

# The GOOD News

October

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam

2011

## WHAT'S UP?

**Oct. 2**  
**World Communion**  
**Sunday**

**16th Pentecost**  
**Worship 10:00 am**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

**Oct. 9**  
**17th Pentecost**  
**Worship 10:00 am**

Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

**Oct. 16**  
**18th Pentecost**  
**Worship 10:00 am**

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

**Oct. 23**  
**19th Pentecost**  
**Worship 10:00 am**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

**Oct. 30**  
**20th Pentecost**  
**Worship 10:00 am**

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### CROP WALK

**OCTOBER 2, 2011 12:30 PM**

C(communities) R(esponding) to O(vercome) P(poverty) is a program of Church World Service to help fight hunger and poverty throughout the world. "We will walk because they walk." Many people in the world must walk miles each day for food and water. We will walk on a beautiful day in the fall in New England in Chatfield Hollow State park to raise money for the Haddam food bank, Amazing Grace Food Pantry and Helping Hands in Killingworth, and for people all over the world. All the faith communities in Haddam and Killingworth will be invited to participate. Encourage your friends to join us in the walk.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Oct 1 & 2 10-5 for the NBC Health and Wellness Festival in Hartford, CT. The Epilepsy Foundation of CT is looking for volunteers to distribute epilepsy information and talk about its organization to the public. Anyone interested please contact Allison at [agamber.efct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agamber.efct@sbcglobal.net).

### 144<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 144th Fall Annual Meeting of the CT Conference will be held on Saturday, October 22 from 8AM to 5PM at First Congregational Church of Guilford; the Authorized Ministers' Luncheon will be held the previous day, October 21, at Crowne Plaza Cromwell.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### CHURCH OFFICES MOVE!!!

After a rough week or so, things seem to be running smoothly at our "new" offices in Lewis House. Ironically, church staff and volunteers geared up to move out of Trinity House and into Lewis House the day before Irene. Irene, of course, caused much serious damage to our state which we are grateful to have avoided at the church campus; however, many frustrating and wildly inconvenient effects of Irene were felt during the office move. One was partial loss of our phone and internet service—our main line—with AT&T pretty busy elsewhere. As a result, it took us awhile to get up and operating again. But things are good. Do stop in and visit us in the beautiful, antique Lewis House.



**Nov. 5**

## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

One of the greatest strengths of this church is our Christian Education ministry. Nancy Soneson and the Christian Education Committee do an outstanding job teaching our children the basic stories of the Bible and help our youth develop their Christian faith by engaging them in mission. But Christian Education is not just for children and youth. For our faith to deepen and grow we must continually nurture our own faith development so that we can develop an adult faith.

Beginning on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 7 PM in the Lewis House, I will be offering a five-week course entitled "Embracing An Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian." Each session will begin with a DVD segment that will stimulate our conversation on the subjects of God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice, and Community. There is a small fee, \$13 per individual or couple, to cover the cost of materials.

On Mondays, beginning Oct. 3, a new book group will meet to discuss "The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World", by Bob Abernathy and William Bole from the PBS show *Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly*. I will also lead the group in a short guided meditation. You can either purchase the book or I will have copies of each reading available.

Faith development is a lifelong journey, and it's never too late to get started.

*Pastor Michael*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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



Ben Williams October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Isabelle Wintsch October 9  
Daniel Craig October 18<sup>th</sup>  
Abigail Manley October 28<sup>th</sup>  
Evan Vincent October 30

## **COMMITTEES**

### **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Our **CROP HUNGER WALK** will be held in Chatfield Hollow State Park on October 2, 2011 at 12:30 pm. This is an opportunity both to get exercise and to help feed people in Middlesex County and around the world. Part of the money will go to pay for homebound meals for Haddam seniors, and part goes to Amazing Grace. We need lots of sponsors. COME HELP US!!

