



# TIDINGS



May/June 2018

## *FAITH...AND STEWARDSHIP....BLOOM AND GROW AT FIRST CHURCH*

Every church has challenges to meet, and our church is no different. We work hard together to take care of each other, reach out the hand of friendship and caring to our community, learn about what God wants from us, and keep the lights on in our church building. And now we are working to meet the challenge of seeking a new pastor while trying not to miss a beat in our mission in the meantime. This is why we want you to take a moment right now from contemplating our challenges and congratulate yourselves on rising to the challenge of our recent stewardship campaign. Your Board of Membership Resources asked you to take a chance on our future by putting your support for First Church in the form of a pledge, and you responded. Next time you are in the Parish Hall, take a look at the apple tree poster. Each apple posted there represents an individual or family that said with a pledge, “We believe in what we do together here, we commit to supporting one another, and we stand together moving forward.” Each of those apples contains the seeds that will grow our future.

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Churches like ours run on the energy of volunteers.....Trustees, Deacons, Hospitality helpers, God’s Garden teachers, people who clean the church and rake the leaves, people who organize tag sales, quilt shows and Christmas Teas, people who sell Butter Braids and Mother’s Day flowers and so much more. Your promise of support means so much to each of them....and keeps them going. We thank you!

So please stop for a moment to pat yourself on the back before we all go back to work tackling whatever challenges come our way next year and beyond.

“Well done, good and faithful servant(s)”  
(Matthew 25:23)





## Coming Events

**May 5th** Tag Sale drop off  
9am-noon

**May 11th through May 13th**  
Annual Mother's Day Plant  
Sale. Details on page 3.

**May 12th** Tag Sale Drop Off  
9am-noon

**May 12th** Vision Board Work-  
shop, 9am-4pm. Details on  
page 6.

**May 19th** Annual Tag Sale  
Details on page 3.

**June 10th** Children's Day. De-  
tails on page

**June 15th** Tidings deadline

**June 26th** First Church Ceme-  
tery Annual Meeting 7pm. De-  
tails on page 4.

## MAY

### Birthdays

18 Barbara Hughes

21 Paul Gerth

24 Sue Freeman

### Anniversaries

5 Joan & Don Osalza

## JUNE

### Birthdays

2 Bob Cumming, Elise Czaja

9 Molly Freeman

12 Martha McCormick

16 Becky Sewell Kowalczyk

19 Erin Bernard

29 Emma Sewell

### Anniversaries

26 Kathy & Chuck Boyce

## First Church Flower Sale for Mother's Day

The First Church of Christ Congregational of East Haddam will host its **Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale**, rain or shine, from **May 11 to May 13**, on the front steps of the church, 499 Town Street, East Haddam.



**Beautiful, hanging baskets of various flowers will be sold for \$16 each, or three for \$45.** Cash and check accepted. Geraniums, petunias, New Guinea impatiens and mixed baskets are among the varieties expected to be available. Moms are guaranteed to be delighted!

**The sale will run from 2 to 6 p.m. Friday May 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12 and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 13. All proceeds benefit First Church, its ministry and missions.**

Come early for the best selection. For more information about First Church, visit our website at [www.firstchurcheh.org](http://www.firstchurcheh.org), or email us at [contact@FirstChurchEH.org](mailto:contact@FirstChurchEH.org).



Mark your calendars for First Church of Christ, Congregational, 499 Town St (Rte. 151), East Haddam, **Annual Tag Sale & Family Fun Day on Sat. May 19, 2018 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Rain or Shine.** Come shop for tag sale treasures, delicious baked sale items and enjoy a hot dog or hamburger for lunch. Enter our silent auction.

