



THE GOOD NEWS

From the Belfry

OCTOBER 2026



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

OCTOBER

Worship Schedule

Haddam Campus

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#### **October 4<sup>th</sup>**

*World Communion*  
*NIN Collection*  
Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Ps 19  
Isa 5:1-7 & Ps 80:7-15  
Phil 3:4b-14  
Matt 21:33-46

#### **October 11<sup>th</sup>**

*20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Ex 32:1-14  
Ps 106:1-6, 19-23  
Isa 25:1-9 & Ps 23  
Phil 4:1-9  
Matt 22:1-14

#### **October 18<sup>th</sup>**

*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Ex 33:12-23  
Ps 99  
Isa 45:1-7 & Ps 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thess 1:1-10  
Matt 22:15-22

#### **October 25<sup>th</sup>**

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
Deut 34:1-12  
Ps 90:1-6, 13-17  
Lev 19:1-2, 15-18 & Ps 1  
1 Thess 2:1-8  
Matt 22:34-46



## **WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 9 PM**

**UCCHH Haddam Campus**  
**905 Saybrook Rd**  
**Haddam, CT**

**Bourbon  
Tasting,  
too!**

**FOOD RAFFLE LIVE MUSIC**

**\$25 / person**

*Wine/Bourbon Tasting*

**\$10/ person**

*No Tasting - Just Food, Music, Fellowship*

**Tickets on sale at door and in advance  
from Kristin Battistoni and Sue Craffey.**

*Wine and bourbon offered by Hi-Way Package Store.*

**WALK TO END**

# **HUNGER**

**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

**Oct  
4**

**@12:30**

**Chatfield Hollow**



**Register  
or donate**

# **GOAL IS TO FEED PEOPLE**

- Help our neighbors near and far get meals
- 25% stays local to HK Backpack program, Killingworth Helping Hands and Haddam Food Pantry
- 75% helps worldwide

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/killingworthct>



## *A Message from the Moderator*

Having just returned from the Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC, I am still contemplating the significance of that meeting and the analogies to our Church. The theme of the meeting was derived from Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. That scripture reads, “Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.” The relevance to us is that we are much stronger together than separate, and that we are bound by our faith and our trust and belief in Christ’s message.

The main issue debated at the meeting was whether or not to finalize the dissolution of the three legacy Southern New England state conferences. For Connecticut it implied divesting Silver Lake Camp which has been a beacon for youth for over 70 years, including many from our congregation. Approving that resolution required a 2/3 consensus vote. Although the motion achieved a majority, it did not achieve the necessary 2/3 approval. The motion was withdrawn in favor of a “no, not now” approach, as clearly further work needs to be done to achieve a consensus. Although this is clearly a contentious issue, the remainder of the meeting, including a stirring address by Rev. Senator Raphael Warnock from Georgia, was filled with good will. Sounds familiar, doesn’t it?

I want to remind everyone that Rev. Kathy Peters will be joining us as our part-time (20 hr/wk) Bridge Minister beginning October 8th. We will welcome her at her first Sunday worship on October 11th. She has agreed to serve through the end of January, during which time the Search and Call for a Designated Term Minister will proceed.

As always, this fall will be very busy, starting with the Cove cleanup and Crop Walk, followed by a Wine and Bourbon tasting fundraiser a week later. We are planning the Quilt Show for the Saturday before Thanksgiving, followed by the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on the following Tuesday before Thanksgiving at St. Peter’s RC Church. Get your recipes out for cookie baking shortly after Thanksgiving.

Lastly, I’m thrilled to report that in spite of rainy weather, and without Tery Smith’s exceptional organizational skills, the Ron Booth Mission Golf Outing was a great success. Our revenue was just over \$22,000 with net income, after expenses including a \$1,000 contribution to First Tee of Connecticut, of \$14,576. This was just a little less than last year’s income of \$15,903. I would personally like to thank all of you who donated your time, toil and treasure to make it so successful. I pray that we can remain mindful of the “Ties that Bind”, and that a threefold cord is not easily broken.

*Greg Shields*



Please come and welcome our new bridge minister, Rev. Kathy Peters, on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate with cake during coffee hour!



**Haddam Cove Cleanup**  
Sat., October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10 am - noon

Through Source to Sea, part of the Connecticut River Conservancy, UCCHH has taken on the cleanup responsibility of the Higganum Cove section of the Connecticut River.

We will meet at the Higganum Cove parking lot located at [195 Dublin Hill](#) at 10am. The parking lot is located on the corner of Depot Rd and Dublin Hill Rd, Higganum.