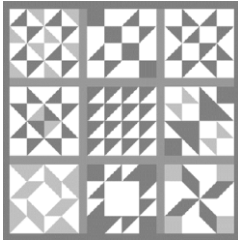
We have been asked to make **Thanksgiving Dinners** for 14 Haddam families. We provide all the ingredients except the turkeys. Our Sunday school children will decorate the boxes and on November 20, 2011 we will assemble the dinners and take them to Haddam Public Health. By mid October there will be a poster in the vestibule with tickets for each item. Take which ever items you would be able to provide or contribute money which will be spent for the items. Hopefully with our help 14 families in our neighborhood will have a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner.

### **CHRISTMAS QUILT SHOW**

On December 3, there will be a quilt show in the sanctuary. This event is an all church activity which we invite you to join to help to make it a great day. If you have a special quilt it can be shown in the event. Applications will be available in the vestibule. We need to have these applications returned by November 15, 2011, so we can plan the layout. Directions on the application will explain how to present your quilt.

Advertisements have been sent to all the quilt shops in the local area. There will be vendors selling quilt materials and craft supplies. A Christmas Tea Room will offer soup and bread, dessert and coffee or tea.

As you see, there will be lots of opportunities for everyone to help make this event a success.



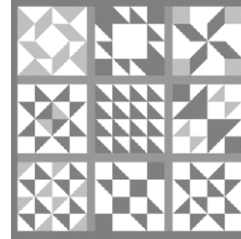
## CHRISTMAS QUILT SHOW

December 3, 2011

9:30am to 4:30 pm

100 quilts to be displayed.

TEA ROOM Vendors



## STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee met for the first time, in this new season, on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed a new member, Sue Twachtman, who immediately stepped up to the plate and took meeting minutes. It is great to have her on board and to have a full committee.

It was decided that this year's formal Stewardship Campaign will begin on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and end Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> with December 4<sup>th</sup> as Consecration Sunday. It will be a five week campaign and we will be disseminating related materials each week. We are hopeful that you will welcome this more focused campaign. And, since Thanksgiving and Christmas are two special holidays, when we all traditionally give thanks for our many blessings, that you will be inspired, at this time of the year, with the spirit of generosity while making your commitments to First Congregational Church of Haddam. Commitments/Pledging is about generosity and discipleship. We are not just members of our church, but we are disciples and we are given the responsibility of taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves and of taking care of all of our members and our facilities so that we and they will be here for future generations.

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. We welcome each and every one of you to share responsibly in the Stewardship of the First Congregational Church of Haddam. Join a committee. Get involved with one of the many Christian activities our church is part of: Bread for Fuel, Crop Walk, and Habitat for Humanity, Pennies from heaven, St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen, and youth mission trips to feed the poor and the disenfranchised and also our Sunday school and youth programs through which we teach our youth the value of generosity and sharing, because they are blessed, and because we try to teach them that we live out of our understanding of who we are in relationship to God, to one another, and to the world.

Let us each "Count Ourselves Blessed" and join actively in the discipleship of our church.

Yours truly, the Stewardship Committee:

Cynthia Nicastro, Scott Thompson, John Anderson and Sue Twachtman

## DIACONATE

**Meals Needed** The store of meals that can be taken to those in need is low. If you can make a meal to provide to someone who needs help, please label it with the date made, list the ingredients and give cooking instructions. Food can be brought to the church freezer.

**Changes to the vestibule** Please note the changes done to the vestibule in church. We have rearranged some things to make it easier to see new important information and goings on in the church. If you have something you would like to post please feel free to use the bulletin board.

**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.

**Lay Service** We are having a lay service October 30<sup>th</sup> while Michael has a day off. If you would like to participate please contact Kristin Battistoni.

**Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices** 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. Do you have a hard time hearing Pastor Michael? We have also improved two hearing devices, please see a deacon if you would like to try one.

**Thank You** Thank you to everyone that bought flower bulbs during our fundraiser. We made almost \$400.00. The proceeds will be used for landscaping next spring.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Sunday School Registration



Registration forms and Christian Education Handbooks are located on the church web site, [www.haddamcongregation.org](http://www.haddamcongregation.org) or from the church vestibule or office. As a reminder, all children from infant to Grade 8 must have a current registration form on file.

#### Sign-up for Teaching and Assisting

We are currently looking for teachers and assistants for the following rotations:

Bible Blast #2	Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>
The Great ADVENTure	Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> – Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>

Sign-up sheet is located on the CE bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Community service hours will be awarded to High School students.



