



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry

AUGUST 2026



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

August Worship Schedule

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#### August 2

##### **Haddam Campus**

*Communion*

Gen 32:22-31

Ps 17:1-7, 15

Rom 9:1-5

Matt 14:13-21

#### August 9

##### **Haddam Campus**

*11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28

Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Rom 10:5-15

Matt 14:22-33

#### August 16

##### **Memorial Garden**

*12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Gen 45:1-15

Ps 133

Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matt 15: (10-20), 21-28

#### August 23

##### **Higganum Campus**

*13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Ex 1:8-2:10

Ps 124

Rom 12:1-8

Matt 16:13-20

#### August 30

##### **Higganum Campus**

*14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Ex 3:1-15

Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Rom 12:9-21

Matt 16:21-28

### A Message from the Moderator

My message comes as we are well into summer, when many of us disperse and fall away from the usual routine of Sunday worship. Since December, we have been blessed by having many wonderful Supply Clergy lead worship, and deliver meaningful messages. However, the time has come to provide more than just Sunday preaching, which is what I'd like to address in this message.

The Bible often warns us about looking to the past while encouraging us to trust in the Lord and look to the future. From Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing." And from Luke 9:62, "Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.' " The time has come for us to look towards the future.

The UCC describes two types of temporary ministerial support: Pulpit Supply and Bridge Ministry. We all are familiar with Pulpit Supply, but perhaps less so with Bridge Ministry. Bridge Ministers are contracted to serve for a limited period of time, usually 2-6 months. They can be part-time or full-time and provide ministerial support in addition to planning and providing Sunday worship. They cannot be called as a Settled Pastor.

Medium-term or long-term ministerial positions include Intentional Interim Ministry, Designated Term Ministry, and Settled Ministry. We have in the past used Interim Ministry for transitional periods of 18-36 months to assist in resolving conflicts with a previous ministry, and assist in planning for the future, including help with the Search process. Fewer of us are familiar with the role of Designated Term Ministry (DTM). A DTM is called with a specific goal to address in addition to other typical ministerial functions, such as faith formation, pastoral care, providing leadership, supervising staff, community engagement, and strategic planning. Our goal would be to successfully resolve the "two-campus dilemma." The Designated Term Minister is generally called for a specific period, typically 3-5 years, but may be subsequently called to be a Settled Pastor. They can be called to half, three-quarter, or full time ministry. We are all familiar with the roles of a Settled Pastor. Seeking either a DTM or a Settled Pastor requires the completion of a Church Profile and working with the Conference Search and Call process, and ultimately the approval of the Congregation.

The Diaconate and Church Council have discussed this at length and are recommending seeking a half-time Bridge Minister to start about October 1<sup>st</sup>. In accordance with our Bylaws, the Council will ask the Congregation to approve a Search Committee to identify a Designated Term Minister to hopefully start around January 2027. If you are interested in serving on the Search Committee, please contact me as soon as possible. **We have scheduled a Special Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, August 9th**, to discuss and vote on this matter. Please make every effort to attend, as we will need a quorum of thirty members to proceed. If you have any questions, please feel free to approach me.

Wishing you a peaceful and revitalizing summer,  
Greg Shields, Moderator

*The Call to the Special Congregational Meeting is located on page 3.*



## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ron Booth Mission Golf Outing – September 20<sup>th</sup>

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GLORIOUS  
DAY OF GRAND GOLF, GOOD FOOD  
AND GREAT MEMORIES!

**\$160 FOR 18 HOLES  
\$110 FOR 9 HOLES**

*Includes: Greens Fees, Cart, Lunch  
& Community Dinner*

*Lunch will be served on the turn*



### POST-GOLF COMMUNITY DINNER

Beginning at 3pm,  
dinner served at 5pm

*At the residence of The Gascoyne Family,  
130 Dublin Hill Road, Higganum,  
overlooking the Connecticut River*

#### Featuring:

- A grilled picnic dinner (chicken and steak), with a wide array of delicious appetizers, side dishes, salads and desserts
- Cocktails and other beverages included
- Tournament prize awards
- Raffle fun for everyone!