**Donate gently used items (no electronics or exercise equipment) – drop off Sat. May 5th and May 12<sup>th</sup> 9AM - 12 Noon. Rent a Space! Just \$25 for a generous spot. To reserve a space, email Karan at [Karancon@yahoo.com](mailto:Karancon@yahoo.com) or call 860-873-9084 and leave a message.**



## God's Garden

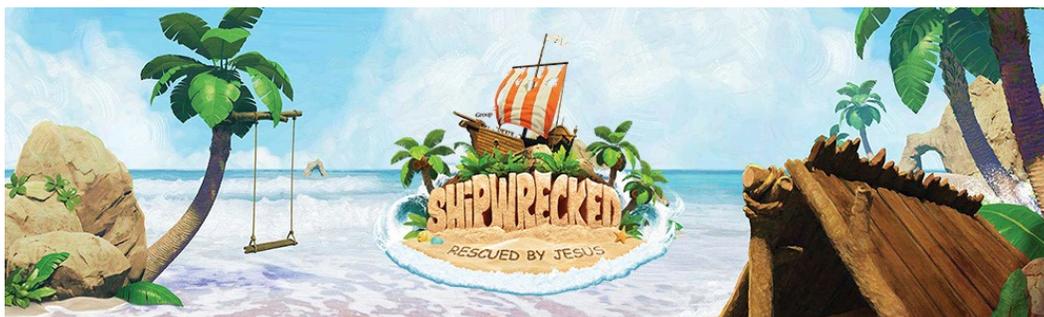
Hello to all! It seems that winter is finally behind us and I am excited to be planning for the summer.



**June 10<sup>th</sup>** will be our last day of Sunday school and we will have our youth facilitating the worship service. Please plan on attending that day so we can show you all your children have learned, and honor those who have helped us throughout the year.

## Vacation Bible School

**Vacation Bible school will be held July 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>** and our theme will be **"Shipwrecked"**. I am very excited about this curriculum. The children will be taught lessons through storytelling, crafts, music and games. **We will meet from 5pm-8pm and supper is included.** Please volunteer as many hands are needed, I will be asking during coffee hour during the coming weeks. We need decorators, sewers, bakers, cooks, set up and clean up and of course teachers and aides. Call Val Seaver 860-818-1561.



## Music

Palm Sunday and Easter both had lovely music with the choir singing both services. Easter service was enhanced by Lynn Rossi on the 14 organ and ended with the Hallelujah Chorus.

Lynn has been working with the children to sing for Children's Day on June 10th and Molly Freeman will play piano for the Offertory that Sunday.




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## First Church Cemetery Association, Inc. Report

The Annual Meeting of the First Church Cemetery Association, Inc will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, June 26th in the Parish Hall of First Church. If necessary, we may have to meet in the new parlor. All officers, directors and members are asked to attend. We will be planning for the 2018 Venture Smith Day Celebration, which will be held in the cemetery on Saturday, September 8th.

We are desperately in need of new members, particularly younger members, who can form a "Friends of First Church Cemetery" to help the superintendent with the cleaning of gravestones and the repair and up-righting of old fallen grave markers. Please volunteer to help!

George Hungerford has been hired to clean up the fallen tree limbs and to remove the broken hanging limbs caused by the March snowstorm. Hopefully, he will be starting that work soon.

Joseph Adams has almost completed the construction of our new cemetery sign and repair of the sign post. Then the lettering and logo will have to be painted on both sides of the sign.

Deborah Tajmajer and the superintendent are working on creating a map of the location of all veterans in the cemetery for the American Legion to use as a reference when placing American flags each May.

Karl P. Stofko, Cemetery Superintendent



## Budget Information From The Board of Trustees

First, I would like to thank our Membership Resource Committee for conducting a fabulous Stewardship Campaign and to the 38 responders that have us at \$63,684 for Pledges. That puts us just shy of this year's pledges by \$2,533.

While we talk of being in transition as we look for an interim minister and then a settled pastor, we're still the same family that has Ministries to grow and administrative & utility expenses that need to be meant. I think we're all aware that the oil prices are rising, so the \$1.95 per gallon we secured for heating fuel this year, won't be possible for the 18/19 heating season. Electricity prices are rising and just the nature of maintaining a historical building, we must plan for repairs and maintenance. *And its key to have an attractive salary, whether it be for an interim or settled pastor.*

Trustees are negotiating and looking for ways to keep utility increases to a minimum but without additional pledges, we will need to make cuts in some other areas. We ask that if you haven't submitted a pledge card for 18/19, you do so now. If you've already pledged but feel you can help to avoid cuts, please complete the form below.

Below is the budget we're working with now.

### 2017/2018 BUDGET

Pledges \$66,213  
 Loose Plate \$9,540  
 Fundraising & Facilities Use \$20,050  
**Total Income \$95,803**

Pastors Salary \$42,500  
 Ministries \$8,949  
 General & Administrative \$26,204  
 Utilities \$18,150  
**Total Expenses \$95,803**

We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help Trustees present a balanced budget and avoid reductions. Simply complete the form below or a pledge form and place it in the collection plate or mail it attention to Mike Sewell by 5/20/18, so we can present a balanced budget for the congregational meeting in June.

Thank you for the many blessings you all bring to First Church,  
 Patti Lombardo, Chair of Trustees

**I /we want to help avoid budget cuts.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous Pledge:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total 2018/2019:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Pledge:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(New Pledge Year begins July 1, 2018)**

## Cross Walk Report

Over 20 walkers of all ages showed up on a very gloomy dreary day in East Haddam/Moodus on Good Friday to take a pilgrimage through town and listen to the seven last words unfold before them at seven stops. Their journey began as it always does at St. Bridget's Church led by Father Galvin. The second stop was acted out by Rev. Janice Kimball of Hadlyme Congregational Church. It was a short walk from there to United Methodist Church where Rev. Stacy Goforth gave a very emotional service. As the walk continued they stopped at Chestelm Adult Day Services where Rev. Alicia Leslie from the online Spirit of Unity gave a personal message of Gods love and grace. At The First Church of Christ seminarian, Valerie Seaver explained the message of 'I Thirst' and how it reflects on us today. The sixth stop was at Christ Community Church with Pastor Vicki Triano where she uplifted us with song and praise. It was all downhill from there to St. Stephen Episcopal Church where Rev Adam Yates ended the seventh message of the day, after which the Church very generously offered homemade soup and bread to nourish the bodies of the walkers after their long spiritual journey.



## Vision Board Workshop

We had a great day together creating and designing Vision Boards on April 7th. I would like to share a couple photos of the happy participants. **On Saturday, May 12th from 9am-4pm**, I will be offering an opportunity for those who are interested in participating and exploring their dreams and goals.

There are flyers in the Fellowship Hall with more details or you can contact me at [courageoustransformation@gmail.com](mailto:courageoustransformation@gmail.com) or please call/text my cell at (248) 310-0421.

Hope you can join us!

Lynn Rossi



*We Believe In The Power Of Prayer*



## Prayers, Joys and Concerns

The Prayer Chain is one of the Ministries of First Church. If you would like to pray with this group, there is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### For more information

please contact Barbara Bernard at [barbara-bernard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbara-bernard@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-705-8842.

### God is still listening to our prayers for:

Bill, Eddie, a mother who died. Those having surgery, the family of Peggy Carlson. Those in recovery, and teachers everywhere. Emitt and Justine as Emitt undergoes Chemo.

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## 2017 Historian's Report

The 2017 Historian's Report has been compiled and should be published by the first of March. Email the church office at [contact@firstchurcheh.org](mailto:contact@firstchurcheh.org) or see the church historian, Karl Stofko, to obtain a copy.



### Family Directory Updates

Margaret Charney's phone # is 860- 537-3323

Helmut & Rose Dijer live in East Hampton 06424

Joan & Don Osalza no longer have a landline. Their phone numbers are; Don- 860-949-5058 and Joan- 860-334-7785

If you notice any incorrect addresses, phone numbers or email addresses contact Kathy Sewell.

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### *Tuesday Quilters*

The First Church quilters continue to meet and sew on Tuesday mornings, in the downstairs meeting hall.

We have fun making things to sell at the summer fairs and our Quilt Show Boutique. So, if you are feeling creative, or want to learn about quilting, come join us from 9 am - 12 pm on Tuesdays.