All those teaching workshops for the *Bible Blast #2* rotation are asked to meet before church on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to receive an introduction to the lesson. The meeting will take place in the Lewis House from 9:15 a.m.–9:50 a.m.

## Confirmation Class



### CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINNING

The Confirmation process for youth grades eight and up begins Sunday morning at 9 AM on October 9 in the Lewis House. We will discuss our program for the year, expectations, and how to find a mentor that will guide participants through the process. Important dates to remember include our first Giv2 event on Oct 15 from 12-4 in Essex, the Confirmation Retreat at Silverlake Nov. 4-6, and a possible YSOP retreat January 6-7 in NY City. Confirmands and their Mentors will also be involved in worship by lighting the Advent Wreath each week. So far we have 8 youth enrolled.

### GIV2 EVENT

Ten youth and five adults attended the Giv2 kickoff in Essex last month. Our first mission event will take place in Ivoryton on Saturday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-4. Meet at the church at 11:30 AM for a ride to work at an elderly person's home doing minor repair, painting, and yard maintenance. Lunch will be provided. The event is open to all ages, especially youth in grades 5-12.



- **October 2<sup>nd</sup> : Crop Walk.** Meet at Chatfield Hollow and we will walk together. Don't forget your sponsorship form!
- **October 9<sup>th</sup> : Overlook Farms Post Meeting.** We will work on some reflections about the weekend.
- **October 16<sup>th</sup> : Empower Zip Line.** MSYG event, 12:30 – 3 pm. All payments and paperwork in by Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **October 15<sup>th</sup> : GIV2 Project House**
- **October 23<sup>rd</sup> : Overlook Farm Meeting,** 11:30. We will be preparing for the Oct 30<sup>th</sup> service.



The Middle School Youth Group will be making cookies-in-a-jar to benefit the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. We are looking for donations of sugar, flour, chocolate chips, M&M's, oatmeal, and brown sugar. If you would be willing to donate one or more of these items, please leave them in the vestibule in the specially marked box. Thank you!

The Sunday school is in need of a flat screen television set for our Video Rotation. If you would like to donate a TV or contribute to the purchase of a new one, please let Pastor Malone or Nancy Soneson know.

### Coming events

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| • Confirmation Retreat   | Nov 4-5       |
| • Advent Wreath Workshop | Nov 27        |
| • Hat & Mitten Tree      | Nov 27-Dec 31 |
| • Christmas pageant      | Dec 11        |

## **COMMUNITY NEWS FROM HKYFS**

### **Family Connections**

This group has been meeting in the community since the winter/spring of 2011 and will be resuming soon, meeting on a monthly basis, and will be welcoming new members. The group will often have meetings that include all members of each family, in order to give all family members an opportunity to participate and meet. 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. There is a \$10.00 fee per family per meeting. Please contact HKYFS at 860-345-7498 for meeting information and to sign up.

### **Knowledge is Power**

#### ***Courage to Speak-Courageous Parenting 101*<sup>®</sup> The Lesson That Could Save Your Child's Life**

It is a fact that our children will be offered alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, often many times, starting in middle school and continuing through high school. What can you do about this? Learn about substance abuse and gain the knowledge and skills needed to keep your children safe. Following this free event on October 5, 2011 featuring Ginger Katz, a free parent education series, entitled *Courage to Speak-Courageous Parenting 101*<sup>®</sup> developed by the Courage to Speak Foundation will be offered by the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School and Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. The *Courage to Speak-Courageous Parenting 101*<sup>®</sup> series will be held, free of charge, on Wednesday Evenings 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, and 11/2 from 7-8:30 p.m. Parents will learn effective communication strategies; gain confidence to talk to their children about the dangers of drugs; understand how to set clear rules and boundaries with their children related to use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and gain confidence in knowing how to deal with substance use among their children. For more information or to sign up for the series contact Cheryl Chandler, Executive Director, Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. or Liz Young, Guidance Counselor, Haddam Killingworth Middle School at , 860-663-1241. This program is brought to you in part by the Middlesex United Way.

### **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](http://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.