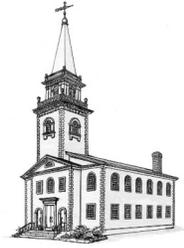




TIDINGS



Reverend Gale Grayson

November/December 2018

A Message From Pastor Gale

Holiday Spirit: Meals and Messages

*"We are intimately linked in this harvest work...
The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice."*

From Mt 10: 40-42 The Message

We gather together; indeed, we huddle together based upon what we have in common. During these holidays, many family and friends will be seated 'round a holiday feast. Family and friends are those with whom we most closely share our stories, appearances, language, professions, values, and beliefs. Being able to affirm commonalities is an important part of being human.

Yet, we are reminded, especially at harvest time and into the season of celebrating Jesus' birth, that there is a bigger picture than our inner circle. Jesus spoke of God's good intentions for ALL people.

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In the portion of our Christian Scriptures known as the Beatitudes, Jesus speaks wisdom to the rich and poor, the broken and whole, and both the powerful and the forgotten. He says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; for they will be filled." (Mt. 5:6)

Notice that fulfillment comes in leaning into God's dream for the future. Certainly, it is our calling, as the church and the body of Christ in our time, to reach for the righteousness that Jesus spoke of and lived. One way that we do this is to recall and act upon Jesus' similar words, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be filled." (Lk 6:21)

There are those who are food insecure or literally starving. It is ours to say, "Come, be filled."

There are those who are spiritually hungry. It is ours to say, "Come,

(Cont'd on page 3)



HELP NEEDED!

Do you like numbers?

123

Does counting money
give you the warm fuzzies?

We've got the volunteer job for you!
The Financial Secretary supports the Treasurer by counting what's in the offering plate each Sunday, dealing with checks that come in the mail, recording the results, and preparing a deposit each week. It takes no more than a few hours per week, and training by the out-going Secretary is readily available. If you might be interested, please call Sue at 860-367-1687.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

November

*6 Margaret Charney
Christopher Gerth*

16 Chuck Boyce

24 Joshua Hughes

December

4 Holly Coleman

8 Karl Stofko

10 Carol Faraci

21 Emitt Cancryn

*28 Kenny Conover
Diane McKenna*

(cont'd from page 1)

be filled.”

We go about this harvest work by giving and receiving graciously. Let us journey through this season of generosity as God’s partners, participating in opportunities to provide for the hungry, the poor, and the suffering. Let us likewise offer God’s children encouragement and care. Simple messages like, ‘I am here for you,’ or “I am sorry that you are in a difficult place,’ or “Thank you for your kindness’ offer connection, compassion, and gratitude.

In participating in harvest meals and messages we expand our spirits and we encourage the goodness that is in others. Thanks be to God for our provisions received and for our opportunities to share!

In partnership and service,

Pastor Gale



Singers Are Wanted

We are looking for anyone who is interested in singing with the choir for Thanksgiving and Christmas. **There will be a rehearsal on Nov 4th after church** to prepare for singing on Nov 18th during morning worship. **Christmas Eve service is at 7 pm with Thomas Smith on the organ.** We will prepare for that in Dec.

An English Tradition Contributed by Joan Osalza

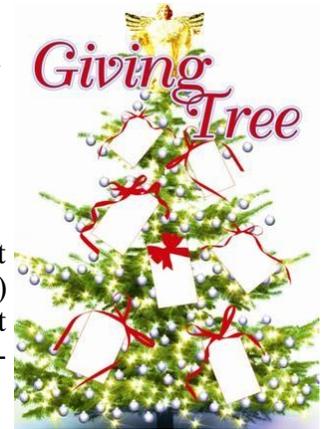
Stir-Up Sunday

Taking place on the Sunday before Advent, this is the perfect day for making the Christmas pudding, which takes several weeks to mature. The Anglican prayer for this day traditionally began with the words “Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord...” which would spur cooks into action on their return from church. The pudding should contain 13 ingredients— one each for Jesus and his disciples— and should be stirred (whilst making a wish) from east to west in honour of the Wise Men.

Outreach Christmas Giving Tree

First Church has shown the true meaning of giving by purchasing Christmas gifts for a list of children that the Dept. of Children & Families, Middletown CT provides us each year. We rely on the donations from members and friends to full-fill the list each year. And every year we complete the request (and then some), so area children experience the joy of opening a gift on Christmas morning.

We plan to have the Giving Tree up just prior to Thanksgiving so you can select gift tags and fill specific request or donations of Wal-Mart or Target gift cards (\$25 to \$50) or cash donations are always helpful, please make checks out to First Church of Christ and note on the memo line Outreach Giving Tree. Start your Christmas shopping early and help us to fill the gift list quickly.



We thank you for generous support.

Board of Christian Outreach

Help Fill the East Haddam Fuel Bank!

Many of us are doing our winter preparation, getting our homes ready for the cold winds, snow and ice, keeping Old Man Winter out and keeping it warm and cozy inside. But despite these efforts, some of our neighbors may come up short with the finances to heat their home.

East Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank is a non-profit organization that can benefit these East Haddam families in times of need. Assistance is awarded via referral through: Youth and Family Services (Toni McCabe 860-873-3296), or Energy Assistance (Brad Parker – East Haddam Senior Center 860-873-5034)

Funding for the Fuel Bank comes from tax-deductible financial donations from area churches, community organizations and individuals just like you. And your help is needed now to ensure that the funds are available when assistance is needed.

Saturday November 17th volunteers are needed from 9:00 am to Noon at the following locations: East Haddam Transfer Station, Grist Mill Market, Two Wrasslin Cats and Shagbark Lumber & Farm Supplies and at our church.

The East Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank was established in 1977 by the East Haddam Public Health Nursing Board and the East Haddam Council of Churches, neither of which exist today. First Church (First Ecclesiastical Society of East Haddam, Connecticut) volunteered to act as the sponsoring charity for this fund and continues in that capacity. Dr. Karl P. Stofko, former treasurer of First Church and clerk of the Board of Public Health Nursing Board of the Town of East Haddam in 1977, has acted as treasurer and manager of this fund since its inception.



**STAY WARM
THIS WINTER**

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO COVER FIVE THE LOCATIONS – Please sign up in fellowship hall or contact Patti Lombardo wjpalombi@yahoo.com Sign up for the full shift 9am-noon –or- ½ of a shift.

East Haddam Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 2018

Per tradition of years past and revived in more recent years, all churches and houses of worship in East Haddam are invited to come together for an interfaith service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 11, 2018. This year it will be held at the Hadlyme Congregational Church, at 1:00 p.m. with a soup luncheon preceding that at 12:30 p.m. at the North School, adjacent to the church and part of its property.

Participating this year will be pastors, musicians and members of the First Church of Christ, Congregational of East Haddam, Hadlyme Congregational Church, Moodus United Methodist Church, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, as well as participation from other groups in town.

Our First Selectman, Emmett Lyman, will read the official Proclamations and participate to represent the Town of East Haddam. Non-perishable food offerings will be accepted for the Town of East Haddam Food Bank, which will also be represented by its members.

For information, contact the churches listed, or Rev. Janice Kimbell, (860-235-0494).



First Church Cemetery Association, Inc. Report

There were six burials in First Church Cemetery since June 1, 2018

Martha (Spencer) Slater on July 23rd
Abdyl Topi on August 19th
Deborah (Nelson) Robbins on August 31st
Bong Hee Myers on October 1st
Wayne Brandt Sr. on October 13th
Jeff Boynton on October 20th

Karl P. Stofko, Cemetery Superintendent



Save the Date!! The Christmas Tea and Children's Fair

Dec. 8, 2018



The Christmas Tea and Children's Fair will be held Saturday December 8th from 9am-1pm. We need your help! We need you to **bake cookies** and **sign up to work the day of the event** as well as **set up** and **clean up!**

We will have a pennywise room where kids through age 12 can purchase gifts for their family for 25 cents per item. Then they can visit our gift wrapping room where our elves will wrap their presents for free!

There will be a **White Reindeer Table** and a **Teacup Auction**, **Photos with Santa** and **Cookie Decorating**. **Cookies by the Pound** will be offered and **free cookies**, **coffee**, **tea** and **hot chocolate** will be served.

All proceeds will benefit **The East Haddam Fuel Bank** and **The East Haddam Food Bank**.

Look for the sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.
See **Patti Lombardo** or **Kathy Sewell** for more information.



Christmas Tea Craft Night

Date and time will be announced. If you are interested in helping see **Kathy Sewell** or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join us to assemble our **Candy Mugs**, **Popcorn Snowmen**, and **Candy Sleighs**.



23rd Annual Quilt & Needle Arts Show After The Show....

Our 23rd Annual Quilt & Needle Arts Show was held on Columbus Day weekend, October 6th & 7th, 2018. A big thank you goes, first and foremost, to Betty Haines for donating all the time and her talent and supplies to make the lovely quilt for our raffle. This year's winner is Roger Kindschi who bought the winning ticket at Shagbark. Next we thank the Vendors and Exhibitors who participated over the weekend. Our First Church bakers and soup chefs supplied us with delicious pies, soup and chowder. All the people who helped over the weekend to set up and arrange the quilts, serve food from the kitchen, greet our customers and sell craft items deserve a round of applause for a job well done! After deducting all expenses, **the net proceeds from raffle ticket sales, craft items sold at the Fairs and all sales over the weekend is \$7,094.59!**





Christmas Eve Memorial Poinsettias



6 1/2" pots \$12.50 per plant

Pink

Red

White

NamePhone #.....

Address.....

(Please circle one) In memory/honor/celebration of.....

.....

.....

I will pick up my plant(s) on Christmas Eve, following Service.

Please deliver my plant(s) to a shut in.

Make checks out to First Church and write poinsettias on memo line.

Final order date is December 9, 2018



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 or call 860-705-8842.

