



TIDINGS



Reverend Gale Grayson

September/October 2018

A New Door is Opening At First Church

After a six-month time of reflecting on our challenges and opportunities as a church community and searching for a pastor willing to help us shape our future, your Board of Deacons is now very pleased to introduce our new and eagerly awaited Designated Minister, Rev. Gale Grayson. She will officially begin her work with us on Rally Sunday, September 9th, a very appropriate day for renewal and new beginnings.

Pastor Gale comes to us with deep experience in guiding congregations through change, having shepherded her church in Oxford, Connecticut through a time of transition during her settled pastorate there. She then trained for interim ministries, and she most recently served as interim minister at the Park Church in Norwich.

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Pastor Gale's path to our door has not been exactly straight or predictable. With a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in business from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, she began her working life in the late 1980's in the field of engineering as a designer, manager, and eventually consultant at Hamilton Sundstrand, a division of UTC. Meanwhile, she and her husband Terry were raising two daughters and serving on a variety of committees as active members of South Congregational Church in Granby. While working with UTC, she was able to begin the seminary education that would take her on a very different career path. In 2008, after twenty-seven years in the field of engineering, Pastor Gale was called to leave the engineering world and step off into a new phase in her life. She set to work to complete her seminary training at

(Cont'd on page 3)



Saturday September 1
Cemetery Clean-up
9am-11am
See page 5

Saturday September 8
Venture Smith Day
1pm-4pm
See page 5

Sunday September 9
9am Rally Day Pancake Breakfast
10am Worship with Rev Gale Grayson
11am Meet and Greet Coffee Hour
See pages 1,3&4

Saturday & Sunday October 6 & 7
23rd Annual Quilt Show
See Page 6

October Date and Time TBA
Cemetery Tour with Dr Karl Stofko
See page 5



September

1- Bud Haines
5 Patti Lombardo
10- Lou Faraci
13- Hilllary Ballek
20- Erica Conover
21- Myra Brandt

October

6- Tony Boyce
12 Autumn Smith
13- Robert Charney
19- Eric Bernard
25- Kevin Osalza



September

29- Michael & