

The GOOD News

November

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam

2011

WHAT'S UP?

**Nov. 6
21st Sun.**

**After Pentecost
Worship 10:00 am**
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

**Nov. 13
22nd Sun.**

**After Pentecost
Worship 10:00 am**
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

**Nov. 20
Christ the King
Worship 10:00 am**
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1; 15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

**Nov. 27
Advent 1
Worship 10:00 am**
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Costa Rica Pasta Dinner

Nov. 11 @ 5:30

A pasta dinner to raise funds for our mission trip to Costa Rica will be held on **Friday, Nov. 11** in the Fellowship Hall. For details see page 2 and be sure to mark your calendars now.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

We are having a fall clean up day on **Saturday, November 12th, 2011, at 9:00**. 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.



ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP & LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 20, 2011; 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Fellowship Hall

WHAT'S NEW?



The Annual Community Thanksgiving Service

will be held at the Higganum Congregational Church Nov 22 at 7:30 PM. Please bring a canned or non-perishable item to the service for our local food pantry.

Advent Services

First Advent Nov. 27
Second Advent Dec. 4
Christmas Pageant Dec. 11
Fourth Advent Dec. 18
Christmas Eve services:
4:30 and 10:00 pm

On Nov. 5, 2011



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Recently I have been making bread with Brian O'Rourke from O'Rourke's Diner in Middletown. I met Brian at the Higganum Farmer's Market when he stopped by to sample our bread, and he asked about our Bread for Heat Program. Brian was impressed by our mission to the local community, and he made a donation and bought a loaf of bread. He also invited me to the restaurant to bake with him and he would donate loaves to our Friday table at the market.

I was intimidated by Brian's offer. He is one of the most famous chefs in the state, and he runs a busy diner that frequently has long lines of customers out the door waiting to eat. I would be embarrassing myself working alongside a professional chef who makes outstanding breads every day. Still, I was unable to say no: I took him up on his generous offer.

And Brian is a pro. An authentic professional makes magic. Brian has a magic apron. The apron is more than a garment to protect his clothing; it is a tool for cooking. It serves also as a pot holder and an egg carrier. He carries an amazing number of eggs in the lap of that apron. But eggs are not all he carries--almost effortlessly. I'll explain.

One day while eating in the diner, I noticed a woman who had come in looking for Brian. She was a street person who knew Brian well, and she was there looking for assistance. Brian offered her words of encouragement to "stay off the stuff" and then he handed her some food to takeout.

I told a friend who is a retired chef what I was learning from Brian, and he told me a story about Brian I will never forget. For years a child from Saint John School in Middletown would walk over to the diner at noontime, and within minutes he would leave the restaurant with bags in tow. Every day while school was in session, O'Rourke's donated meals to the nuns. I was learning more than bread making skills from my teacher. I was learning about generosity.

In Luke's version of Jesus' sermon on the mount, Jesus says "give and it will be given to you," and "the measure you give will be the measure you get back." In other words, God will be as generous with us as we are generous with God. After all, whatever we may have is really not even ours--it is God's on loan to us. We are to be wise and generous stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

A few years ago when the original O'Rourke's Diner burned down without adequate insurance, the people of the community pitched in to rebuild the restaurant. People who had frequented the establishment for decades knew how important the restaurant was to the spirit of the North End community of Middletown and how generous the owners had been to the community.

I am also astonished by the Christian generosity of giving in our church and the ministry we can accomplish through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure. But it shouldn't be a surprise, because Jesus said, "*Give and it will be given you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.*"

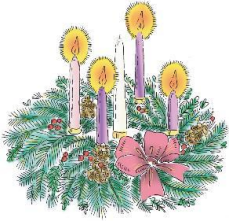
So let us be thankful for all that Christ has blessed us with, generous in our giving, and ready to receive abundantly more from God.

Pastor Michael

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

A group of 20 local participants will head to the Osa Peninsula for Costa Rica for a community service/mission project in April, 2012. We will hold a Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser on Nov. 11th in the Fellowship Hall. This feast includes meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and brownie sundaes (byob). Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Tickets will be available at coffee hour: \$8 per adult, \$5 per child under 12. The cost at the door is \$9/\$6. Veterans are encouraged to come as you will receive a \$2 discount!

For more details about the trip, see the Costa Rica table at coffee hour (we still have openings for the trip!) or email Anita Deeg-Carlin at anitadeeg@yahoo.com.



Advent Wreath Making Workshop and Community Outreach

Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee

Sunday, November 20, 2011

(the weekend before Thanksgiving)

11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
A great activity for all ages!!

Make your own fresh Advent wreath and learn more about how you can celebrate Advent at home with your family, enjoy good food and fellowship.

Please complete this form and return to the church office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of adults _____ #of children _____

I plan to make _____ wreath(s) at \$10.00 each (cost of materials). Payment may be made the day of the event.