Please come with proper foot attire for potentially muddy or slippery conditions, as well as work gloves or gardening gloves if you have them. Contact Kristin Battistoni at [Battistoni.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:Battistoni.kristin@gmail.com) for more information. Walk-ins are welcome the morning of the cleanup. Children and youth must have an adult responsible for them.



## October Meetings

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

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**Property**, October 12, 5:30 pm (Lewis House)

**Diaconate**, October 12, 7 pm (Lewis House)

**CE**, October 13, 6:30 pm (LH/Zoom)

**Outreach**, October 19, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

**Council**, October 20, 7 pm (LH/Zoom)

**Quilt Show**, October 28, 6:30 pm (Lewis House)



2026 UCCHH  
Golf Photos



Click [HERE](#) to see the 2026 Golf photos.



## **Safe Church Training**

**Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Following the morning service*

On Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, CE will be holding a brief Safe Conduct video presentation. Our goal is for the entire congregation to become familiar with the church's Safe Conduct Policy. **This policy is not just for those working with our youth**—it guides all of us in creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment. If you have any questions, please contact our Christian Education Director, Amy Harlow.





## Outreach/Mission

Submitted by Sue Craffey, Outreach Chair



### Annual HK CROP Walk

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 pm  
Chatfield Hollow State Park

Register or donate online using the link below. Donations can also be made by cash and checks made out to CWS/CROP. 25% stays local, benefitting: Haddam Food Bank, HK Backpack Program, and Killingworth Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Register or donate at:

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

### Neighbors in Need Collection

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – October 25<sup>th</sup>

This month, we hold our annual UCC collection for Neighbors in Need. One-third of the collection goes to the Council for American Indian Ministries and two-thirds goes to grants that are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

### Harvest House Dinner

Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Mark Soneson and Howie Field will be cooking at Harvest House at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in East Haddam. We still need two people to help serve; contact Sue Craffey to help.

### Wine & Bourbon Tasting Fundraiser

Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

6 – 9 pm ~ Haddam campus

Tickets are \$25pp and \$10pp for “non-tasters”. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from Kristin Battistoni, Sue Craffey, or the church office.

Help! We need finger foods for the evening - please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting the office at [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com).

**UCC Disaster Relief in Venezuela collection: \$285**

**UCC Disaster Relief for Nepal:** Contact Sue Craffey if interested in donating.



## Yuletide Quilt Show & Holiday Bazaar

Planning for this year's Quilt Show is underway!

Last year we raised over \$5,000, and we would love to raise even more this year, but we need your help!

What you can do:

- Show your quilts! Ask friends and family to show any of their quilts
- Sell tickets for the Quilt Raffle - we have 500 tickets to sell at \$2 each
- Make a basket or solicit a basket for our Gift Basket Raffle
- Make a soup or pie for lunch
- Volunteer during the show – we need lots of help setting up, serving lunch, and being a floor monitor in the sanctuary
- Invite friends and family to come to the show

*Thank you in advance for your support!*

*For more information, contact Nancy Soneson  
([nsoneson@gmail.com](mailto:nsoneson@gmail.com)) or Dena Liedke  
([sewdena22@gmail.com](mailto:sewdena22@gmail.com)).*



### Help is needed to sell Quilt Raffle tickets!

The Quilt Committee needs your help! Raffle tickets for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Yuletide Quilt Show Quilt Raffle are now on sale.

Please consider taking a few packs of 5 and selling them for us. Tickets are \$2 each. Packs will be available during coffee hour at the end of the month.

#### First Prize

“Modern Poinsettia”

Created by Dena Liedke

#### Second and Third Prizes

“Four-Stripe” and “Three-Stripe” Christmas Afghans

Created by Donna Turnage



# Music News

Submitted by Brian Fraizer, Music Director



## Music Ministry: Finding Our Voice Together

As we begin a new season of worship, there is a lot happening in the Music Ministry of the United Congregational Churches of Haddam and Higganum!

One of the most exciting things on the horizon is our annual **Christmas Eve Concert**, and preparations are already underway. The concert will take place on **December 24 at 6:00 PM at our Higganum campus**. We are looking forward to sharing an evening of music, reflection, joy, and celebration as we gather together to welcome the Christmas season.

## Growing Our Musical Repertoire

This fall, the choir is taking on a new challenge: we are learning **one new anthem each month in September, October, and November**. These pieces will give us some new musical opportunities while continuing to build and expand our repertoire.

We are also trying some **new music for congregational singing**. Music is such a personal part of worship, and we would genuinely love to hear what you think! Which hymns and songs help you feel connected to God and to the community? Which new pieces speak to you? Your feedback helps us as we seek music that is meaningful, accessible, and uplifting for our congregation.

