is not accidental. It is one of the great gifts of the church year. We are invited to walk through the quiet, the waiting, and the reflection so that when Easter arrives, we can truly feel the joy of resurrection. Listen closely in the weeks ahead. Let the music of Lent guide your heart. And allow it to prepare you for the triumphant song that is coming soon.

*Brian*



## Green Team News

Submitted by Kristin Battistoni

### Postcard Writing Campaign

The Green Team has signed up to participate in the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) postcard writing campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to send postcards to our local legislators informing them why we, as a congregation, care about protecting and preserving the environment. We are asked to send postcards to Governor Ned Lamont, Representative Renee LaMark-Muir, and State Representative Norm Needleman.

Postcards will be available after church with sample wording and legislator addresses. Postage is provided. Please contact Lori Chadwick, [lori.chadwick@snet.net](mailto:lori.chadwick@snet.net), or Kristin Battistoni, [battistoni.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:battistoni.kristin@gmail.com), with any questions.

Learn more about IREJN at [irenjn.org](http://irenjn.org).

### NexTrex Recycle Challenge



Keep bringing in your soft plastic film (if you can put a finger through the plastic, we'll take it!). There are recycling boxes in the church office and in each church. Contact Kristin Battistoni if you have any questions, [Battistoni.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:Battistoni.kristin@gmail.com).

If you've begun your spring cleaning, don't forget to save your unwanted treasures for our **Annual Tag Sale** on **MAY 2nd**.



### Zoom Login Information

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

### Inclement Weather?

Check **WFSB Channel 3** or [wfsb.com](http://wfsb.com) to see if the **Sunday Service** is still on.

Look for **UNITED CHURCH OF HADDAM & HIGGANUM**.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS



[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.*

### Lenten LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesdays in March  
12:00 PM

**Soup & bread lunch**  
**Weekly lesson by community clergy**  
**All are welcome**

hosted at  
Westbrook Congregational Church  
1166 Boston Post Rd, Westbrook CT

*Enter by the black door on Norris Ave*

UCCHH is invited to join Westbrook Congregational Church this Lenten season for lunch and lessons by community clergy. \$10 each Tuesday covers lunch. Call Westbrook Congregational Church at (860) 399-9367 if you're interested.

*Below is a letter published on HK-Now.com on February 25, 2026.*

### **Community Consortium Opportunity Based in Local Church**

Several weeks ago, the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum published an article announcing our intention to reduce our property footprint. We currently maintain two campuses—one in Higganum Center on the hill and another in Haddam in front of the Town Office Building. We are no longer able to sustain both campuses.

Following that article, what became clear was the need in our community for a public space. A place for meetings, office space, classes, kitchens, performances, exhibits, and social gatherings were all needs expressed to us.

We have heard from several local nonprofits seeking both permanent and temporary space to support their work and missions.

If you are an organization, small business owner, or professional in need of office space, we invite you to attend an upcoming informational meeting. During this session, we will tour both properties and provide an opportunity to ask questions and explore possibilities.

To make this vision a reality, shared financial responsibility will be essential. All interested parties must be willing to contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the building. We understand that the level of commitment is dependent on individual needs and usage. While the exact structure of this arrangement is still to be determined, we are open to collaboration and creative solutions.

Three years ago, our two congregations took a leap of faith and joined forces, believing we could do more together than separate. That belief has proven true. Now, we are taking another leap—exploring the creation of a shared community space that benefits all. There is no reason why these buildings should be empty several days a week when members of the community could use the space.

Please join us on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 10:30 am at our Haddam campus at 905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, to tour the spaces and learn more about this opportunity. Please contact us at 860-345-2742 or [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com).

*The congregation is encouraged to attend this informational meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> to learn more about what is possible and to ask questions.*

# Coffee Hour



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



## 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

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact:  
Before March 16<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Soneson, 860-690-3383  
After March 16<sup>th</sup> - Greg Shields, 860-918-7163



## 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 2026 year.

Pledge cards can be picked up from the church's Fellowship Hall and placed in the Sunday offering plate or download a card below and mail it to the church office.

[Download a Pledge Card Here](#)

**Current number of pledges for 2026:** 38  
**Total amount pledged:** \$95,083.38

If you would like pledge envelopes, please see our collector, Judy Hodgson.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### February Worship Attendance

- February 1 . . . . . 32
- February 8 . . . . . unavailable
- February 15 . . . . . 37
- February 22 . . . . . 36



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](http://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 icon to get started!



### Church Documents

- [Council Minutes – January 20, 2026](#)
- [UCCHH 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report](#)
- [UCCHH 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UCCHH ByLaws](#)
- [UCCHH Church Policies](#)

### 2026 Church Goals

At the January Church Council meeting, the council approved the following as the UCCHH 2026 Church Goals:

- a. Resolution of the two-campus dilemma.
- b. Create a UCCHH tri-fold brochure.
- c. Improve church marketing (communications, signage, etc.)

### UCCHH Purpose Statement

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

### Church Contact Information

Amy Harlow, CE Director  
Dr. 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

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



Sunday, March 8, 2026

