



# THE GOOD NEWS *From the Belfry*



MAY 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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### Haddam Campus

#### May 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Communion  
Acts 7:55-60  
Ps 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

#### May 10<sup>th</sup>

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
*Mother's Day*  
Acts 17:22-31  
Ps 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

#### May 17<sup>th</sup>

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 1:6-14  
Ps 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

#### May 24<sup>th</sup>

*Pentecost*  
Acts 2:1-21  
Ps 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Cor 12:3b-13  
John 20:19-23

#### May 31<sup>st</sup>

*Higganum Memorial Garden*  
*Trinity Sunday*  
Gen 1:1-2:4a  
2 Cor 13:11-13  
Matt 28:16-20




# PRIDEFEST 2026

**JUNE 6TH**  **1 PM PARADE**

**WE'RE MARCHING IN THE PRIDE PARADE &  
WE ARE HAVING A BOOTH!**

**God's love has no bounds.  
And neither do we.**

Sign up to join in! The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.




## *Memorial Day Worship Service* *Memorial Garden* *May 31, 2026*



## Our Annual Tag Sale

**MAY 2nd**

**8 am – 2 pm**

**UCCHH Higganum Campus**



*Linda's Hot Dog Tent will have breakfast treats too!*

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

**Drop off:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 pm – 7 pm

## Outreach/Mission News

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Chair

A huge thank you from the Haddam Food Bank for the amazing March collection of 88 items! The inclusion of some different items creates interest outside the norm.

The Easter Sunrise service collected \$300 plus \$59.50 from Pennies from Heaven, yielding \$359.50 for Haddam Fuel Bank.



In May & June, we will start collaborating with our Sunday School to raise money for Heifer International towards two Heifer shares and a beehive. Our goal is \$130. Watch and see how much fun we have!

Starting Memorial Day weekend, we will start collecting for the veteran Christmas stockings through the VA in West Haven. A wish list will follow in the June Belfry.



### Strengthen the Church Offering

May 24, 2026

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

## Christian Education News

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director



### May's Fruit of the Spirit is Gentleness.

Throughout the month, our children will be learning that gentleness means choosing to be calm, kind, and careful with our words and actions—even when we feel upset. This important lesson will be woven into our Bible stories, activities, and discussions as we encourage children to reflect Christ's love in their everyday lives.

In addition, during the month of May, we will begin our fundraising efforts in partnership with Mission Outreach to support Heifer International. Our goal is to raise funds to provide resources such as bees and possibly even a cow—gifts that can make a lasting impact for families in need around the world. We are excited for our children to take part in this effort to serve others.

Looking ahead to June, we invite the congregation to join us in supporting our children on **Children's Sunday, June 14th**. This is a special opportunity for our young people to participate in worship, and your presence will be a meaningful encouragement to both the children and their families.

Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education and the children of our church.

### May Meetings

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

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**Property**, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Christian Ed**, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

**Outreach**, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm (Lewis/Zoom)

**Council**, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Lewis/Zoom)



**Charlotte Stetson**  
*Celebration of Life*  
May 30, 2026

A celebration of life will be held for Charlotte Stetson on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 11 am at the UCCHH Higganum Campus, 23 Parsonage Road, Higganum.

Charlotte passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 21, 2025. She always said she didn't want a funeral but wanted everyone she knew to celebrate her life, and what a life it was! She was a lifelong member of HCC and contributed many hours and energy to the church throughout the years. My brothers and I would like to extend this invitation to all church members who knew Charlotte.

We hope to see you then.

Sue and Danny Gascoyne, Bob and Leah Morin, Chris and Ryoko Morin.



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



## Green Church News

Submitted by Kristin Battistoni



### Keeping Bees 2nd-Hour Presentation

May 3, 2026

UCCHH Haddam Campus ~ 11 am

As part of our Green Church initiative and Earth Day celebrations, we are very excited to announce that Haddam resident Helen Hastings will present a program on the importance of honeybees as pollinators in our environment. She will share her experiences as a beekeeper and ways the public can help keep the bees safe. We will have time for equipment demonstration and Q&A. Light refreshments will be served.



### Middlesex Association 2026 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC Middlesex Association will be held on **Monday, May 18, at 6:00 pm** at The Congregational Church, Killingworth.

**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.

# Music News

Submitted by Brian Frazier, Music Director



As the joy of Easter Sunday begins to settle into the rhythm of our days, the music of the church does not fall silent—it continues to unfold. The season of Eastertide invites us to linger in resurrection joy, to explore it more deeply, and to let it shape us in ways that go beyond a single morning of celebration. If Easter Sunday is the triumphant opening, the weeks that follow are a sustained song—one that carries the same themes of life, renewal, and hope, but with space to reflect and grow.