### Awards & Prizes

- Low Team Gross & Low Team Net -  
*1st and 2nd Places*
- Longest Drive Contest -  
*Categories for Senior Men, Men and Women*
- Closest to the Pin Contest -  
*Men and Women's Winners*
- Putting Contest
- 50/50 Hole
- Hole-in-One



Photo Consent: photos  
taken at the event may be  
used for our website and  
social media. Please notify  
us if you wish to withhold  
your consent.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated  
in memory of Ron Booth to The First Tee  
of Connecticut. The First Tee was created  
to expose golf to  
underprivileged youth  
who might not  
normally have access  
to the game.



United Congregational Church of  
Haddam & Higganum



**RON BOOTH  
Mission Golf Outing**



**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 20,  
2026**

8:30 Registration  
9:30 Shotgun Start

**LYMAN GOLF CLUB  
Middlefield, CT**

*A benefit event for the missions of the  
United Congregational Church of  
Haddam and Higganum*

### Help Needed!

Our September 20<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing at Lyman Golf Course is the largest church fundraising event of the year.

A lot of the preparations are underway already. Areas we need to focus on:

- **Getting golfers!** If you know a friend or family member who golfs, have them register to play. Beginners and advanced players are all welcome!
- **Raffle prizes:** Lots are needed. Solicit items, create your own basket, or donate single items—they don't have to be golf-themed. Do you have an unused gift or gift card lying around the house? Donate that.
- **Sponsors:** This is how we make a lot of our profit. Do you have a favorite shop or business that you frequent? Ask them to be a sponsor. Or be one yourself!

Scan the QR code to  
register to play,  
purchase a  
sponsorship, or get  
dinner tickets.



**Appetizer and dessert donations are needed**—there will be a sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or see Linda Hansen.



## Outreach/Mission

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Chair

### School Supply Collection



We are collecting school supplies for Church World Service (CWS) and HK Youth and Family Services. Our goal is seven backpacks, seven lunch boxes, and seven water bottles for HKYFS and 20 school kits for CWS. Thank you in advance!

**Items are due back by August 9th.**

### FREE Back-to-School Haircuts

Sponsored by HK Youth and Family Services, this program will be held on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 11-3 pm at the Haddam Volunteer Firehouse. Please bring a canned food item for the HK Backpack Program.

### Thank you to our July 4<sup>th</sup> bell ringers.

As part of America's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, UCCHH joined churches around the country in ringing our tower bells on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The bells rang 13 times for the 13 original colonies. We rang them once again on July 8<sup>th</sup>, right before the town's reading of the Constitution. Thank you to our bell ringers: Sue Craffey, Lindamae Peck, Heather Lee, Colin Ferguson, Ginny Evensen, Sandy Nightingale, and the Kappus family.

### Veteran' Christmas Stockings

We will continue to collect non-perishable stocking stuffers through October. Lists of needed items and collection baskets are located at each church.



### Annual HK Crop Walk

October 4, 2026 ~ 12:30 pm  
Chatfield Hollow State Park

Preparations are underway for the 2026 CROP Walk.

More information will be in the September newsletter, or you can contact Sue Craffey.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/haddamkillingworth>

### Neighbors in Need Collection

October 4, 2026

## CALL TO A SPECIAL UCCHH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**August 9, 2026**

To the members of the United Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum:

Notice is hereby given of a special congregational meeting to be held following morning worship on August 9, 2026, at the Haddam campus.

Agenda:

- Review, discuss and vote to form a search committee for a designated term pastor.
- Review, discuss and vote to approve the proposed membership of the search committee.
- Review, discuss and vote to accept changes to Article 16 of the UCCHH Bylaws regarding the search and call process for a minister.

Lindamae Peck, Clerk

[Click HERE to view proposed changes to the bylaws.](#)

## Pulpit Supply Schedule

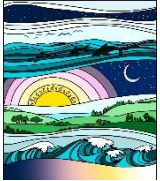
|                                        |                                     |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>July 19</b><br>Rev. Larry Wogman    | <b>July 26</b><br>Rev. Kathy Peters | <b>August 2</b><br>Rev. Tim Haut       |
| <b>August 9</b><br>Rev. Tim Haut       | <b>August 16</b><br>Rev. Tim Haut   | <b>August 23</b><br>Rev. Terry Schmitt |
| <b>August 30</b><br>Rev. Terry Schmitt | <b>Sept. 6</b><br>TBD               | <b>Sept. 13</b><br>Christine Sima      |

## CE Committee

Submitted by Amy Harlow, CE Director

Hello from CE!

