



# THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*



Monthly Newsletter of  
The First Congregational Church of Haddam  
Higganum Congregational Church and

Open and Affirming  
Members of the United Church of Christ



In the Year of Our Lord 2022



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

Address Service Requested

Church websites:

[HigganumChurch.org](http://HigganumChurch.org) and [HaddamChurch.org](http://HaddamChurch.org)



Greetings Friends, Neighbors, and Seekers,

May you feel God's presence drawing you into being as these hot summer days advance!

We have passed through the loveliness of new spring life and into the simmering summer.

Now my garden needs constant care to flourish. Without plenty of water, within a few hours all is wilting. I cannot leave it for long. When I turn to the garden, it is always needy, and so I turn to it more and more. Ironically, it is also abundantly giving. It gives me more than I can eat. It gives me more than my garden, I am in a nurturing relationship with God, my plants, and my food. There is a community around my garden. The pollinators come to visit. The little critters come to pilfer. The sunshine and rain and wind say hello. Often plants call out to me, "Help, I am dying of thirst!" Other times they call, "Ha! I've hidden this cucumber from you, and now witness how enormous it is!" or "See the bright yellow of my squash?" or "Behold, the brilliant orange-red of my tomatoes!" or "Who are these green caterpillars eating my leaves?" The flowers sing prettily, thanking God for their beauty. I watch each one, as the buds unfold, as they shine in their glory, as they wilt and drop petals. Sometimes I have to decide what to do about the caterpillars.

This is entirely different from driving to a grocery store, selecting from stacks of arranged produce, paying and driving home. I don't need to pick something until I

am ready to eat it. I am in relationship with the garden and the elements of nature as well as with God. Everything emerges from relationship. Relationship with God and other. Relationship with the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven. The two great commandments that Jesus gave to us, to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength, and to love the neighbor as the self, are both relational. The centrality of sharing the meal and fellowship in our church today reflects the relational centrality of Jesus' teachings. We share together and God is in our midst.



Galileans were farming people. They had some of the most fertile land of all Palestine. When Jesus taught his sermon on the mount, many of his parables were about planting and reaping. Plants and seeds unfold in particular ways, grown in particular seasons, require particular care. Each has patterns that are suited to their nature. Whether one is mechanically inclined, or athletic, or poetical, or methodical, the practice of operating these aspects of self unites one with God's purpose and function. When we putter through whatever is our particular hobby, we are organizing according to God-given and God-inspired tendencies. We are indissolvably united with God.

Thomas Aquinas wrote that, "God is in all things as giving them being, power, and operation. One can say that God is more

closely united to each thing than the thing is to itself." Aquinas was a man who looked to the beauty and intricacy of nature in its myriad strategies and patterns to get an inkling of what God is about. Imagine looking at the forms and functions of nature and coming to the insight that God is more closely united to each thing than the thing is to itself. God knows each of us better than we know ourselves. Sometimes we are lost to our own beauty, to our own healthy rhythms and patterns, to our own purpose. The idea that God knows and remembers our unique purpose, function and healthy patterns allows us to surrender to God and allow God to help us re-set back to our healthy selves when we have lost sight of who we are.

This thought has tremendous power especially for people who are recovering. What is recovery in light of this insight? Recovery is reliance upon God for one's being, power, and operation. Recovery is rediscovery of God's creative instigation underlying the body, mind, spirit and function of one's life. Recovery is following the natural order innately given, innately empowered, innately designed by God.

My prayer for you today is that you take some time to be so quiet and still that you begin to remember and perceive God's holy design in the fabric of your being and allow this to determine how you pursue your day.

In Christ,  
Pastor Hilary



### **A NOTE FROM YOUR MODERATORS**

Thanks to the persistence of Terry Smith, we have reestablished contact with the attorney and have signed agreements to proceed with resolving the legal issues involved in our joining process. Stay tuned for further developments.

Led by the efforts of Pastor Hilary, conversations have been initiated to determine how FCCH/HCC can contribute to helping the Haddam Co-op Nursery survive. Several Co-Op parents are taking the lead in exploring how to reopen and will get back to us soon. We hope they will be able to open in September and then be able to explore reconfiguration options. The Co-Op is an important outreach service to our community, and we will do what we can to insure its continuation. Thanks to Pastor Hilary, Sue Craffy, Ginny Evensen, Amy Harlow, Lori Chadwick, Steve Bull for attending the informational session.

Once again, we ask that you check in with Lindamae Peck and John Anderson as they continue their efforts to fill positions on the new slate of officers and committee posts. Again, please give thought for how you can contribute to the success of our new church.

John Edmondson      Greg Shields  
Moderator FCCH      Moderator HCC

### **REPORTS AND MEETING MINUTES**

June JT Council Meeting Minutes including JT Diaconate Report and JT Mission / Outreach Report [HERE](#)

#### **Annual Reports**

Higganum Congregational Church [HERE](#)  
First Congregational Church of Haddam [HERE](#)

#### **New Church ByLaws**

Revised May 1st [HERE](#)

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July 3rd (warm, humid, cloudy) 42

July 10th (sunny, beautiful)

11 at 8am Gazebo

31 at 9:30am

July 17th (overcast, muggy)

09 at 8am Gazebo

26 at 9:30am

July 24th (hot)

14 adults, 1 child, 1 dog at 8am Gazebo

25 at 9:30am

July 31st (beautiful)

17 adults, 1 dog at 8am Gazebo

22 at 9:30am



## COVID GUIDELINES

We will continue with **“Mask Optional”** during worship, when speaking from the Chancel or singing, in Sunday School, and any other time on the churches’ property. Distance seating during worship is available. Either door may be used to enter/exit the church, and **Fellowship will be held outside after worship**. View our complete Covid-19 response [HERE](#).



## CHURCH OFFICE

Drop by or call the church office on Tuesdays from 9am -12 noon\* and Thursdays from 1-4pm\*.

*\*The Church Office voicemail and email are monitored during posted office hours. If you need to speak with **Rev Hilary** outside of these days/times, please text or call her church cell phone at 860-316-3837.*

Please note, the church office will be open on Thursday, August 31st from 1-4pm and Friday, September 1st from 9am-12noon. The church office will be closed on Tuesday, August 29th.



## AUGUST MEETINGS

*Please contact Committee Chairs for agendas and additional meeting information.*

**Adult Spiritual Formation with Rev. Hilary** Mondays, 10am (Lewis House / Zoom)

**Bread Ministry Mixing** Tuesdays 9am (FCCH)

**Bread Ministry Baking** Fridays 9am (FCCH)

**Artisan Bread Sale** Fridays 3-6pm (Higginum Farmer’s Market at Haddam Elementary School)



**Prayer Shawl** Wednesday, August 3rd, 10am (HCC)

**Golf Committee** Wednesday, August 3rd, 7pm (Lewis House / Zoom)

**Quilt Show Planning** Monday, August 8th, 6:30pm (FCCH Fellowship Hall)

**JT Diaconate** Monday, August 8th, 7pm (Lewis House / Zoom)

**Children’s Kindness Camp**, August 15-19th, 9am-12noon with before/after care

**HCC Finance** Monday, August 15th, 7pm (HCC)

**JT Church Council** Tuesday, August 16th, 7pm (Lewis House/Zoom)

**September Belfry Articles Due** Friday, August 19th, to fcchaddam@gmail.com

**Make A Quilt Group** Wednesday, August 24th, 6:30pm (FCCH Fellowship Hall)

## ZOOM LOGIN

Please use the Zoom login below for access to FCCH and HCC meetings, adult education, and fellowship programs.

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

**Phone call-in number: +1 646 558 8656**



**A Message from our Area  
 Conference Minister**

Beloved, I extend to you Paul's blessing to the Jesus followers in Rome:

***"May the God of hope full you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*** - Romans 15:13.

Wishing you abundant moments of respite, rejuvenation, and recess these sunny summer months. I pray that you are so drenched in joy and hope that they come pouring out of you and into the atmosphere.

Blessings,  
 Isaac

Rev. Isaac Lawson (he/him)



**Finding HOPE in the everyday living**

The Southern New England Women's Team invite you to join in a day long retreat at the Edward's House in Framingham, MA. This will be a great opportunity to "escape" for a day with other **Christian women** and learn some ways to navigate in this crazy world. September 10th, 8:45am-4pm, \$35 includes lunch. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Our adult spiritual formation class is considering topics and viewing videos related to peace and justice. "What's the Word" Bible Study explores how the scripture intersects our spiritual lives. **Join Pastor Hilary on Mondays at 10am in the Lewis House or on Zoom.**



**INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST**

Click [HERE](#) for the current Intercessory Prayer List.

