



THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*

APRIL 2026



*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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### Higganum Campus

#### April Lectionary

##### April 5

*Easter Sunday  
Communion*

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Col 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

##### April 12

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

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

##### April 19

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

##### April 26

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF HADDAM & HIGGANUM

# Easter Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

|                              |                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sunrise Service</i>       | <i>Morning Service</i>                                                |
| 6:30 am                      | 9:30 am                                                               |
| Haddam Meadows<br>State Park | Easter Egg Hunt<br>UCCHH Higganum Campus<br>23 Parsonage Rd, Higganum |

## Maundy Thursday

"Do this in Memory of Me"

April 2nd at 7:00 pm  
Communion Service

Lead by Essex, Haddam & Higganum, and  
Westbrook Congregational Churches

at Westbrook Congregational Church 1166 Boston Post Road

United Congregational Church of  
Haddam & Higganum

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5th  
Following the 9:30 am service

UCCHH Higganum Campus  
23 Parsonage Rd, Higganum, CT



## Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Co-Chair

### Haddam Food Bank Collection

Our mission project for 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 the HK Backpack program by donating shelf-stable milk and snacks in March!



Thank you for supporting our community outreach at **Harvest House** at St. Stephen's Church in East Haddam on March 8th. We served 16 members of the community! Our next opportunity to serve again will come in October.

## Fundraising News

Submitted by Nancy Soneson



*Linda's hot dog stand will be back again!*

*Lots and lots of donations needed!*

- Household*
- Garden*
- Jewelry*
- Holiday*
- Recreation*
- Games & toys*
- And more...*

*Please, no old tech equipment, large appliances, or old televisions.*

*Some space is available if you want to drop off your items early.*

*Sign up to help set up, take down, and work the day of the sale. The sign-up sheet is available in the Higganum Social Hall.*





## Quilt Committee

Registrar needed



To make the 2026 Quilt Show as successful as possible, the committee needs some help. We are looking for a volunteer to be the registrar. Responsibilities will include collecting the registration forms, logging them, and creating the description cards. Please consider helping with this job. If interested, contact Nancy Soneson at [nsoneson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nsoneson@sbcglobal.net).

## Christian Education

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director

We've been busy here in Christian Education and have a few important updates to share.

### Training & Background Checks

Christian Education (CE) has established May 15, 2026, as the deadline for all CE members to complete required training and background checks. Moving forward, this will set our annual renewal and retraining each May, helping us avoid scheduling conflicts during the summer months and giving us more time to prepare and lesson plan for the upcoming CE year.

### Safe Church Training

A general Safe Church training slideshow is currently being developed. This presentation is designed to provide an overview of our comprehensive policy, which applies to all aspects of our church—not just youth programs. We strongly encourage all members of the congregation to attend, even if you do not plan to participate in youth Faith Formation. Training dates will be in May, so we can all refresh at the same time and will be announced once the slideshow is complete.

### Upcoming Program Year Focus

At our most recent CE meeting, it was decided that during the next program year, CE will focus on Bible stories, using the easy-to-read Bible we already have as our primary resource. I would love it if you could let CE know a story that is special to you and why. We would love to incorporate your stories as we journey through the classic Bible stories next year!

Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education!



### Annual Easter Egg Hunt April 5<sup>th</sup>

Following the 9:30 service  
UCCHH Higganum Campus

Children will gather following the morning service to get instructions. Don't forget a basket or bag to hold the eggs!



Plans are underway to have a booth and march in the parade at this year's **Middletown Pride on June 6<sup>th</sup>**!

If you would like to help with planning, staffing the booth, or marching in the parade, please contact Nancy Soneson at [nsoneson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nsoneson@sbcglobal.net).



We will also have a booth once again at the 2026 HK Pride Event on June 28<sup>th</sup>!

*More information will be available next month.*



# Music News

Submitted by Brian Frazier, Music Director



As we enter the Easter season, the music of the church blossoms in sound and spirit. After the restraint and introspection of Lent, our singing opens up again with melodies that are brighter, fuller, and more expansive. Easter music is unapologetically joyful—it lifts, it proclaims, it rings out. You may notice stronger harmonies, more confident rhythms, and hymns that seem to soar a little higher. This is intentional: the season itself invites us to sing with renewed energy, as if our voices are waking up alongside the resurrection story.

At the heart of this music is the proclamation of Christ's resurrection. Easter hymns and anthems don't linger quietly; they testify. They tell the ancient story of death giving way to life, despair transformed into hope, and love proving stronger than the grave. Through familiar hymns and new musical offerings, we join generations of believers who have sung this same good news across centuries. When we sing these texts together, we're not just remembering Easter—we're actively participating in its promise.

And of course, Easter brings with it the return of a beloved word: *Alleluia*. Having intentionally set it aside throughout Lent, its reappearance feels especially powerful. When we sing "Alleluia" again, we do so with fresh meaning and gratitude—it is praise reclaimed, joy restored, and celebration renewed. As we move through the weeks of Eastertide, I invite you to sing boldly, breathe deeply, and let the music carry the joy of the resurrection into your heart and out into the world.



I am especially pleased to announce that we will have four section leaders join our choir for the Easter Sunday 9:30 AM service at our Higganum campus. We hope to see you there!

Brian



## Green Team News

Submitted by Kristin Battistoni

### Green Certification Update

We are beginning to look at our Phase Two Certification requirements! If you have a project idea, please let us know.

Stay tuned for a presentation date by SNEUCC for Phase One Certification.

**REPAIR CAFÉ**  
**APRIL 11, 2026**  
**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 439 SAYBROOK RD HIGGANUM

**DON'T THROW IT AWAY, REPAIR IT TODAY!**

|                                           |                  |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Haddam Sustainability Committee@gmail.com | Bicycles         | Small appliances |
|                                           | Electronics      | Sewing & mending |
|                                           | Knife sharpening | Jewelry repair   |



### Help Decorate our Sanctuary!

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

## Coffee Hour

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





### April Meetings

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

Property, April 13, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

Diaconate, April 13, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Christian Ed, April 14, 6:30 pm (Lewis House)

Outreach, April 20, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

Council, April 21, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

### March Worship Attendance

March 1 . . . . . 34  
March 8 . . . . . 37  
March 15 . . . . . 31  
March 22 . . . . . 39  
March 29 . . . . . 37 Palm Sunday



[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!



### Yard Goats Baseball Outing

August 19, 2026  
7:10 pm

UCCHH has purchased a block of 25 tickets for the Yard Goats Faith & Family Day on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The tickets are \$15 each.

Tickets are going fast, so please sign up by April 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Higganum campus social hall or contact the church office at [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com).

### Spring 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. Tom Leutner   | <b>April 19</b><br>Christine Sima     | <b>April 29</b><br>Christine Sima     |




### 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).

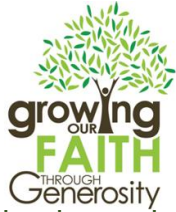
**Caring Connection contacts:**

Sue Craffey . . . . . 860-338-0216  
Sue Henehan . . . . 860-212-4807  
Dave McComas. . 860-978-0462



**Zoom Login Information**

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



# 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 2026.

No. of pledging units to date: 38

Total amount pledged to date: \$ 95,083.38

*Thank you for your generosity!*



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.



## Church Documents

- Council Minutes – [February 17, 2026](#)
- [UCCHH 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report](#)
- [UCCHH 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
- [UCCHH ByLaws](#)
- [UCCHH Church Policies](#)

## 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)

## 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.*



## UCCHH Purpose Statement

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

