

The GOOD News

May The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam 2011

WHAT'S UP?

May 1
2nd Sunday of Easter
2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

May 8
3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 35-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

May 15
4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

5th Sunday of Easter
May 22
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 29
6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

We are having a spring clean up day on Sunday, May 15, 2011, after worship. You're your blue jeans, bring your gloves, rakes, trimmers or whatever else you can think of to help us spruce up our Church campus. The amount of time required will be dependent on the number of volunteers, so we request many hands to make the project go quickly. Any questions, please contact a member of the Prudential Committee.

The 144th Spring Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference will take place at The Congregational Church of Naugatuck on May 14, 2011. See page 9 for additional details.

Roast Beef Dinner May 21!

Come enjoy a delicious roast beef dinner, expertly prepared by **Scottish Dave**, with the help of volunteers from the Church. This will be the fourth annual roast beef dinner at First Church, and all who come really enjoy the good food, conversation and hospitality. Dinner includes all-you-can-eat roast beef, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, dessert and soft drinks. The cost is a very reasonable \$12 per person or \$40 per family. Take out is available. The date is **Saturday, May 21st, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**; for tickets or information, contact the church office at 345-2742



WHAT'S NEW?

Children's Sunday & Ice Cream Social



June 12th



Vacation Bible School

July 11th – July 15th

(See page 8 for details)



See Pastor Michael's Monthly "Message" (next page) to find out what "Giv²" is

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



The first Giv² event for Middlesex County will take place in Higganum on May 14, from 9-4. What is Giv²? Giv² is a CORPS of youth and adults giving back to our community in response to the gifts of God. Giv² is designed for middle and high school youth in grades 7 through 12 who want to explore their faith through service and fellowship. Our local Giv² chapter is made up of churches from Essex, Chester, Killingworth, and Haddam of various denominations.

Our name, "Give Squared," reflects the simple reality that faithful people have known for centuries: when we give, we also receive. We give our time and labor in the service of others, and in return we are blessed with gifts of gratitude, compassion, and wisdom. Our gifts of hospitality multiply exponentially when we work together to heal the world!

Our church is hosting this event, and area churches and other youth organizations will be joining us. Our first project will be working at the home of Nancy, Paul, and Steven Geromin. Steven, age 12, suffered a traumatic brain injury during birth. According to a recent article in *The Hartford Courant*, "Steven, who was diagnosed with renal atrophy at age 7 and has a multitude of health challenges including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, scoliosis, and vision impairment, uses a wheelchair to get around."

Youth and adults will do yard work, painting, cleaning, and other routine maintenance for the Geromins. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Michael or Laurie. The house is located at 26 Geromin Drive in Higganum. Parking is limited, so carpool if you can. A huge thanks to HKYFS for awarding FCCH a \$250 mini-grant to be used on the Geromins' house.

Pastor Michael

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Please keep the following church family and friends in your prayers throughout May: **Cherylann Hunt's family** as Cherylann's mother **Patricia Bystrek** passed away; **Ursula Hunter**; **Sue Craffey**; **William Porter**, Jan Berry's brother in hospice care; **George Mason**; **Marge Gephard**, who is convalescing; **Victor Marek, Jr.**; Deb Duval's friend **Cary Nigro** who is in rehab; and **Gabriella Zilahy**.



Deb Duval prepares salad at the Meatloaf Kitchen.

The Meatloaf Kitchen!

Saturday, April 2, 2011, Rev. Michael and Laurie Malone, Deb Duval and Cheryl Chandler drove to NYC to work in the Meatloaf Kitchen that Gunnar Sonesson and Logan Craffey worked in for the January 2011, YSOP trip. We brought bags of gently used jeans that FCCH members had previously sorted, and we distributed them at the Kitchen and to a nearby women's shelter.

We worked from 9:00 – 3:00 preparing and serving a meatloaf dinner to 300 guests. We cut bread, frosted cakes, greeted and served guests, flattened cardboard, made peanut butter and jelly bagels, refilled coffee from downstairs to upstairs, handed out coats,

made tossed salad, egg salad, tuna salad, plated dinners, served dinners at the table, swept floors, washed tables, washed floors, stacked chairs and cleaned bathrooms.

