

The GOOD News

September

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Haddam

2011

WHAT'S UP?

WHAT'S NEW?

The hot-off-the-press, special-hurricane-Irene, I-can't-believe-we-got-this-out-with-no-power edition of The Good News

Sept. 4

Worship 10:00 am

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sept. 11

Worship 10:00 am

Rally Day

Heartbeat Jazz Band

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 103:8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sept. 18

Worship 10:00 am

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sept. 25

Worship 10:00 am

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Oct. 2

Worship 10:00 am

World Communion

Sunday

Crop Walk

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

CHURCH PICNIC & SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

September 11, 2011
9:45 a.m.

Heartbeat Jazz Band Returns!

The Heartbeat Jazz Band will join us for worship. Plan on arriving early, as **the band will begin at 9:45 a.m.** and they will also play in the Sanctuary after worship.

Church Picnic Following worship

What better way to start the new program year than with a cookout! Kids will enjoy the **moon bounce** and **Italian Ice**

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

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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, we will be asked to respond to the UCC's national *Neighbors in Need* campaign. This ministry of justice and compassion will help our less fortunate neighbors throughout the United States, including Native Americans. You will be hearing more about this ministry throughout September. Please give generously.

**RETURN TO 10:00 AM
SERVICE SUNDAY,
SEPT. 4**

**LOOK FOR NEWS ABOUT
OUR MISSION TRIP
TO COSTA RICA IN
THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF
THE GOOD NEWS!**

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I hope your summer has been as blessed as mine has been. Laurie and I were fortunate to spend time in Rhode Island, Cape May, NJ, and Philadelphia vacationing. We also took time for reflection and spiritual growth by spending a week at Chautauqua Institution in western NY. We attended worship each morning and heard the preaching of Rev. Jon Walton from First Presbyterian Church of NY City. Also at Chautauqua, I attended the timely lecture series, "The U.S. Economy: Beyond a Quick Fix." Each afternoon I attended a series of lectures by theologians John Dominic Crossan and George Rieger on the subject "The Heart and Soul of Money. In the evening we were entertained by the symphony, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and movies. In my spare time, I met new friends, renewed friendships with others, took naps, read my Kindle on the front porch, and sat on the beach of beautiful Lake Chautauqua. It doesn't get much better than that.

As summer comes to a close, things are beginning to pick up here at the church. Offices are moving to the Lewis House as the Trinity house becomes a private residence. Choir and Sunday School will be starting again, and the sounds of the Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band will be raising the roof in the sanctuary on September 11 beginning at 9:45 AM, followed by our annual church picnic and BBQ. Confirmation classes will begin, as well as a new adult study on Sunday evenings.

If you have been away from the church this summer, or it has been a while since you have been here, I hope you will join us this Fall so that you can deepen your faith and we can work together to share the love of God here in our community. There are so many opportunities for you and your family to get involved. The motto of the United Church of Christ is "That they may all be one." Come and be "one" with us again!

Pastor Michael

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



The following child will be celebrating a birthday this month:

September 17 Kia Carlin

MILESTONES

BAPTISM: Cooper Joseph Pierce

GONE TO ETERNAL LIFE: Harvey Reed

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS/PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Please remember the following in your prayers this week: Candy Casale's partner, **Jim Buck**; **Patti Vassia**; **Sue Craffey**; **William Porter**, Jan Berry's brother in hospice care; **Art Christianson**; **Bill**, Deb Duval's dad diagnosed with cancer; **Daria**, Sabine Nyehuis's friend diagnosed with lung cancer; and **Marilyn Messick**, Jeanne Messick's mother.

FROM THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

The **Fall Meeting 2011 of the CT Conference** of the UCC will be held at First Congregational Church, UCC, 122 Broad Street, Guilford, Connecticut on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

All Delegates of Connecticut Conference Churches including Youth Delegates; Authorized Ministers; Ordained, Commissioned, Licensed Officers; Board of Directors; Moderators of Associations; Former Moderators of Annual Meetings; Nominating Committee of the Conference; and In-Care Students are invited to attend. Go to www.ctucc.org/news/AnnlMtg11/ for additional information.

Women's Retreat You are invited to the First Annual Retreat sponsored by the Western Connecticut Women's Fellowship **on Saturday, October 29, 2011** between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Norwalk, 3 Lewis St, Norwalk. The retreat leader will be the Rev. Lee Ireland who will continue the theme from Celebration VIII – Building Bridges. Registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$35.00 per person. Please register by October 22. For additional information contact: Martha Lape at mlape@aol.com or call 203 272 9327.

