THE GOOD NEWS
from the Belfry

Monthly Newsletter of the
Higganum Congregational Church
and
The First Congregational Church of Haddam
Open and Affirming
Members of the United Church of Christ

October
In the Year of Our Lord 2021

Higganum Congregational Church
First Congregational Church of Haddam
Returned mail to
P.O. Box 215
Haddam, CT 06438

Address Service Requested

Church websites:
haddamchurch.org and higganumchurch.org
Dear Friends,

“God won’t do it without us, and we can’t do it without God.”*

- John Dominic Crossan, “First Light” Series

This summary of Jesus’ teaching from Irish-American New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan is about the coming of the Kingdom of God, but it applies equally well to a church- or pair of churches- thinking about growth and renewal. Or to a church- or a pair of churches- calling a pastor and teacher to lead them. Or to a pair of churches joining to form one.

May your partnership with God and one another continue to grow!

Blessings, Pastor Michelle

*A similar idea expressed by St. Augustine in Sermo 169 is “God who created you without you, will not save you without you.”

SHARING IN MINISTRY AND MISSION

On September 26th, HCC and FCCH members voted to affirm their intention to move forward to form a new church. There will be much work ahead as the two churches become one, but this is a significant milestone in a process of shared ministry and mission that began several years ago.

Each church substantially surpassed the 2/3rds majority that had been set by the respective Church Councils as a basis for a consensus. Click HERE and HERE for the DRAFT minutes of the special business meetings which include a list of participating members. Please contact the Clerks with any questions- these minutes will be reviewed at the next Special or Annual Business meeting.

The Joint Church Council will meet in a special extra session on Tuesday, October 5th to begin planning next steps. All are welcome!

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search is moving forward!

See the posters at HCC and FCCH showing progress made in the process, and keep the Pastoral Search Committee members in your prayers this month as they go to hear and see a candidate preach at a ‘neutral pulpit.’

Pastoral Search Committee members are Mark Soneson (Chair), Candy Casale, Amy Harlow, Sue Henehan, Ralph Livieri, Sabine Nyenhuis, and Lindamae Peck. See the FCCH/HCC Ministry Opportunity Listing HERE.

INTERIM MINISTRY EVALUATION

As the time for Pastor Michelle’s interim ministry with us draws near to a close, she has asked the Pastoral Relations Committee to provide her with feedback. Please complete a copy of the survey found HERE (print copies are available on Sundays), and return it by Sunday, October 17th. Thank you!

INTERIM PASTOR’S SCHEDULE

Pastor Michelle holds in-person office hours at Lewis House from 1-3pm Tuesday afternoons. (Please note: REMOTE Office Hours October 5th.) Pastor Michelle sometimes works from home, and her day off varies with family needs, so contact her to schedule a visit (860-597-4223 mmadsenbibeau@gmail.com).
**OCTOBER MEETINGS**

Joint Council – Tuesday, October 5th, 7pm by Zoom (hosted access at FCCH)

Planning Mtg. w/ Rev. Ross – Wednesday, October 6th, 4pm by Zoom (SNEUCC hosting)

Stewardship Committee – Week of 10/4 TBD

Joint Diaconate – Monday, October 11th, 7pm by Zoom (hosted access at FHCC)

Quilt Show Planning – Monday, October 18th, 6:30pm at FCCH (with Zoom access)

HCC Finance – Monday, October 18th, 7pm (HCC)

Joint Council – Tuesday, October 19th, 7pm by Zoom (hosted access at FCCH)

Mission/Outreach – Tuesday, October 26th, 7pm by Zoom (hosted access at FCCH)

Please contact Committee Chairs for agendas and details of meeting information.

---

**ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION**

Most Church meetings held on Zoom may be accessed during the appointed hours at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3854472572?pwd=MXk3ODBFc0Vzei83d3hBOXRzVHNwUT09

Telephone: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 385 447 2572 Password: 536662

---

**SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, October 27th**

**RACIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Weeknight Program with Rev. James Ross, II, Minister for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Southern New England Conference UCC. Stay tuned for more details after our planning meeting on October 6th (speak with Pastor Michelle if you would like to participate in planning).

---

**RON BOOTH MISSION GOLF OUTING 2021**

**Preliminary Results**

This year’s Joint Golf Outing was a tremendous success. Although all income and expenses have not been received, the expected net income (profit) is estimated to be over $20,000.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED OR SUPPORTED THE GOLF OUTING

- 118 Golfers
- 80+ Diners Only
- 60 Sponsors
- 60+ Raffle Prize Donors, including many church members
- Many church members who donated food, beverages, etc.
- Several ‘In-Kind’ Donors: signs, grills, printing, food
- Many, Many church volunteers at the golf course, dinner venue, food servers, parking monitors, venue set-up/take-down, committee members and others
- Dinner Hostess/Host – the Gascoyne’s

And, thank God for a wonderful day to play golf and have an outdoor dinner.

This event was an excellent example of what can be achieved when both churches support a common event.
9:30am SUNDAY WORSHIP
at HCC during October

October 3rd
World Communion Sunday
and CROP Walk Dedication

October 10th
Access Sunday
Indigenous People’s Day Weekend

October 17th
Homecoming Sunday

October 24th
Morning Worship
(Tentative: 2nd Hour Program TBA)

October 31st
All Saint’s Observance

CHOIR PRACTICE
Do you love to sing?
Veteran and new choir
members are invited to
join Music Director Eric
Lundin for practice
Thursday evenings at
7pm at FCCH beginning
October 14th.
Newcomers are asked to contact Eric before
attending to discuss Covid19 precautions and
so your music can be prepared.

2021 SUNDAY CHURCH
HOSPITALITY
SCHEDULE

The Joint Council has
established the Hospitality
Schedule for the remainder of 2021:

October: FCCH Finance/Prudential and
HCC Finance/Trustees
November: Joint Diaconate
December: Joint Music with help from
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you to all our volunteers. Per our
Covid safety procedures: Food and drink
should be portioned for individual pick up (food
items wrapped or plated, not self-serve, and
beverages prepackaged or poured by a host
wearing mask and gloves). Fellowship time
should be set up OUTSIDE unless it is raining
or extremely cold.

SERVICE STREAMING
Access to the service by
livestream at YouTube is
provided. Visit and subscribe
to our YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7SxL2fMB-DZu4BxaM6hWNg to view archived streams
anytime or Sundays at 9:35am for the service
on a slight delay.
MISSION/OUTREACH OCTOBER NEWS

CROP WALK

The 37th Annual CROP WALK in Haddam will occur on Sunday, October 3rd at Noon at Chatfield Hollow State Park. (Walkers also may walk on their own.)

MISSION/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN YOUR CLOSET, NOT YOUR WALLET

This project sponsored by St Vincent de Paul in Middletown has asked for our help. Many of you have responded to this request. This project involves the Goodwill Donation Center and YOU. Open your closet and clean out clothes you no longer wear and bring the clothing to Goodwill Store with a donation card that we have at the church. St. Vincent de Paul receives clothing vouchers that they can give to people who are in need of clothes.

This program is completing its first year, and it has been a resounding success. The donations have provided $5,500 worth of vouchers that have been distributed in the community. These vouchers allow people the dignity of shopping for their own clothing.

Thank you all for helping with this project. The donation cards are still available at each church.

H/K BACK PACK PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who donated shelf-stable milk for this program. We will continue to collect shelf-stable milk in October. In addition, this program offers hygiene supplies for the children, and the manager asked if we would collect deodorant for teens- girls and boys. If you get coupons that you cannot use for deodorant, we also can send those in.

CROP WALK

THANK YOU to everyone who has worked to make our walk a success. Whether you plan to walk at Chatfield Hollow State Park or walk virtually in your neighborhood your efforts will be appreciated by the people who receive help from Church World Service, Haddam Food Pantry, Killingworth Helping Hands Pantry or the Haddam/Killingworth Back Pack program.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

We are planning to provide the items for 14 Thanksgiving dinners for Haddam families. This project will be in November. More information next month.

BREAD MINISTRY

The Bread Ministry will complete its activity for this year on October 15, 2021. It has been very successful. Thank you to everyone who helped to bake, who helped to sell or who bought bread for supper. We will have a total of money raised next month. There are still opportunities to help- please sign up HERE.

INVASIVE PLANT CLEANUP

OCTOBER 16TH

An invasive plant cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 16th (raindate October 23rd) at Haddam Meadows State Park. Please register by emailing Cherry Czuba at cherylczuba@comcast.net. As required by the CT DEEP, those attending must register ahead of time.
COVID-19 PROCEDURES  
(updated October 3, 2021)

Our gatherings for public worship may include unvaccinated individuals as well as those at increased probability for Covid-19 complications due to age or health conditions. Those attending our gatherings do so at their own risk. We encourage all youth and adults 12+ attending worship to be fully vaccinated. All worshippers are asked to familiarize themselves with and abide by the following guidelines:

- Please do not attend in-person worship/events if you or a household member have symptoms of Covid-19 or if you have a known exposure (regardless of vaccination status).
- All persons are asked to wear a mask covering mouth and nose while indoors, except during Communion or when actively eating or drinking during Fellowship time if it is held indoors.
- Fully vaccinated persons may go without a mask outdoors.
- Hand sanitizer will be available. Please avoid passing objects (e.g. hymnals, bulletins) from person to person.
- Offerings may be placed in the plates as you arrive or as you depart after the service.
- Enter the Sanctuary as traffic flow signs direct unless using the ramp (FCCH) or elevator (HCC), and leave promptly following worship through the door nearest you.
- The rear right quadrant of the Sanctuary and the balcony will continue to be reserved for distanced seating.
- Our worship will include congregational singing.
- **Online and in-person Sunday School have resumed (see schedule).** Children and adults in in-person Sunday School must mask; adult leaders are vaccinated.