Here is some background information on the Meatloaf Kitchen.

The Meatloaf Kitchen, University Community Social Services, Lower Eastside Manhattan, NY

Mission

To serve a wholesome, freshly made meal each Saturday in a respectful atmosphere to anyone who comes through our doors, no questions asked. To provide a welcoming place of respite for guests and offer vital social services to those in need. To serve guests like they would be served in a restaurant with servers and red and white table cloths. To accomplish this with an all-volunteer staff, without a single employee.

History

University Community Social Services was founded in 1982 by two university professors who saw a great need among the many homeless people in their neighborhood. Every week since inception, through blackouts, heat waves, blizzards, and even the terrorist attack of 9-11, the kitchen has been there, serving literally hundreds of thousands of meals to needy New Yorkers.

Lay Readers Wanted: FCCH is looking for youth or adults interested in being lay readers at Sunday worship for the Call to Worship or the Scripture lesson. Please speak to Laurie Malone if you are willing to serve.

Mission Trip to Costa Rica!

During April vacation, 2012 (4/14/12- 4/22/12), an adventurous group of FCCH and local community members will be embarking on a mission/service project to Puerto Jimenez, Costa Rica. Puerto Jimenez is located on the southwestern Osa Peninsula, a remote area of the country that lacks access to many of the amenities and infrastructures available to the rest of the country. It is also an extremely sensitive area ecologically and is therefore a conservation hotspot. Anita Deeg-Carlin (new church member) will be leading the trip with the help of Pastor Michael and Cheryl Chandler (HKYFS). Anita has a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management and has lived in and led trips to the Osa Peninsula for ten years. She is thrilled to bring her experience with this special place to our church.

The trip is a great opportunity for any age, especially teenagers. Participants will be immersed in all aspects of the local community. We will work with a church on a variety of projects, depending on the current need and the skills of our group. Typical projects involve construction work, like repairs to community buildings (i.e. church, clinic, school, etc.) and always include plenty of opportunities to practice other skills (teaching, painting, cooking, planting, entertaining, etc.). Participants are encouraged to stay with local families (homestays), as the culture is extremely hospitable and eager to interact personally with visitors, no matter the Spanish ability! Whatever the details of the trip, we will certainly bond as a group, exchange skills with the locals, and bring back knowledge, experience, and memories that will enrich and strengthen both our community and our efforts to serve here at home.

We plan to fly as a group into San Jose international airport and travel by bus (approx. 6hrs.) down to the Osa Peninsula for a week of work, sun, and fun. We will have a "home base" at El Ceibo Lodge, a small, rustic, family-run lodge located a few miles outside of town. From there, we can get to our service/home stay sites as well as go on a few adventures of our choice to see dolphins, monkeys, macaws, beaches, etc.

The entire cost will be around \$1800 per person (airfare included); children 5 & under are \$800 as room/board is free for them at El Ceibo (prices subject to change depending on airfare and number of participants). We will try to fundraise as much as we can, around 50% (thank you, Cheryl Chandler for volunteering to coordinate this effort!). We will accept participants on a first-come-first-served basis, for a maximum of 20 people. A deposit of \$100/individual or family is required by June 30. An informational meeting will be held after church at 11:15 on May 15th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The following children and youth will be celebrating a birthday this month:

Melissa Manley	May 1	Juliette Homicki	May 13
John Abbott	May 5	Natalie Blodgett	May 17
Kevin Hunt	May 6	Brianna Abbott	May 17
Oksana Nichols	May 6	Tony LaBella	May 18
Kimberly Buracchi	May 12		



COMMITTEE NEWS

Christian Service

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who participates in our local mission projects. The AMAZING GRACE FOOD PANTRY collection is going well. We collected 8 boxes of pasta, 25 jars of spaghetti sauce, 21 cans of tuna, 23 jars of peanut butter, 16 boxes of cereal and 3 miscellaneous items. PENNIES FROM HEAVEN provided \$40 for the Fidelco project. The April/May "pennies" will go to the Haddam Fuel bank and the June collection will go to New Horizon Women's Shelter.