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

On Sunday, Sept 26 at 7 PM, Pastor Michael will begin a five week study of Marcus Borg's *Embracing an Adult Faith: What It Means to Be a Christian*. Topics to be covered include God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice, and Community. Please let Rev. Malone know if you will be attending so that he can order enough study guides. The cost of the book is \$10. Classes will be held in the Lewis House.

Beginning on Monday, October 3, Rev. Malone will be leading a weekly discussion on the book *The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World*. The group will meet at 7 PM for one hour in the Lewis House.

CONFIRMATION MENTORS NEEDED

Would you like to mentor a young person embarking on a life of faith? We have 7-8 young people in our church who will begin the confirmation process in October. Your responsibility would entail meeting one on one with ONE OF them each month to talk about faith, spirituality, life, the church, etc., and to attend a one day retreat on a Saturday. Please see Rev. Malone if you are interested. If you have not gone through our Safe Church program, please see Nancy Soneson.

COMMITTEES

Diaconate Committee

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.

Landscaping Thank you to Gunnar Soneson for the help with weeding the gardens. If you know of someone who is looking for community service we have several projects around the church that can be done.

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 on 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.

Thank you Thank to everyone who helped during the two lay services in August. We could not have had such meaningful worship without your help!

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.

Christian Service

The **school kit project** is complete. Twenty six bags were filled with school supplies. They are packed and will go Church World Service to be sent where children need the items. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this project a success.

Our **CROP WALK** will be held on October 2, 2011 at Chatfield Hollow State park at 12:30 pm. Everyone is invited to participate. Sponsor sheets will be available after worship in September. Take one of these sheets and get a few sponsors. We have information on making an on-line site to get sponsors from other parts of the country. Collect your donations and bring the sponsor envelope to the walk. Enjoy a 1-2 hour walk in the beautiful fall sunshine and raise money to help feed hungry people here in Haddam, Killingworth, Middletown as well as all around the world. CROP is comprised of many Christian churches who work together to feed the hungry and to help people get clean water around the world. We walk because people around the world walk long distances for food and clean water.

Something exciting is happening on **Saturday, December 3, 2011** at the First Congregational Church in Haddam. There will be a **Christmas Quilt Show** all day. Here is a chance for you to display favorite quilts you have made or been given. We hope to have at least 100 quilts to show. They will be displayed in the sanctuary. There will be a Christmas Tea Room in the Fellowship hall for morning coffee, a soup and bread lunch, and desserts and tea in the afternoon. There will be Christmas decorations for sale and a silent auction. There will also be booths from local quilt shops with items for sale. You will find the application to display your quilt on our web site and at coffee hour in October. This is a new adventure for FCCH which is sponsored by the Christian Service Committee.

WANTED: People who would be willing to make some Christmas decorations to sell at the show. Watch the Sunday bulletin and the newsletter for more information. If you have a great ideas for ornaments or simple decorations speak to Marcia Reynolds or Bim Christiansen.

We continue to collect tuna fish, peanut butter, cereal, and pasta sauce and pasta for **Amazing Grace** food pantry each month. When the month has 5 Sundays, we will collect toilet paper, napkins and paper towels for Haddam Public Health. Thank you all for helping us feed the hungry.

Stewardship Committee

Hello Everyone! Hopefully all of us have had some decent breaks this summer from the daily grind, from health issues, from the threat of this unstable economy and our own economic woes. Summer in New England is that magical time when anything can happen and when Northeasterners feel the time is right for vacation. Whether brief or prolonged, we all need relaxation and relief from our usual responsibilities.

Stewardship has resisted taking a break from committee planning in the past, but this summer we decided the time was right so we have waited until September to get back into the work and planning for 2011-2012. Partly, the rationale for this was that, in fact, we ran two campaigns in the 2010-2011 year, and we felt it was important for us and for all of you that we take a break from the constant reminders. Unfortunately summer will come to an end and we'll be back in "regular work mode".

This year, due to the aforementioned two campaigns last year, our campaign will start and end later in the year. We will be meeting September 6, 2011 to begin making our plans and we will update you in next month's newsletter. It will be great to see all of you once again and feel the life of our community as the hustle and bustle of the fall returns.

Thank you all for continuing with your commitments and green envelopes over the summer.