Contact Margaret Charney at 860-537-3323



### From the Sanctuary Committee

**The gardens are blooming!**

**Please bring your garden flowers to share with us during worship! If you have a special event coming up, tell Kathy or Holly. You bring in the flowers and we will put your Birthday, Anniversary or other special event in the bulletin. If you have questions about the Sanctuary Committee, see Holly Coleman or Kathy Sewell.**



### The East Haddam Fuel Bank

Bal. as of Feb 18, 2018 .....\$11,067.99

Income 2/18--4/16/2018...\$ 1,524.08

Exp. For fuel for 5 local families.....

\$ 1,500.00

Bal. as of Apr 16, 2018.....\$11,067.99

**Karl P. Stofko, Fuel Bank Manager & Treasurer**

**The next 5th Sunday for Fuel is July 29, 2018. Look for the pink envelopes in the bulletins.**



### The East Haddam Clothing Bank

**The East Haddam Clothing Bank** is located on the lower level of the church. You may enter through the back entrance.

**The hours for April– December are 2:30pm-5:30pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month. You may drop off your clean, gently used clothing during these hours.** As there isn't any storage space available, they ask that you bring seasonal clothing only.



### The Monday Morning Guys

The Monday Morning Guys are a group of gentlemen who love this church and lovingly maintain it. Their numbers are getting smaller and they need some new blood!

Are you retired?

Do you work 2nd or 3rd shift?

Do you have a couple of hours on Monday mornings?

If you answered “yes” to one or more of these questions, call one of the gentlemen named below;

**Larry Fraser, Don Osalza, Don Messmer, Roy Butler, Joe Dawson**





### **From the Editor**

The front page of the Tidings will feature articles of interest until we have a minister in place.

If you wish to write one of these articles, please get in touch with me

**I would like to update the Birthday List and add Anniversaries. Flyers will be in the bulletins or email me your dates.**

You can contact me at  
schleppsister35@gmail.com.

**The deadline for the July/August 2018 Tidings is June 15th.**

This is a good advertising tool for any events coming up!

Blessings, Kathy Sewell

### **Our email has changed!**

Please note that the general church email address has changed

to  
**contact@firstchurcheh.org**

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## **Join Our Online Mailing List**

If you would like to receive The Tidings on line, please email me at [contact@firstchurcheh.org](mailto:contact@firstchurcheh.org), Attention Kathy for Tidings in the subject line. I will add or subtract you from the Tidings email list.

Our mailing list is never shared or sold. We may, however, occasionally pass along an offer from affiliated organizations that we think you may be interested in.

## **Read the Tidings on our Website!**

Tidings is available to read on our website and our events calendar is, also, posted. [firstchurcheh.org](http://firstchurcheh.org).



First Church of Christ, Congregational  
499 Town St  
PO Box 445  
East Haddam, CT 06423



TIDINGS  
MAY/JUNE  
2018

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**Lectionary Series**

<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>6</b> – Ps 98 John 15:9-17	<b>3</b> - Ps 139:1-6,13-18 Mark 2:23-3:6
<b>13</b> –Acts 1:15-17, 21- 26 John 17:6-19	<b>10</b> -Gen 3:8-15*Ps 130 Mark 3:20-35
<b>20</b> – <b>Pentecost</b> Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	<b>17</b> -1 Sam 15:34-16:13 *Ps 20 Mark 4:26-34
<b>27</b> -Isa 6:1-8 John 3:1-17	<b>24</b> -Job 38:1-11*Ps 107:1-3,23-32 Mark 4:35-41

**Contact us**

**Church Office Phone Number**  
860-873-9084 (Leave message)

**Chair of Deacons**  
Lydia Sherman  
lydgeosherm@aol.com

**Tidings Editor**  
Kathy Sewell at  
schleppsister35@gmail.com

**Church Email address (Best way to contact us)**  
contact@firstchurcheh.org

**Church Website**  
firstchurcheh.org

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