TAG and BAKE sale on April 30, 2011 benefited our church's mission activities. Cleaning house and sharing your unwanted items with the church has far reaching benefits. This year for a \$25.00 donation, families were able to have their own table out in front of the church. Thanks to those who helped us set up on April 28 and April 29, and to those who helped price and display their own items. There were two new ideas this year as well. One was a special table for recycled gifts (new items that just do not suit you) and the other, early admission to the sale starting at 7:30 for a \$3.00 fee. Early Birds get the best items. Thanks to those who helped with clean-up at the end.

There will be a quilt show at the church the first week in December. A featured quilt will be "Phoebe's Quilt" a wedding signature quilt from a local resident made in the middle 1800's. There will be an organizational meeting in May to begin the planning for this event. If you are interested in quilting and Haddam history, this might be a great opportunity for participation in church activities. Speak to Ginny Evensen for more information.

A Roast Beef Dinner will be held at the Church on May 21, 2011. This will be prepared by Scottish Dave and the men of our church. Plan to come and enjoy a delicious meal and good company. The proceeds from this event will support church programs.

Diaconate

Easter Flowers Thank you to Laurie Malone and Bari Edmondson for organizing the Easter flowers. The sanctuary looked beautiful as always.

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 no longer even recognize. If you would like to update your family picture, now is the time to do it. Give us a copy of your Christmas picture, and we will post it on the wall. Hard or electronic copies can be sent to Kristin Battistoni at Kristin.Battistoni@att.net

Landscaping We have collected two landscape proposals. The plans will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please cast your vote for the design you prefer. The winning design will be planted May 15th during the spring clean up.

St Vincent DePaul Thank you to Steve Bull for organizing the dinner served on April 3rd. Thanks to all the people that helped purchase, cook and serve the meal. Our next meal will be served September 25th. If you would like to help, please contact Steve Bull and watch the bulletin for details.

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. If anyone has comments on 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.

Music

Many thanks to members of the choir who provided the beautiful music for the Holy Week services. Thanks especially to Suzanne, Liz and Eric for the solos and duets, and a very special thanks to members of the congregation who jumped in to support the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter morning. I think we can call that a real success.

P. S. Now I know who to come after as permanent members of the choir!

The choir is limited only by the number of voices who consistently attend rehearsal and Sunday worship services, so come join us and we'll make beautiful music together. Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.

John Anderson, Chair, Music Committee

Stewardship

Stewardship is happy and proud to report that folks in this congregation stood up and responded to the call for help with our church's 2011 budget.

At the close of second Stewardship campaign in April, we had 57 committing units for a total dollar amount of \$98,220.00. Seventeen units increased their original commitment and we added ten new commitments.

This blessed response has helped to reduce the program cutbacks necessary to meet the budget and allows us to reduce our draw from the endowment while we continue to look for long-term solutions.

Also, as you know from our Prudential Committee and our Treasurer, each committee either drastically reduced the amount of money for their line item or actually brought their budget to zero with plans to raise money to pay for their expenses. All of this, combined with the efforts of many, demonstrates the dedication and faithfulness to First Congregational Church of Haddam. Thanks to all of you!!!!!!

To update you on Green Envelopes through March 27, 2011, we have \$107 for our Family Assistance Program; \$522 for our Bread for Fuel Program; \$237 for our Youth Mission Projects; \$106 for undesignated use, and \$100 towards our Endowment repayment. The total to date is \$1,072.00.

Again, thank you for your generosity and we look forward to continuing to do great things with our missions as we grow together in our spirituality and our giving as a faithful church community.

Respectfully, Cynthia Nicastro and Scott Thompson, Stewardship Co-Chairs

Christian Education



Children's Sunday

June 12, 2011

All Sunday School children are invited to participate in this lovely worship service!

Children's Sunday Rehearsal: June 5th

CT Conference & Faith Congregational Church

"Walking In the Spirit" A Youth Revival

Friday, May 13th 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Nancy Soneson and Tracy Thompson will be taking as many youth in 7th - 12th grade as would like to attend.