Cynthia Nicastro and Scott Thompson, Co-Chairs
John Anderson
Sue Twachtman

Music Committee

CALLING ALL SINGERS

It's the time of year that we resume choir rehearsal. We are all delighted with changes that have taken place in the church over the past two years. Among elements that contribute greatly to our Sunday services are the anthems and responses provided by the choir. I know there are those of you in the congregation with musical abilities who are not members of the choir, at least not yet. We encourage all of you to make use of those talents. The more members we have, the more exciting and diverse music we will be able to contribute to the services. Most of you know our director, Eric Lundin, who always makes our rehearsals and Sunday contributions an enjoyable experience. Come join us, and give it a try. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 PM.

John Anderson, Chair, Music Committee

Christian Education Committee



Sunday School Kick-Off & Church Picnic *September 11, 2011*

It's time to register for the 2011/2012 school year!

Stop by the Christian Education table during the church picnic to register your children (birth – 8th grade) for Sunday School. Also, take a moment to talk to a CE committee member about our children and youth programs and how you can be a part of this ministry.

Registration forms and Christian Education Handbooks are also located on the church web site, www.haddamconchurch.org or from the church vestibule or office.

Rotation Model Sunday School

Sunday school for Kindergarten through eighth grade will follow the rotation model where children will learn one bible story or concept for 4 to 5 weeks, rotating through different workshops each Sunday.

The following is the planned scope and sequence for the year:

Fall	Bible Blast Off #2 Daniel in the Lion's Den
Advent	The Birth of Christ
Winter	Psalm 23
Lent	Jesus in the Garden
Spring	Beatitudes

The three and four year old class will meet in the downstairs classroom and Sera Blair will be in the nursery from 9:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. for infants and toddlers.

Sign-up for Teaching and Assisting

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

Bible Blast Off #2	Sept 18 th – Oct 9 th
Daniel in the Lion's Den	Oct 23 rd – Nov 13 th

Sign up during the church picnic on September 11th. Community service hours will be awarded to High School students.

We are also in need of a co-teacher for the Pre-school Sunday School class.



**Middle School Youth Group Kick-Off
September 11th during the picnic**

Calling all 5th – 8th graders! Come join the Middle School Youth Group. Registration forms will be available during the church picnic, so stop by the Christian Education table to sign up and pick up a schedule.

**Safe Church Training Session
Sunday, Sept. 18, 11:30 a.m.
Trinity House**

A reminder that all adults and teens that are church key holders and/or work with our youth and children must have Safe Church Training. These sessions are only offered in the fall and spring.



Giv² is a CORPS of
local youth + adults
GIVING back to our communities
In response to the GIFTS of God.
Together, we explore our faith
Through SERVICE + FELLOWSHIP.

Giv² (Give Squared) is for youth in grades 6-12. Beginning this fall, we will offer Giv² events every other month at a variety of sites. **Our kick-off event will be Sept 17th from 6:30 – 8:30pm** and our first on-site project of the year will be Sat. Oct. 15.

What will we do?

Gather for fellowship, orientation, and a light meal.

Go to a local non-profit and work for about 2 hours.

Reflect on the work we have done

Tell our congregation about the gifts we have received.

Projects may include light construction, painting, yard work for families, visiting area nursing homes, helping at a soup and more



needy
kitchen

Our **Middlesex Chapter** of Giv² consists of youth and adults from:

First Congregational Church, Essex

United Church of Chester

St. Joseph's Church, Chester

Our Lady of Sorrows, Essex

First Congregational Church, Haddam

The Congregational Church in, Killingworth

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR Giv² TEAM!

We need adults to drive, chaperon, prepare food, assist with publicity, take pictures, and teach skills. Contact Pastor Michael or Laure Malone and look for event announcements this fall. We welcome your involvement!



Heifer International's Overlook Farm Sept. 23-25, 2011

A huge thank you to Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth for awarding 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 seventeen youth and adults this fall to participate in the Global Gateway Program. 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. 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.

All participants are asked to submit their \$30 payment and paperwork by September 18th. Checks can be made out to FCCH with Overlook Farm in the memo line.