God is still listening to our prayers for:

Bill, Eddie, a mother who died. Those having surgery. Those in recovery, and teachers everywhere. Emitt and Justine as Emitt has transfusions and lab work, the Boynton family.

2017 Historian's Report

The 2017 Historian's Report has been compiled. Email the church office at 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 Osalza no longer has a landline. Her phone number is 860-334-7785.

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

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. We do this year round and even multi-task during Loving Spoonful.

Contact Margaret Charney at 860-537-3323



From the Sanctuary Committee

It's time to order your Poinsettia plants! The order form for your Memorial plants is on page 8. They will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and will decorate our beautiful sanctuary. Take them home, after Christmas Eve Service, to enjoy or give as a gift.



We buy our plants from Ballek's.

There is an option to donate to a shut-in.

If you have questions about the Sanctuary Committee, see Holly Coleman or Kathy Sewell.

The East Haddam Fuel Bank

Balance Aug. 1, 2018	\$13,868.00
Income (donations and interest)	\$788.43
Expenditures for fuel for 2 local families	\$600.00
Balance Oct. 16, 2018	\$14,056.43

Next 5th Sunday For Fuel is Dec. 30, 2018

Fill the Fuel Bank is Sat. November 17th.

For more information about the East Haddam Fuel bank, contact Karl Stofko.



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.

Note: The East Haddam Clothing Bank is run by the town. We just give it a home. Any questions or concerns about the clothing bank should be directed to the town office.



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 Messmer, Roy Butler, Joe Dawson





Advent and Christmas at First Church



Sunday, December 2

Service of HOPE @ 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 8

Christmas Tea and Children's Fair
@ 9am-1pm

Sunday, December 9

Service of PEACE @ 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 16

Service of JOY @ 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Experience the season through a Pageant by our youth.

Sunday, December 23

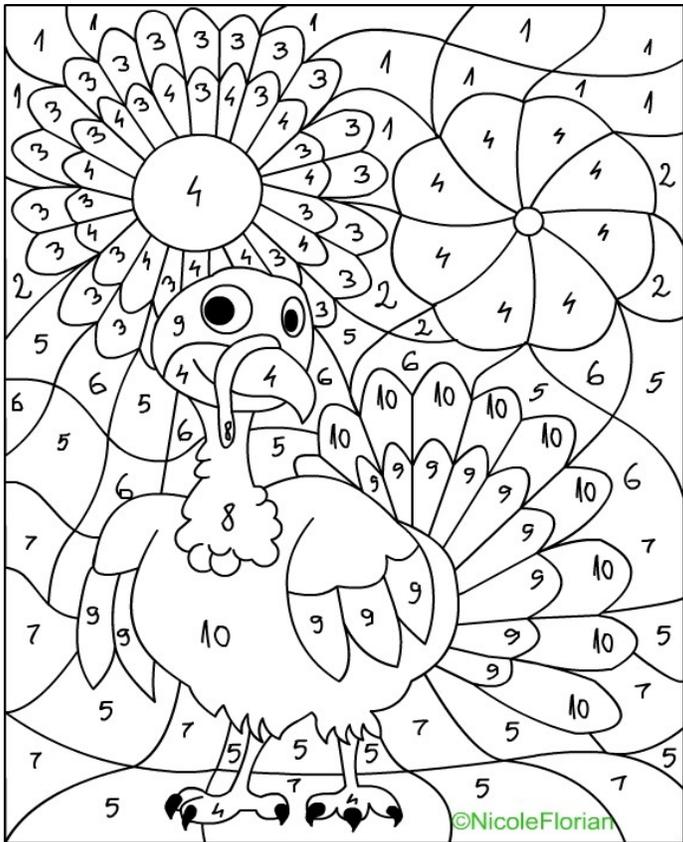
Service of LOVE @ 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight for the Family
@ 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 30

Comfy Caroling @ 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary



- 1 teal
- 2 blue
- 3 yellow
- 4 orange
- 5 green-blue
- 6 green
- 7 7 aqua
- 8 Pink
- 9 brown
- 10 Black

I am thankful for:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Hang The Socking on the Fireplace Mantle





From the Editor

I am the Calendar Coordinator and you may contact me for any events that you would like put on our calendar as well as booking a space for an event.

If you would like to see what is happening you can go to our website to view the calendar and it is posted just outside the Fellowship Hall.

You can contact me at schleppsister35@gmail.com.

The deadline for the January/February 2019 Tidings is December 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

Join Our Online Mailing List

If you would like to receive The Tidings on line, please email me at 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.



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



TIDINGS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2018



Lectionary Series

November	December
4 Psalm 24 John 11:32-44	2 Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36
11 Psalm 127 Mark 12:38-44	9 Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6
18 1 Sam 1:4-20 Mark 13:1-8	16 Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18
25 Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) John 18:33-37	23 Luke 1:46b-55 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
	30 1 Sam2:18-20, 26 Luke 2:41-52

Contact us

Minister

Rev. Gale Grayson
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Church Office Phone Number

860-873-9084 (Leave message)

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