## Your Voice Matters

At the heart of everything we do in the Music Ministry is something very simple: **congregational singing**.

For generations, singing together has been one of the defining characteristics of congregational worship. When we sing, we are not simply listening to music or watching a performance—we are participating in worship together. Our voices become a collective prayer, an expression of faith, and a way of reminding one another that we are part of something larger than ourselves. And that means **we need to hear your voices!** Whether you consider yourself a wonderful singer, someone who "just sings in the shower," or somewhere in between, your voice belongs in worship. There is no audition and **no experience is**

**necessary** to join the choir. We continue to rehearse on **Thursdays at 7:00 PM at the Haddam campus**, and new members are always welcome.

## Music as Part of Worship

Each week, we strive to bring inspirational **choral and instrumental music** to our Sunday worship services. Music has a unique ability to reach places that words sometimes cannot. A familiar hymn can bring back a cherished memory. A new anthem can offer a different perspective on a familiar message. An instrumental piece can create a moment of stillness and reflection.

In the Christian tradition, music has long been a way of proclaiming faith, telling stories, offering prayers, expressing joy, and giving voice to emotions that can be difficult to put into words. In a Congregational church especially, music is not simply something that happens *during* worship—it is something in which **all of us participate**.

We are also pleased to continue singing the **Lord's Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays of each month**. This familiar prayer, sung together, gives us another opportunity to unite our voices and our hearts as a congregation.

## A New Season Together

We are also very excited to welcome **Reverend Kathy Peters as our Bridge Minister**. As we enter this new chapter in the life of our churches, the Music Ministry looks forward to being part of the worship and community life that unfolds.

Ultimately, our goal is not simply to sing the "right" notes or perform beautiful music. Our goal is to use music to **create connection, inspire faith, strengthen community, and help us experience the presence of God in worship**.

So, whether you are sitting in the pew and singing with the congregation, listening to the choir, enjoying an instrumental offering, or considering joining us on Thursday evenings, please know that **you are an important part of the Music Ministry**.

We hope you will sing with us, share your thoughts with us, and perhaps even lend your voice to the choir. After all, a congregation is at its most powerful when it finds its voice—and **we need to hear yours!**

*Brian*



October 2026



Thank you to the **Music Committee** for providing coffee hour refreshments for the month. The **Diaconate** will host in November.



## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS



[Click for the Prayer List](#)



### Sunday Services Stream Live on YouTube!

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!



### Zoom Login Information

ID: 391 987 2707

Password: 90523

### September Worship Attendance

September 6 . . . . . 30  
September 13 . . . . . 25 Rally Day  
September 20 . . . . . Golf Outing  
September 29 . . . . . 23



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 0643

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



This QR Code will bring you directly to our secure Online Giving page:



### Card Angels

Thurs., October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5 pm ~ Lewis House

Come make homemade cards for people in cancer treatment centers and nursing homes. For more information, please get in touch with Jesse at [cardangelsct@gmail.com](mailto:cardangelsct@gmail.com)

### Follow Us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/haddamchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/haddamchurch/)



## 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 Henehan . . . . 860-212-4807

Dave McComas. . 860-978-0462

## Church Documents



Click on the links below to view various church documents.

Council Minutes – [September 15, 2026](#) (Draft)

[UCCHH August 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes](#)

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

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

[UCCHH ByLaws](#)

[UCCHH Church Policies](#)

## 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

Rev. Kathy Peters, Bridge Minister

[revkathyp@comcast.net](mailto:revkathyp@comcast.net)

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

## Hello, from John and Liz!

Sue Craffey recently visited John and Liz Anderson while traveling through Cape Cod.





October 2026



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM AND HIGGANUM



# YULETIDE QUILT Show

## & Holiday Bazaar

**NOVEMBER 21, 2026**  
**9:30AM - 3:30PM**



### WIN A \$50 VISA CARD!

For each quilt you exhibit, you will receive one entry into a drawing to win a \$50 VISA gift card.

*Maximum 5 drawing entries per exhibitor.*

QUILTS \* BASKET & QUILT RAFFLE \* HOLIDAY ITEMS  
VENDORS \* HOMEMADE SOUP & PIE LUNCH

**United Congregational Church  
of Haddam and Higganum**  
905 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT 06438

**ADMISSION TO VIEW QUILTS: \$10**  
**FREE ADMISSION TO HOLIDAY BAZAAR**



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO SHOW A QUILT, VISIT  
[HADDAMCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS/QUILT-SHOW](http://HADDAMCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS/QUILT-SHOW)