2011 Children's Mission Offering

Children are asked to remember to bring in their Sunday School Offering each week to help support our "adopted" dog, Bina.

Year-end-goal: \$800, To-date: \$212

Heifer International's Overlook Farm September 23-25, 2011



A huge thank you to Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth for awarding FCCH a \$250 mini-grant for our youth trip to Overlook Farm!

The grant was in acknowledgement of The First Congregational Church of Haddam's work to promote a safe, healthy, and drug free community. The funds were made available through the Middlesex United Way, Community Impact Grant.

What's this trip all about, you ask? We will be taking a group of youth and adults this fall to participate in the Global Gateway Program. Heifer Project International's mission is "to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth." At Overlook Farm, participants learn how they can become partners with Heifer in fulfilling this mission. Overlook Farm is one of Heifer's Learning Centers, or "living classrooms" and also a working example of the sustainable agriculture that Heifer supports around the world. In the Global Village program, participants experience the struggles that impoverished people face every day. For two days,

the youth "live the lives of others" and learn what it's like to live in a poverty stricken country like Honduras, Peru, or Haiti. By living this way, even for a short time, they will experience some of the challenges of poverty and hunger and hopefully come away with a desire to be part of the solution.

If you have a child currently in 5th grade and up who would be interested in going, please contact Nancy Soneson.

NEW Sunday School Schedule

May 29: No Sunday School, no nursery coverage

July & August: No Sunday School

Middle School Youth Group April Activities



Sun, May 14

GIV2 Mission House
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

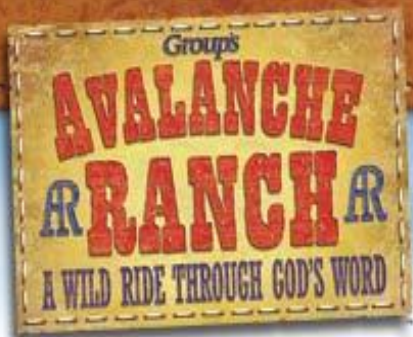


Sun, May 14

Pizza Party at DaVinci
Old Lyme, 11:30 -3 pm

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Thank you to Sera Blair for the time she has spent watching over our nursery-aged children in the Lewis House. Unfortunately, due to necessary budget cuts, Sera will no longer be staffing the nursery on Sunday mornings. Sera's last day will be June 5th.



WELCOME TO AVALANCHE RANCH

A WILD RIDE THROUGH GOD'S WORD!



Vacation Bible School

July 11 – July 15, 2011

9 a.m. – noon

Come to Avalanche Ranch, a wild ride through God's Word!
Get ready for an exciting celebration of God's love filled with stampeding cattle, yapping
cattle dogs, soaring eagles, and a whole herd of friends.



You'll enjoy creative crafts, exciting games, thrilling Bible stories, tasty snacks, and
unforgettable music.



Who: 4 year olds – entering 5th grade
When: Monday – Friday, July 11 – 15, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon



Where: First Congregational Church of Haddam, Haddam, CT
Cost: \$20.00 per child/ \$40.00 maximum per family
Contact the church office to register at FCC-Haddam@att.net or 860-345-2742.

This program is open to all children in our community so invite your friends! Registration opens
May 1st so plan ahead because space fills up quickly.

Many volunteers are needed for this wonderful program – both adults and teenagers. Please let Nancy
know if you are able to help out during the week of VBS.



FROM THE CT CONFERENCE



The 144th Annual Spring Meeting 2011 will take place at the **Congregational Church of Naugatuck, One Division Street, on Saturday, May 14, 2011.** The Theme this year is **Worship Remix!** The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. J. Mary Luti, Visiting Professor of Worship & Preaching at the Newton-Andover Theological School. Some have said that the Christian Church is in the middle of a Reformation. While the church continues to celebrate the best of our worship traditions, new ideas are surfacing. Our culture is changing. How does the Church respond with worship designs that are faithful and relevant to our world today? In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says that a scribe in the kingdom will be like a householder who brings out of his storeroom treasures both old and new. In Protestant worship renewal efforts of the last several years, most of the emphasis has been on bringing out the new. The keynote presentation will open the storeroom door and shine a light on some ancient worship practices that offer surprising "newness" for the ongoing work of worship renewal in our local congregations. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., with adjournment at 5:00 p.m. The agenda for the day is available at www.ctucc.org/annualmeeting.