I will be able to bring

- chili
- macaroni & cheese
- a dessert
- bread
- fruit
- juice or milk

I am able to help with

- set-up
- Clean-up

I can supply greens the day of the event _____ y/n

Deadline for registration is Sunday, November 6. Please return this form to the church office at P.O. Box 215, Haddam, CT 06438 or place in offering plate on Sunday.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Tyler Rettberg	Nov. 11
Emma Soneson	Nov. 12
Carly-Rose Rettberg	Nov. 13
Victoria Munster	Nov. 29

CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWS



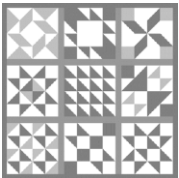
When you are hospitalized, you or your family members should notify the church as soon as possible. Upon admission to the hospital, you will be asked if you desire to have your religious affiliation as part of your medical record, and for permission to make your name available to clergy. Please state both your denomination and church name.

Also, please pray for the following who need our support: the **Duval family** as they mourn the loss of Deb's father; **Ursula Hunter**; **Candy Casale** and the family of **Jim Buck** who passed away; **Liz Anderson**; **Ginny Evensen**, who is recovering from hip surgery at home.

COMMITTEES

Christian Service

We will be making 14 **Thanksgiving dinners**--minus the turkey--for families in Haddam. Beginning Sunday, October 30, 2011, there will be a poster in the vestibule with the items we need listed and 14 tags under each item. Take as many tags as you can and bring the items on Sunday, November 20, 2011. The children will decorate 14 boxes to hold the items and the boxes will be delivered to Haddam Public Health to be distributed to the families.



The plans for the **First Christmas Quilt show** to be held on December 3, 2011 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm are coming together. We are looking for people to be monitors in the sanctuary. Visitors are not allowed to touch any of the quilts. If someone wants a better look at a quilt, a monitor wearing white gloves will handle the fabric. Please try to save 2 or 3 hours during that day to help with the show. We will also need helpers in the Tea Room and in the kitchen.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who brought paper goods on Sunday, October 30, 2011. These will be given to the food pantry at Haddam Public Health. Keep Amazing Grace in your thoughts when you go grocery shopping and take advantage of sales! Why not even write "Amazing Grace" on your grocery list!

Stewardship

As we enter the formal season of Stewardship, we hope you will be present each Sunday to learn more and more about how committing to our church shows our generosity and our discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Our Consecration Sunday will be December 4, 2011 and we are hopeful and we pray that each of us in the congregation will submit a commitment this year. We hope to have at least 70 commitments for a total of \$120,000 on Consecration Sunday. Again, since Thanksgiving and Christmas are two special holidays, when we all traditionally give thanks for our many blessings, we are also hopeful that, if you have not in the past, you will be inspired, to make your commitment to First Congregational Church of Haddam.

As we noted last month, Stewardship is a part of our discipleship. As disciples we learn to be faithful to our Lord and to our church. Stewardship is each and every one of us giving of our time, talent, and treasure to make our individual and our collective discipleship successful and effective. Becoming a generous people depends on the way we express our faith and the way we look at life.

We hope you will enjoy reading the Stewardship inserts in our bulletin each Sunday. May each of us come to a better understanding of the abundance of good and God in our lives, and let us each "Count Ourselves Blessed" and join actively in the discipleship of our church.

Wishing you all good things,

The Stewardship Committee: Cynthia Nicastro, Scott Thompson, John Anderson and Sue Twachtman

Stewardship from a younger perspective...

What does the church mean to me? This is the question that I have been asked to think about for the past month, and finally I have an answer to share with you all. The Church to me is a family away from home. I have gone to this church since I was born and it is a huge part of my life. This is where I met some of my first friends, got my first babysitting jobs, and met people that I will know for the rest of my life. A church is not just some place that you go to every Sunday to pray, a church is a group of people that love and support you through the tough and easy. They watch you grow up to become the person you were destined to be.

Throughout the years, our church has helped so many people, there is just no way to count. You always hear how they go to people's houses that are sick and what not. But it's nothing like experiencing it firsthand. This past spring, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and we felt like our world was slowly drifting away. We were devastated by this news, and it was hard enough for my mother to tell us children first, never mind having to go to the people that we have known for at least 23 years, with this monumental news. When I first discovered that my mother was diagnosed, it hit me like a bullet. You don't know if you should cry, hug them, kiss them, etc. However, the one thing that I was completely 100% sure of was that I could turn to God. I knew that God would help me through the toughest of our times. The church family was made up of some of the most supportive people that my mother had told. They immediately asked when her first round would start and then came up with a schedule. Throughout her treatments, it was very hard for my mother to make meals because she was so tired, and for a mother of four and still having two living in the house on an everyday basis and running around with sports, it was hard to know what to do for dinners. But with their help, we were able to have a meal every night. Our church family were so supportive of my mother, that they would hope she would come to church every other week when she was feeling up to it, so that they could ask her how she was doing and if there was anything that they could do.