Coming events

- GIV2 Kick-off Sept 17th
- Safe Church Sept 18th
- Overlook Farm Sept 23-25
- Crop Walk October 2nd
- GIV2 project Oct 22nd



Avalanche Ranch Vacation Bible School

July 11 – July 15, 2011

Forty-eight children enjoyed their adventures at Avalanche Ranch during our Vacation Bible School this year. The week was blessed with good weather and fun and energetic children and adults. We all learned about Joshua and the Israelites struggles to get to the Promised Land, the healing of Naaman, and Jesus' sacrifice. The children learned these stories while pretending to live in the Old West. They met Cowboy Rowdy, made cow paddy cookies, crafted bolo ties, cowboy boot key chains, and roped runaway doggies! They sang songs, had water balloon fights, and went on a scavenger hunt. Wow, what a week!

Mission has always been an integral part of VBS, and this year was no exception. The children had 2 mission projects during the week:

- Making dog biscuits – \$60 profit from their sale
- Pennies Wars – over \$230 collected!

All proceeds went to the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation.

Many thanks to the following volunteers who made the week such a success: Michael Malone, Laurie Malone, Ursula Hunter, Anita Deeg-Carlin, Lynn Halligan, Kristen Battistoni, Lynn Vincent, Val Williams, Emma Soneson, Ceci Zygmunt, Logan Craffey, Julie Faust, Gunnar Soneson, Nick Duval, Katherine Dole, Colton Soneson, Blair Craffey, Vienna Whalen, Aly Halligan, Taylor Therrien, Annmarie LePard, Maddie Gerace, and Emily Hotkowski.



Photos from Avalanche Ranch VBS



COMMUNITY NEWS

From Amazing Grace:

Thanks to all at First Congregational of Haddam for keeping up summer donations to the pantry. In July alone you delivered 37 pounds and 62 pounds early in the month. Food supplies are very low - as they always are in the summer - so this definitely helps us feed families in need. Heartfelt thanks, Mimi Rich

From Haddam Killingworth Youth and Family Services

Youth and Family Benefit
Pumpkin Run/Walk
Race for the Kids
Presented by Riverhouse Properties

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth Inc. is pleased to announce that Riverhouse Properties is the headline sponsor of the 18th Annual Pumpkin Run/Walk which will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2011.

The event offers fun for the whole family with contests, face painting, Halloween crafts, Kids Fun Run and more. This is one of Haddam's and Killingworth's most attended events and is looked forward to by all. This race event benefits the Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, a non-profit organization providing clinical counseling, programs for youth development, and community education in substance abuse and parenting skills. This is a great cause to support as well as an opportunity to connect with many of the town's residents and businesses!

This scenic race starts at the Higganum Green and benefits Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. Timing chips were used for the first time in 2010 for the 5K which contributed to a 29% increase in participation. Over 50 towns in Connecticut are represented in the race with hundreds of spectators. Sponsorships directly benefit the children and families of Haddam and Killingworth.

Walkers and runners will have the opportunity to get their own sponsors to benefit Youth and Family Services. Visit www.hkyfs.org for details.

If you own a business and would like to sponsor this event please call, Cheryl Chandler, Executive Director, at 860-345-7498 to find out how being a sponsor can not only benefit YFS, but benefit your business as well.

Join us for a Family Dinner Night

The Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition is hosting a Family Dinner Night on Monday, September 26, 2011 at 6pm-8pm at the HK Middle School Cafeteria. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that the more often kids eat dinner with their families the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. It is a national movement to remind parents that frequent family dinners make a difference. This event helps to promote family dinners and support parents. Please join us at this great event; dinner will be provided free-of -charge and door prizes will be available! Please RSVP to Kathryn Glendon, Prevention Coordinator, at 860-345-7498 or kglendon@hkyfs.org by September 15, 2011

Ginger Katz Speaks at
Haddam-Killingworth Middle School
Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

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*[®] 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*[®] 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.

The course covers: teen drug use trends and party culture; guidance to help reduce the risk of substance use; how to help your child handle stress; warning signs; what to do if use or abuse is suspected and much more. Parents will also develop improved listening and communication skills, which have been shown to be a critical factor in prevention.

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.

CAPELLA CANTORUM TO PRESENT CONCERT
AT FIRST CHURCH OF CHIRST, CONGREGATIONAL EAST HADDAM

On Sunday, September 18 at 3:00 PM the Men's Chorus of Cappella Cantorum will present a concert to benefit the East Haddam Congregational church. The program includes popular tunes as well as barber shop and spirituals. There will be a reception immediately following the concert. Enjoy an afternoon of light music and help our friends at the congregational church in East Haddam. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, and they are available at Goodspeed Station Country Store (Haddam), Wild Geese Gift Shop (Colchester), Celebrations (Deep River), and Simon's Market (Chester).