

The GOOD News

July/August

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam

2011

July 3: 3rd Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49
Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 10: 4th Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 17: 5th Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 24: 6th Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

July 31: 7th Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 7: 8th Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 14: 9th Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 16:13-20

August 21: 10th Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 28: 11th Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE!

We will begin our summer worship schedule on Sunday, July 3, 2011. Worship will be at 9:00 AM until August 28. We will go back to 10:00 am worship on Sunday, September 5.

BAKE SALE!!!

Tylerville Country Market

On July 2, 2011 at 8:30 am until we sell out, there will be a bake sale to help raise funds for child care in the fall. It is important that we offer this service to young families so that the parents will be able to attend morning worship. Please bring baked items to the market or call Ginny Evensen if you need items picked up.

Stewardship reminder: In the Northeast, summer-time means holidays when family and friends get together and celebrate and folks take vacations. At our church, just like at home, the bills continue to arrive and require payment, and church life continues. So, please don't forget your stewardship this summer and keep your monthly or weekly commitments coming. If you would like, you can make your life easier by working with your bank or financial institution to have your commitment sent electronically; that way you don't have to worry and the commitment reaches the church on a regular basis. As always, your caring and commitment for the life of our church is appreciated.

Faithfully, Your Stewardship Committee

Rides Needed For Summer Worship

The ladies who attend worship from the Saybrook House would like to join us this summer and are in need of rides to and from church. Their bus will not bring them during the summer months because of our change in worship time. If you can provide them with transportation for July and August please contact Laurie Malone.

RALLY DAY CELEBRATION!

September 11, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Heartbeat Jazz Band Returns!



As a treat, on Sept. 11, FCCH has invited the Heartbeat Jazz Band to return this fall to play for worship. This will get the year off to a rollicking start. Those who were here last year for Heartbeat know what great musicians they are and how much fun they make our worship!



Following worship
Main entrée will be provided so all you'll need to bring is a dish to share and a hardy appetite!

Save the Date: Sunday Oct. 2 is the annual Crop Walk at 12:30 at Chatfield Hollow State Park. Please join us to walk to fight hunger at home and around the world. Sponsor sheets will be available in September.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

“When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

What is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet.” Psalm 8

The Creator of the universe, who put the stars and the planets in place, who created the earth and sky, who created humans and animals and birds, why is God so mindful of us, the Psalmist asks? God cherishes us, knows each of us individually, and loves us completely. When God looks at us, God does not see all the flaws we focus on. God does not see our flabby arms, sagging bellies, wrinkles and sunspots. When God looks at us, God does not ponder our unfaithfulness or ingratitude, nor our bad habits or proclivity towards violence. Rather, God sees us as slightly lower than heavenly beings and yet as crowned royalty, placing a crown of glory and honor on our heads.

God thinks so highly of us that God has called each of us to be divine ambassadors here on earth, caring for the planet, caring for each other, protecting the air and the water, nurturing animals, birds, and plants, and living in peace and harmony with each other. God and humans are partners in the care of creation, because God has made the risky choice to share God’s power! Why does God think so highly of us that God is willing to give us dominion over the creation, and as the Psalmist says, to put everything under our feet? Does God not realize that the Divine name and reputation is at stake?

We human beings are central to God’s plan of creation. We are not the center of God’s plan in the sense that we are of greatest importance. All of creation is equally important. “We are central” means that God is willing to trust us to work with God to bring about God’s kingdom “here on earth as it is in heaven”. We have collectively been given the responsibility to care for the earth. All of creation has been given to us so that we can work together with one another and with God to bring about God’s peaceable kingdom.

Enjoy God’s good creation this summer. May your body, mind, and soul find respite in your recreation.

Pastor Michael

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



I wish to thank everyone for all their support during my cancer treatments. The prayer shawl warmed my jittery legs, food warmed my body and cards, prayers and positive thoughts warmed my soul! I love you all.

Sue Craffey

Hello Everyone, Thanks a million for coming to our home on May 14 and making our house and yard a safer, happier and healthier place to be. Also thanks for all your prayers for my son Steven. They have been a gigantic help. God bless, the Geromins

Please keep the following in your prayers: Candy Casale’s partner, **Jim Buck**; **Sue Craffey**; **William Porter**, Jan Berry’s brother in hospice care; **Art Christianson**; and **Jan McCormick**, Laurie Malone’s mother.



BAPTISM: June 19, 2011 **Cooper John Barber**, son of Stacy and Eric Barber, brother of Grady, and grandson of John and Bari Edmondson, Cindy and Kevin Fitzgerald, and the late Frank Barber, was baptized at FCCH.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



The following children and youth will be celebrating a birthday during July and August:

July 1	Allyn Sweet	August 2	Hayden Steinhilper
July 3	Sam Purdy	August 2	John DiMauro
July 6	Clara Peirce	August 8	Kiera Degnan
July 11	Jonathan Hotkowski	August 10	Michael Mercier
July 12	Eric Giuliani	August 16	Isabel Grondin
July 13	Ben Nicholas	August 17	Thomas Williams
July 14	Jackie Sears	August 17	Joe DiMauro
July 17	Mitchell Halligan	August 19	Brigitte Battistoni
July 20	Taylor Therrien	August 19	Alexander Battistoni
July 23	Taylor Steinhilper	August 19	Hannah Peirce
July 29	Carter Steinhilper	August 21	Kevin Giuliani
		August 21	Logan Craffey
		August 26	Ethan Campbell
		August 27	Dana Stack

ANNUAL REPORT??? (WHAT'S SHE TALKIN' ABOUT?)

This is just a reminder that committees should be keeping thorough records so that compiling the annual report, due no later than Dec. 21, 2011, will be easy sailing. The report is due in the hands of the congregation no later than Jan. 9, 2011 with the meeting taking place on Jan. 22, 2012.

Stef, the office harpy

COMMITTEES

Christian Service

Our first **CHRISTMAS QUILT SHOW** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 from 10:00am to 4 pm. We will have about 100 quilts displayed in the church. There will be a Christmas area with decorations for sale and a Christmas tea room offering soup and bread for lunch, as well as desserts and tea in the afternoon. The planning committee will be meeting over the summer. There will be opportunities to share your talents assembling ornaments to be sold during the show. Join us in making this an interesting, fund raising event. Meetings will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

SCHOOL KITS for Church World Service: We will be collecting school supplies in mid-summer when the back to school sales occur. Each bag will contain three 1 subject notebooks; one 12 inch ruler; 1 box of 24 crayons; 1 pencil sharpener; 1 pair of blunt scissors; 1 large eraser. If you are unable to shop but would like to participate in this project, there are envelopes in the pews for your donation. About \$5.00 will make a kit at sale time. We have 30 cloth bags lovingly sewn to be filled and sent around the world to children who need these supplies. This is a great opportunity to make a youngster feel happy and cared for. Some of these kits also find their way to homeless shelters here in New England.

AMAZING GRACE!!! Throughout the summer, don't forget Amazing Grace: the first Sunday of the month is tuna, the second, is peanut butter, the third is cereal and the fourth is pasta and spaghetti sauce. Thank you to everyone who helps with this ministry.

Other news from Amazing Grace! ION market on North Main St., Middletown has enabled the pantry to get a walk-in refrigerator. Now Amazing Grace will be able to store fresh foods. If you are a gardener with an ample crop, please consider bringing your surplus to the food pantry at 16 Stack Street Mon., Wed., or Fri., between 10 and 5, or Sat. between 9 and 1.

Diaconate News

Wall of Fame Our Wall of Fame has been in the Fellowship Hall for about 3 years now. Some of the pictures are falling off the wall and some children we can no longer recognize any more. If you would like to update your family picture, now is the time to do it. Give us a copy of a recent family photo, perhaps your Christmas picture, and we will update our Wall of Fame. Hard or electronic copies can be sent to Kristin Battistoni (Kristin.battistoni@att.net).

Landscaping Thank you to everyone that helped plant the new landscape and spread mulch in May. We have been lucky that we have not had to water.

New Member Orientation Program The diaconate is looking to improve how we welcome new members. If you are a new member, please look for an email with a few simple questions about your experience here at FCCH. If anyone has comments about how we can make our church more welcoming, please send Kristin an email at Kristin.battistoni@att.net.

Visitation If you would like to receive a visit from the pastor or know of someone who is in need, please contact the church office or sign up in the church vestibule. If you are signing up a friend, please make sure they are aware they will be receiving a visit before you sign them up.

Large Print Bulletins Did you forget your glasses? Large print bulletins as well as large print bibles are available. If you would like large copies of hymns, please let us know. Ask a deacon for a copy if you are interested.

Flower Bulbs: We are going to be holding a fundraiser for spring bulbs to be sold via email and at the Farmers' Market. They come from a Connecticut nursery and will be delivered to the church in September. Help will be needed to sort the bulbs when they arrive. If you can help, please contact Kristin Battistoni Kristin.battistoni@att.net. Keep watching the Sunday bulletin and email for more news about this project, the wide variety of bulbs that will be available, and ordering information.

Music Committee

Music for July

We have arranged a great line-up of special music for July while Eric is on vacation and the choir is on their summer sabbatical. On July 3rd, **Roy Craig** will bring his guitar to serenade you. On July 10th, we have the **Circle Consortium Recorder Ensemble**. On July 17th, **Gunnar Soneson**. On July 24th, **Emma Soneson**. On July 31st, **Suzanne Wintsch with Eileen Sypher**. If you're looking for a change from our normal choir anthems, try to attend one or all of the services in July.

John Anderson, Chair, Music Committee

Christian Education Committee

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following people for their time, energy and talent. Their dedication made this year both meaningful and fun for our children and youth.

Rotation Teachers:

Tracy Thompson
Patty Blodgett
Steve Bull

Laurie Malone
Cherylann Hunt
Jennifer Kelly

Sue Craffey
Liz Anderson
Lynn Halligan

Missy Steinhilper

3 & 4 year old Teacher: Val Williams

Teaching Assistants:

Lindsay Bull
Logan Craffey
Jordan Dole

Gunnar Soneson
Maddie Gerace
Emma Soneson

Sonia Dole
Julie Faust
Taylor Steinhilper

Nursery caregiver: Sera Blair

Middle School Youth Group Leaders:

Nancy Soneson
Kris Foley (Killingworth Congregational)

Tracy Thompson

Lynn Halligan

Youth Ministers: Pastor Michael Malone Laurie Malone

Children's Choir Director: Liz Anderson

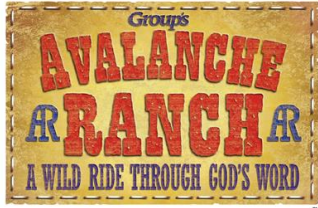
Thank you to the members of the Christian Education Committee: Tracy Thompson(co-chair), Lynn Halligan (co-chair), Debbie Duval, Cherylann Hunt, Jennifer Kelly and Val Williams.

Congratulations to the following children who received Good News Bibles:

Daniel LaRosa

Anna Mercier

Nate Wilkos



Vacation Bible School

Who: 4 year olds - entering grade 5

When: Monday-Friday, July 11– 15, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. - noon

Call the church office for a Registration form.

Confirmation Class: Beginning in September, Pastor Michael will be leading a Confirmation class for youth entering grades 8 and above. There will be a Confirmation Retreat the weekend of November 4 through 6. As we need to reserve places for the retreat, please let Pastor Michael know as soon as possible if your child is planning to attend.

We are happy to announce that Sera Blair will once again be providing nursery care for us beginning this fall!

Thank you to everyone who organized and provided baked goods for the July 2nd Bake Sale that helped fund Sera's position for the coming year!

Summer Sunday School Reminder

There will be no Sunday School or nursery coverage for the months of July and August. See you back on Rally Day, September 11th.

FROM HADDAM FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

Be Part of the Majority

Would you like to have a lawn sign on your yard that shows the community your part of the 88% that asks where and with whom your child is going? If so please contact Kathryn Glendon, Prevention Coordinator for Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition at 860-345-7498 or kglendon@hkyfs.org to sign up!

Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. Announces 2011 Mini-grant Awardees

These mini-grants in the amount of \$250.00 each are made possible by a Community Impact Grant awarded to YFS by the Middlesex United Way. The organizations and individuals listed below will implement programs or activities that will increase developmental assets and will promote safe, healthy and drug free communities in Haddam-Killingworth during 2011.

- Haddam-Killingworth High School GLASS Group
- Haddam-Killingworth High School Media Center: Dave Matthews
- Haddam-Killingworth High School Advisory Group: Christine Kehrley
- First Congregational Church of Haddam Middle School Youth Group
- First Congregational Church of Haddam Interfaith Youth Group
- Haddam-Killingworth High School Book Club: Jaime Allesandrine
- Haddam-Killingworth High School Leadership Program: Jaime Allesandrine
- H-K Boys' Lacrosse Club
- Out of School Youth Centered Activities: Virginia Greene
- H-K Touchdown Club, Flag Football Event: Doug Sumner
- H-K Project Graduation



Save the Date!!

Youth and Family Benefit Pumpkin Run/Walk; Race for the Kids
Sunday October 30, 2011