*Note from the church office: The need for prayer is sometimes personal and difficult to clarify. We would like to keep our prayer list as current and active as possible. Since often we don't receive good news of recovery, we will now be removing names monthly. Please feel free to contact the office to restore any prayer concerns that are removed prematurely in this process. There is no time limit on prayer concerns.*

**GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT**

St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main Street, East Haddam is hosting a presentation on grief and bereavement, led by Carol Corliss, author of *Yanking Bittersweet: Stories of Widows Coming to Terms with Grief*. Held on **Sunday, August 14th, 5:15-7:15 pm**, a light supper will be followed by a discussion of issues commonly faced by those who have lost a partner or who are otherwise bereaved, as well as factors that promote healing from grief. All are welcome. For further information contact Cheryl Czuba [cherylczuba@comcast.net](mailto:cherylczuba@comcast.net). The event is free.



**Sundays 9:30am**

**August 7th**



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
**First Congregational Church of Haddam**  
with Rev Hilary McLellan

**August 14th**

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**First Congregational Church of Haddam**  
Guest Preacher: Emily Bjornberg

**August 21st**

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
**Higganum Congregational Church**  
with Rev Hilary McLellan

**August 28th**

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Higganum Congregational Church**  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Toni Smith

**SUMMER WORSHIP**

Summer Worship will be held at **8:00am at the Higganum Gazebo through August 14th**. Please bring your own chair. All are welcome including dogs on leashes. This brief service is in addition to our 9:30am Sunday worship service.

**COMMUNION AT HOME**



If you would like to receive communion at home, please contact the Church office at 860-345-2742 or [fcchaddam@gmail.com](mailto:fcchaddam@gmail.com) and your request will be shared.

**SERVICE STREAMING**



Visit and subscribe to our YouTube Channel for access to services on Sundays at 9:35am or any other time to view archives. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7SxL2fMB-DZu4BxaM6hWNg>

**LAY READERS**

Would like to be a reader during Sunday service? All ages are welcome! No experience necessary and we can give you a few pointers! Contact the church office if you are interested.

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR**



A sign-up sheet is available in church to donate flowers for the altar. You will have the option to include a dedication which will be printed in the bulletin.

**CHURCH HOSPITALITY**

Fellowship and refreshments will be enjoyed **outdoors** after worship.

**Hospitality August Schedule:**

August 7 FCCH & HCC  
Christian Education

August 14 FCCH Prudential & Finance

August 21 HCC Prayer Shawl and FCCH Bread Ministry

August 28 HCC Trustees and Board of Finance



Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2



### CHILDREN'S KINDNESS CAMP

Children's Kindness Camp **Registration is open.** You will find the link [HERE](#) and in the weekly emails. Please share this link with those who have children between the ages of 4-12 years old. \*Scholarships available for those in need.

We are committed to implementing a program that helps local families during this specific week of the summer when most camps have ended, and school hasn't started yet. If there are additional schedule needs, families are encouraged to reach out so we can try to help with the coverage they need.

#### CKC Details

- **Monday August 15th through Friday August 19th**
- Program Hours: 9am to 12pm
- Program Fee: \$50 per child\* - five days of program
- Ages: 4 to 12 years old
- Early Drop-Off and Afternoon Care Option: \$50 per child additional fee
- Drop-Off begins 7:30am, Last Pick-Up 4pm

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - please let us know if you are willing to volunteer for any part!

**GOT TEENAGERS?** - we will gladly sign community service forms for students that help.



### RON BOOTH MISSION GOLF OUTING

Mark your calendars for **September 18th** - we are returning to Lyman Orchards Golf Club. **Click [HERE](#) for more details.** You will find information about the Golf Outing, Community Dinner, Sponsorship Opportunities, and Raffle Donations. **Click [HERE](#) for a printable Registration Form.**

A combined planning team from Higganum Congregational Church and First Congregational Church of Haddam are building on the success of past outings. **Please consider how you might help** - prepare dinner, venue set-up/take down, writing thank you notes, helping at the golf course and at the dinner venue. This is a fun time, but it does take a lot of volunteers to make it a success. Join us!