We have been busy making plans for the upcoming year, and we are excited to share that we will be exploring Stories of the Bible together!



In September, we will begin with the story of Creation. We will explore how God created us in His image and gave us a world filled with wonderful creatures, beautiful flora, and fascinating fauna. Together, we will celebrate the amazing diversity and beauty of God's creation and consider our role in caring for the world around us.

Our opening day will be Rally Day on Sunday, September 13th. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another wonderful year of learning, growing, and discovering God's stories together!

Peace and blessings,  
Amy Harlow, CED



### Sunday School Kick-Off

**September 13th ~ 9:30 am**

All children are invited to join Amy for the kickoff of the new Sunday school program year!



The August coffee hour schedule is as follows:

August 2 . . . . . CE Committee  
August 9 . . . . . Delegates & At-large members  
August 16 . . . . . Golf Committee  
August 23 . . . . . Property Committee  
August 30 . . . . . Property Committee

## August Meetings

**No choir practice is scheduled for August**

**Property**, August 10, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, August 10, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

**CE**, August 11, 6:30 pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

**Outreach**, August 17, 7 pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

**Council**, August 18, 7 pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

## August Worship Schedule

For August, Sunday services are split between both campuses on the following schedule:

August 2 . . . . Haddam

August 9 . . . . Haddam

August 16 . . . Higganum Memorial Garden

August 23 . . . Higganum

August 30 . . . Higganum



**14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
UCCHH Yuletide  
Quilt Show**  
November 21, 2026

Planning starts soon for this year's Yuletide Quilt Show. We would love to have you join us on the Quilt Committee to help with this fundraiser. (The proceeds from the show help fund the Outreach ministry.) If you are interested, please contact Nancy Soneson at [nsoneson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nsoneson@sbcglobal.net).

## SAVE THE DATE

### Wine Tasting FUNDRAISER

**October 10th**

**6 - 9 PM**

UCCHH Haddam Campus

**Food ~ Music ~ Raffle**





## Yard Goats Baseball Outing

August 19, 2026

7:10 pm

There are 25 of us going!



## 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!



## Caring Connection

In this time of pastoral transition, the Caring Connection members are here for you. Please reach out to one of them if you, or someone you know, needs a visit, assistance, or to let them know of any health concerns.

### Caring Connection contacts:

Sue Craffey . . . . . 860-338-0216

Sue Henahan . . . . 860-212-4807

Dave McComas. . 860-978-0462



## Church Documents

Click on the links below to view various church documents.

Council Minutes – [July 21, 2026](#) (Draft)

[UCCHH 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report](#)

[UCCHH 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes](#)

[UCCHH ByLaws](#)

[UCCHH Church Policies](#)

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS



[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 monthly. Please contact the office to restore any prayer concerns that may have been prematurely removed.*

## 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)



## Zoom Login Information

ID: 391 987 2707

Password: 90523

## July Worship Attendance

July 5 . . . . . 25

July 12 . . . . . 30

July 19 . . . . . 27

July 26 . . . . . 32

## UCCHH Purpose Statement

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



August 2026



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
HADDAM AND HIGGANUM

# RON BOOTH MISSION GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026  
LYMAN ORCHARDS PLAYER COURSE

8:30 AM SIGN-IN  
9:30 AM SHOTGUN START

REGISTRATION INCLUDES GREENS FEE, CART, LUNCH,  
AND GRILLED STEAK/CHICKEN DINNER  
OVERLOOKING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/RONBOOTHMISSIONGOLF2026](https://bit.ly/RonBoothMissionGolf2026)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE.





August 2026



*Photo Album*



*Bell Ringing at the  
Haddam campus on  
July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup> in  
celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup>!*