- Outdoor fellowship with refreshments (pre-portioned, self-serve snack and hot/cold beverage) will be offered during **October.** In case of rain, Fellowship time may be held in the Fellowship Hall with the doors open.
- **Sanctuary windows and doors will be open during worship; please dress with this in mind.**

Restrooms are available for use; they are located on both levels at FCCH and near the Sacristy and in the education wing at HCC. Our church buildings are cleaned weekly when in use, with restrooms and high-touch surfaces sanitized.

Please check the weekly email for updates prior to services.

---

We are delighted that Sabine Nyenhuis has a new position in the Old Saybrook police force. Congratulations!

This means that First Congregational Church of Haddam is looking for a new Sexton (must be age 18 or above) or Cleaning service. The hours are flexible, and the position is immediately available.

Please click [HERE](#) for the list of duties and how to apply, and forward this information to anyone you think might be interested.
Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

In 2021, the Neighbors in Need’s “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

We will receive the NIN Offering on Sundays October 3rd and 10th.

SUPER SATURDAY

Twice each year, the SNEUCC offers Super Saturday, a day of worship, fellowship, and workshops for church members and leaders. The theme for this fall’s Super Saturday is Building on God’s Promises: A Time of Personal Renewal. The event will be held virtually on Saturday October 2nd.

Hello from Christian Education!

Thank you to everyone who helped with Rally Day on September 12th, including our friends Joseph and Owen, and Brayden and his Grandpa Dave.

Our fall semester Sunday School classes have begun! Children can join us Sundays in person or Thursdays online as we learn about the Fruit of the Spirit! Click below to view the schedule.

Thursday, October 21st Sunday School is in person outdoors at HCC parking lot for Trunk or Treat try out! (Try out our decorations.)

Saturday the 23rd is Trunk or Treat at HES from 5pm to 8pm. We will be receiving Donations for the Haddam Food and Fuel Bank.

Peace and blessings,

Amy Harlow, CE Director
FALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

This fall our weekday study will explore the historical Jesus and the challenge of his proclamation of the Kingdom of God in the context of the Roman Empire. We will use Living the Question’s “First Light” curriculum which features scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg and footage from biblical lands. To see a sample of the video component, visit https://youtu.be/Wp9fPTepD44.

Join us at Lewis House (masks required) or by Zoom Mondays at 10am beginning on September 13th. (Tentative session schedule is below.)

Print out the Readings and Discussion Questions or request them in print form from the church office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 13th</td>
<td>The Matrix of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20th</td>
<td>The Advent of the Messiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27th</td>
<td>God’s Great Cleanup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4th</td>
<td>Collaborative Eschaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10th</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18th</td>
<td>The Lake as the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25th</td>
<td>Parables as Lures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1st</td>
<td>Jesus as Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8th</td>
<td>Substitutionary Atonement?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15th</td>
<td>Demonstrations in Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22nd</td>
<td>The Crowd &amp; the Crucifixion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29th</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6th</td>
<td>Resurrection as Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13th</td>
<td>America as the New Rome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“RUTH AFTER HOURS” EVENING/ONLINE STUDY

Tune in by Zoom for 30 minute discussions Wednesday evenings OR sign up with the church office for access to recorded sessions of our study of the book of Ruth using Living the Question’s “Uppity Women of the Bible” curriculum. See below for handout links and our schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Worksheet</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Bittersweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>In Case of Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>The Go’el?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>A King’s Ancestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Understanding Ruth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>An Uppity Woman?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LINK</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Grace and Hospitality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HADDAM
905 SAYBROOK ROAD, HADDAM

Yuletide Quilt Show

December 4, 2021
9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Admission to Quilts: $7
Free Admission to Cafe and Raffles

QUILTS FOR SALE ~ QUILT RAFFLE
HOMEMADE LUNCH ~ RAFFLE BASKETS
SILENT AUCTION
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10am on Wednesday, October 6th at HCC. Newcomers are welcome to join us! For materials or more information on this ministry, please contact Carol Ricker or Edie Williams.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Neal Blodgett who was our Scripture reader for the recorded worship service for the day of the Golf Outing, Sunday, September 19th. The worship service is available to view on our YouTube channel at: https://youtu.be/tRV5y9DcFkY.

MEMBER’S CORNER

Do you have a special message to share with your Church family? If so, send it in for the Members’ Corner!

GIVING INFORMATION

FCCH has an online contribution option accessible HERE. Mailing addresses are:

Higganum Congregational Church
23 Parsonage Road, Higganum, CT 06441

First Congregational Church of Haddam
P.O. Box 215, Haddam, CT 06438

7  Joe and Kris Tupay

Please contact us at fcchaddam@gmail.com if there are omissions from or corrections to our birthday and anniversary lists.