### SOCK & UNDERWEAR DRIVE

Haddam Social Services asked if we would again collect new underwear and socks for young children in town. **Tags can be picked up in church with the children's sizes.** If you can help, please **return the donations to church by Sunday, August 21st.**



### MEMORIAL GARDEN STONE

An idea came up during a visit at HCC to the Memorial Garden, to put a stone for Deb Livingston there. This would be a great addition to the garden, as well as a place for friends and family to visit. For those who may not know of Deb, she died of breast cancer at the young age of 42 in 2017, leaving a young son, AJ and husband Dan as well as many friends and family to mourn. She was very active at The First Church of Haddam in the choir and first to assist with any fundraisers. She would be just “tickled pink” to be included in the Memorial Garden. Dan Livingston approved this endeavor. The cost is \$250 though, and we will collect proceeds for the next few months. Monetary donations can be sent to FCCH (memo line Livingston stone) or to Sue Craffey. Any questions or concerns: contact Sue Craffey or Sabine Nyenhuis



### SAVE YOUR POP TOPS!

**Ronald McDonald house turns pop tops into cash.** It is easy to take off the tops from beverage cans and bring them to church. Leave them in the container on the table as you come in on Sunday. We will get them the Ronald McDonald house in New Haven. **Let’s see if we can collect 5 pounds of pop tops by the end of summer.** The Ronald McDonald House envisions a world where all children have access to medical care and their families are supported and actively involved in their children’s care



### SCHOOL BAGS

School supplies are on sale at Staples now. Walmart, Walgreens, and other pharmacies are possible sites for “on sale” school items. The contents of one bag cost less than \$6.00. Erasers and scissors have multiple items in a package and only one of each item is needed for the bag. If we have left over items, we will donate them to Youth and Family Service.

The items needed for each bag include:

- (1) pair of blunt scissors
- (3) 70-count spiral bound notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filer paper)
- (1) 30 cm/12-inch ruler
- (6) new **unsharpened** pencils with erasers
- (1) hand held pencil sharpener
- (1) large eraser
- (1) box of 24 crayons

THANK YOU to everyone who sewed the school bags this winter. These bags go to children in areas of disaster in the United States and around the world.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10am at HCC on the **first Wednesday of every month.** Newcomers are welcome to join us! For more information on this ministry, please contact Carol Ricker or Edie Williams.

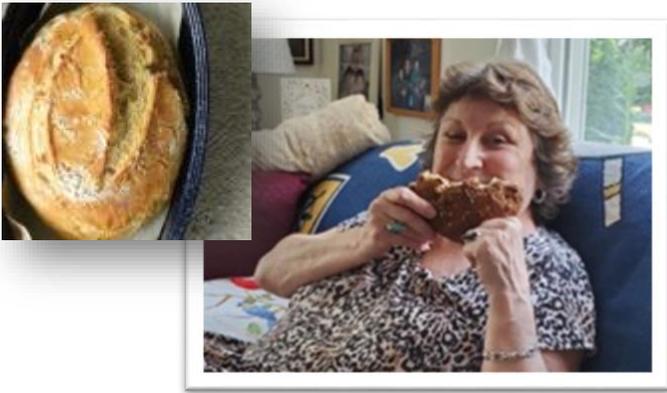
### PICNIC FOOD DRIVE

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DONATIONS FOR “A PERFECT PICNIC”. The items have been delivered to the Haddam Food Bank and are on their way to families in town.



### BREAD & ICE CREAM!

We are excited to share that an **Ice Cream Food Truck** will also be at the Farmer's! Come down, say hello, enjoy an ice cream cone and bring home some freshly baked bread!



The Artisan Bread Ministry sells their delicious bread at the **Higganum Farmers' Market, held at Haddam Elementary School on Friday's from 3 pm - 6 pm.**

Learn more about the Higganum Farmer's Market and Food Truck Fridays [HERE](#).

Our Artisan Bread Ministry has been a success due to our many volunteers. If you are interested in selling bread, please sign up [HERE](#). (Don't worry, you won't have to sell all by yourself!) **Sign up for two Fridays this summer and get a free t-shirt!** Thank you!

### SCAM ALERT

Please beware of email scams from what seems to be from someone you know. The emails might ask... *Can you help me? My phone is not working.* or *Can you do me a favor and purchase gifts cards?* These are scams. If you are unsure, please call the person directly even if the email says they cannot take a phone call.



### QUILTING GROUP

The Quilt Group will meet throughout the summer. Watch the bulletin and weekly email for days/times. Our next Quilt Group and will meet in **FCCH Fellowship Hall on Wednesday August 24th from 6:30-8pm.**

Do you have a quilt project that needs finishing? Would you like to spend some time working on your project with others who like to sew? Fellowship Hall is great for laying out fabric with lots of outlets to plug in sewing machines. Advice is available to help you plan your projects. If you are interested, please leave your name in the office or speak with Dena or Ginny Evensen.