In these coming weeks, you may notice that our music retains its brightness but also gains a sense of breadth and depth. The triumphant “Alleluia” remains, but it begins to take on new shades of meaning. Some hymns will still feel exuberant and celebratory, while others may be more contemplative—inviting us to consider what the resurrection means in the midst of our everyday lives. This is part of the beauty of Eastertide: it holds both joy and reflection together, reminding us that resurrection is not just an event but a way of living.

Musically, this can be heard in the variety of styles and textures we explore. From strong, unified congregational singing to more intricate choral moments, the music continues to support and enrich our worship. You may hear familiar melodies return with fresh significance, or encounter new pieces that give voice to the ongoing story of Christ’s presence among us. Each week adds another layer to the proclamation we began on Easter morning.

The presence of our section leaders on Easter Sunday was a wonderful gift, helping to lead and support our song with confidence and vitality. Their leadership not only strengthened the choir but also encouraged all of us to sing with greater assurance. That same spirit carries forward, as we continue to build a culture of wholehearted, vibrant singing within our congregation.

As we move through this season together, I invite you not to leave Easter behind, but to carry it with you. Let your singing remain full and unreserved. Pay attention to the texts we sing and the stories they tell. Allow the music to deepen your understanding of resurrection—not just as something we celebrate, but as something we live.

Easter is not over. The song continues!

## CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERTS

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>SATURDAY</b> | <b>SUNDAY</b> |
| JUNE 20, 2026   | JUNE 21, 2026 |
| 7 PM            | 4 PM          |

UCCHH Higganum Campus  
23 Parsonage Rd, Higganum

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.*



**Neal Blodgett, Jr.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Neal Blodgett, Jr., who passed away on April 13th. Doolittle Funeral Home will be handling the funeral arrangements.

[Neal Blodgett, Jr. obituary](#)



### BE THE CHURCH

Submitted by Green Church Committee member Lori Chadwick

*Protect the environment.  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

To “be the Church” is to move beyond a building or a weekly gathering and become an active force of care, connection, and responsibility in the world. One of the clearest ways to live this out today is by sharing both environmental and spiritual resources—meeting physical needs while nurturing hope and purpose.

Caring for the environment is not separate from faith; it is an expression of it. The natural world provides food, water, and beauty, yet it is often strained by neglect and overuse. When a church community shares environmental resources, sharing our building, reducing waste, or teaching sustainable practices—it reflects a commitment to stewardship. These actions say, in a practical way, that creation matters and that people matter. They also create opportunities for collaboration, inviting others into a shared mission that benefits everyone.

At the same time, spiritual resources are just as essential. People carry burdens that are not always visible—stress, loneliness, uncertainty. A church that shares spiritual resources offers encouragement, guidance, and a sense of belonging.

The real power comes when these two forms of sharing work together. A community garden can become a place of conversation and encouragement. A service project can turn into a moment of reflection and connection. When environmental action and spiritual support are combined, they create a holistic expression of what it means to “be the Church.”

In the end, “being the Church” is about presence and participation. It is about using what we have—our land, our time, our knowledge, and our faith—to serve others and care for the world we share.



## Spring Pulpit Supply

|                                         |                                          |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>May 3</b><br>Rev. Kristie Rubendunst | <b>May 10</b><br>Rev. Kristie Rubendunst | <b>May 17</b><br>Rev. Tom Leutner |
| <b>May 24</b><br>Rev. Tom Leutner       | <b>May 31</b><br>Rev. Chris Horvath      | <b>June 7</b><br>Rev. Toni Smith  |

### A big thank you to the folks who helped with the spring cleanup at our Higganum campus on April 25th:

Dick Matregrano, Mark Soneson, Kristin Battistoni, Mike Battistoni, Kyle Bailey, Lindamae Peck, Greg Shields, Sue Henehan, Dave McComas, Glen Stebbins, and Howie Field.

(And to Alan Chadwick and Sue Craffey for cleanup beforehand.)



### 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



### Supporting the Calhouns: Thursday Night Meal Train

We are organizing a **Meal Train** to support Jack and Jeanne Calhoun. To help lighten their load, we are looking for volunteers to provide dinner specifically on **Thursday nights**.

Our goal is to ensure Jack and Jeanne have a warm, nutritious meal to look forward to each Thursday. They do have some dietary restrictions, so please read about them on the sign-up sheet.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office at (860)345-2742.



### Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

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

### April Worship Attendance

|                    |    |                |
|--------------------|----|----------------|
| April 5 . . . . .  | 42 | Easter sunrise |
| April 5 . . . . .  | 47 | Easter 9:30 am |
| April 12 . . . . . | 24 |                |
| April 19 . . . . . | 33 |                |
| April 26 . . . . . | 34 |                |



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.



### 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!

### 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)

Church office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 9 am–1 pm


Haddam campus: 905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT 06438  
 Higganum campus: 23 Parsonage Rd, Higganum, CT 06441

(860) 345-2742

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



May 10, 2026



**Online Meeting Zoom Login Information**

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



PHOTOS



Maundy Thursday



Easter Sunrise Service



Spring Clean up





Earth Day Celebration