FROM THE LOCAL UCC COMMUNITY

Dominican Republic Team '11

Local UCC churches including the Chester, Deep River and East Haddam Congregational churches are making a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this year. Please save **Friday, May 20** for a Wine and Cheese Tasting Fundraiser with a Silent Auction taking place at the Carriage House in Deep River

How can you help? (even if you are not local)

- Solicit items for our silent Auction.....goods from retailers , services, vacation homes for a week, balloon rides, bottles of wine, gift baskets, etc....if you need a tax exempt number for a retailer let us know.
- Gather items for a "tea cup" auction (items of lesser value....like a **pair of sunglasses or Christmas gifts that you will NEVER use**.....folks buy raffle tickets and place them in the " cup" in front of the item they would like to win!)
- Sell tickets...when they become available....even if folks can't come it is a way for them to contribute to a great cause.
- tell your friends, relatives and even folks you don't know

We also have a list of "collection" items we need....they can be brought to the United Church of Chester beginning AFTER Easter! Thanks for ANY support you can give

Dominican Republic Team '11 MEDICINES

*No prescription meds can be accepted. Only unopened sample packs from your physician or if you have access to a pharmaceutical company unopened bottles can be taken to the DR. **Please note:** only specific kinds of medicines are needed and can be used so contact one of our nurses for more info. (Jamie nxyi77@yahoo.com or Melanie mchrn2@gmail.com)*

Over-the-counter Medicines: Generic Tums, Generic Tylenol (Acetaminophen), Generic Motrin (Ibuprofen), Generic Aleve (Naproxen), Antibiotic Ointments and Creams (such as bacitracin, Neosporin, etc), Vaginal Yeast Infection Treatments, Multivitamins for Adults and pregnant women, Children's Chewable vitamins, Infant drops, Generic Anti-fungal Creams, Pregnancy Tests (dollar store!) Condoms, and Sunglasses.

From Haddam/Killingworth Youth and Family Services

Summer Program for Youth

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. are pleased to announce plans again this year for the *Summer Program for Youth*. The week long themed weeks will be offered for youth entering grades 7-9 in the fall of 2011. *Session 1*: will be held June 27, 2011-July 1, 2011 from 9-4 (Monday through Friday). *Session 2*: will be held July 11, 2011-July 15, 2011 (Monday through Friday). Space is limited to 10 per session. Cost is \$200.00 per week / \$175 additional sibling. Partial or full confidential scholarships are available. Call Youth and Family Services for further information at 345-7498, or visit their website at www.hkyfs.org. The Summer Program for Youth aims to promote teamwork, friendship, self-esteem, and a sense of community through significant 5-day experiences. Activities will foster self-confidence and mutual respect among youth and at the same time provide summer fun!

Family Connections

Submitted By Laurin Franco

Family Connections is a group of parents of adopted children from the community, meeting to discuss issues unique to their family. The group was recently formed and is growing with each passing week with members welcoming new families. Some of the topics discussed during meetings are: sharing adoption stories, working through common concerns, discussing the different stages of families with adopted children, sharing experiences, sharing resources, and providing a safe environment for families that can relate to one another. *Family Connections* is offered through Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. and is led by a graduate intern with experience in adoption issues. *Family Connections* is an open meeting, so that those interested can join at any time. Please contact Laurin Franco at lfranco@hkyfs.org or at 860-345-7498 for meeting information and to sign up.

W.E.L.L.(Women Encouraging Living Life

Submitted by Shelby Englund)

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth is offering a weekly meeting for women in the community to come discuss and share with one another in a comfortable environment. Topics can include: relationships, health, family, jobs, friendships, and many others. The meetings take place at H-K High School lower media from 5:30-6:30pm. Please contact Laurin Franco or Shelby Englund at 860-345-7498 for meeting information and to sign up.