We are planning a **CROP WALK** on Sunday, **October 2nd** at Chatfield Hollow State Park. We have met with representatives from the Killingworth Congregational Church. Our walk will be in person or if you choose, virtual.

This is an opportunity to enjoy a walk in the beautiful October sunshine and raise money to help feeding programs in our towns and in the world through Church World Service Sponsor sheets will be available in late August or early September.

Last year the Haddam Food Bank received a check for more than \$500 from our walk. Save the date, and plan to walk.



## HADDAM AREA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT (HaRRP)



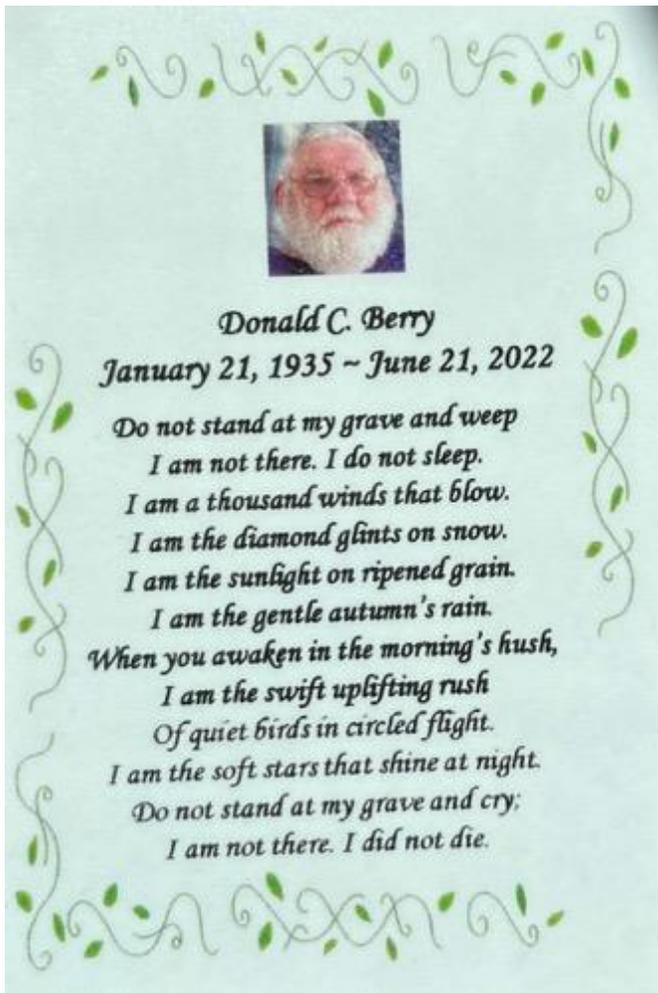
### FUNDRAISING GOAL

**Thanks to the generosity of many, our fundraising goal of \$20,000 has been exceeded!** Now we will focus on the task of getting volunteer drivers registered and finding an appropriate calendar system to track appointments and drivers. Soon we will have an online link to provide the information needed. Thank You for your continued support of this important project!

### TEAM DRIVER

We are building a team of drivers to help get the refugee family to various appointments as they begin to get settled into our community. Carol Ricker is leading the effort to find and communicate with volunteer drivers as needed when the Refugee Family arrives.

If you are interested in being a **Team Driver** please follow the Google form link at <https://forms.gle/wE63rwEe75WAq2ai7>. Provide Carol with a copy of your driver's license and insurance coverage documents.





### GIVING INFORMATION

Our **Ministry** and **Mission** are **maintained** by your **generosity**. Thank you for how you support FCCH and HCC with your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Financial contributions may be made at in-person worship services or mailed to the addresses below anytime.

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

**Higganum Congregational Church**  
23 Parsonage Road  
Higganum, CT 06441

Online gifts to FCCH may be made [HERE](#). It also should be possible to set up direct payments from your own bank to either FCCH or HCC; contact your bank for more information.



#### **Birthdays**

- 07 Elizabeth Anderson
- 08 Pam Crum
- 09 Jack Moore
- 12 Donna Turnage
- 15 Mary Alice Matulevich
- 21 Logan (Craffey) Cugini
- 30 Neal Blodgett, Sr.
- 31 Edie Williams

#### **Anniversaries**

- 03 Bryan and Kristen Gras
- 11 David and Jamie Beckman
- 24 Dick and Carol Matregrano
- 29 Peter and Mary Aduskevich
- 29 Terry and Carol Smith