To many people, these actions may not seem like a lot, but to my family, they meant the world. Our church showed us that we were not fighting this alone. We had God and the love of others on our side to be beat this terrible illness. This is why our church is special to me.

Logan Craffey

Christian Education



On Saturday, October 15, 27 youth and 20 adults, from the Congregational churches in Essex, Haddam, Killingworth and St. Joseph's in Chester worked at a house in Ivoryton whose owner is on a fixed income. With donations from Essex Hardware, the group was able to paint the entire exterior, two interior rooms, clean up the yard, mulch flower beds and make many small repairs throughout the house, including replacing cracked tile, leaky gutters, a faulty light switch and caulking drafty windows. The team worked tirelessly for several hours and many remarked at how much fun they had while working side by side with new friends. This multi-generational group (ages 12 – 83) really got the job done! This picture shows most of the group surrounding the homeowner, Mary, seated in the center. Be on the lookout for news about upcoming Giv² projects that you can be a part of.



Rotation Model Sunday School

The children will be finishing up the Sunday school rotation, **Bible Blast- Part 2**, on November 13th. During this rotation series, the children participated in the following workshops:

Art Workshop: The children learn that the Bible is a treasured book which gives us instructions about how to live. They will also learn about mezuzahs and make a clay mezuzah of their own.

Video Workshop: Children in Grades K – 1st will watch “Martin the Cobbler”, a video based on a Leo Tolstoy story.

Archeology Workshop: In this workshop, the children will review bible stories they have learned about in the past and put them in chronological order. They will identify symbols from each story and then go on an archeological dig or scavenger hunt looking for the symbols (artifacts).

Games/Bible Study: Older children will dive into the bible, learning more about the bible's structure. They will play Bible Books Balloon Burst to reinforce what they have learned.

Thank you to the following teachers and assistants: Sue Craffey, Cheryl Hotkowski, Lynn Halligan, and Katherine Dole.

2011 Children's Christmas Pageant

December 11, 2011

10:00 a.m. service

Rehearsal schedule will be posted in Fellowship Hall.



Congratulations to the following children who will receive their own “The Beginner’s Bible” on November 13th during the morning service:

Kai Carlin
Audrey LaRosa
Adam Livingston
Mackenzie Pierce
Isabella Wintsch



Mitten Tree

Hat and Mitten Tree

Starting on November 27th, the Sunday school will be collecting new hats, mittens, and scarves for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program in Middletown. You may either place items in the basket in the vestibule or on the tree down in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors warm this winter.

Middle School Youth Group



Cookies-In-A-Jar Fundraiser **Sun., November 13th** **4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

We will be making Cookies-in-a-jar to sell as a mission fundraiser. Each family is asked to bring in at least one ingredient for the project.

If any member of the congregation would like to donate an item (sugar, flour, chocolate chips, or brown sugar), that would be greatly appreciated. All items can be left in the basket in the church vestibule.



**Youth Service Mission Trip
New York City
January 6-7, 2012**

A mission trip for youth in 8th grade and above.
Contact Pastor Malone or the church office if you are
interested in attending.

**Our youth at Overlook Farm
September 23-25, 2010**



**Thank you to our Overlook Farm trip
participants for providing the Sunday service on
October 30th !**

IN THE COMMUNITY

The **Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition** has launched its new website at www.hc-hk.org please check it out!! The mission of the Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition is to engage every sector of the community in an effort to change policy, educate, and implement strategies to prevent and reduce substance abuse, other risky behavior, and to promote the wellness of the community. Please join us at our next meeting on November 16, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at Haddam Killingworth Middle School. For further questions please call Kathryn Glendon, prevention Coordinator at 860-345-7498 or email at kglendon@hkyfs.org.

Do you have unwanted or expired prescription medications and want to dispose of them safely? Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition, an initiative of Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc., is hosting a Drug Take Back Program on October 29, 2011 at the Killingworth Town Hall from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This is a free collection and safe disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Please bring your medication in its original containers, with the name crossed out. We will not accept illegal drugs or paraphernalia. If you would like more information on this program please visit our website www.hkyfs.org or call Kathryn Glendon at 860-345-7498

Stuff a Cruiser in Haddam and Killingworth

On Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. there will be an opportunity to stuff the cruiser that belongs to Haddam Resident State Trooper James Connelly with gifts that will be distributed by Youth and Family Services during the holidays. Please come to the Higganum Green in Higganum Center where the cruiser will be parked. In Killingworth, Killingworth Resident Trooper Matthew Ward will be at the Killingworth Transfer Station on the same date and time. Refreshments will be served. Please remember our teens during this holiday season as well as young children. If you need ideas, please call Youth and Family Services at 860-345-7498.

Youth and Family Services Holiday Giving Program 2011

The holiday giving program facilitated by Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. is available for needy families in the Haddam-Killingworth community. Gifts/toys will be collected for children and youth from birth through age 18 from November 12, 2011 through December 2, 2011. For more information about how you can donate, or to register for this confidential program call 345-7498 and ask for Cheryl.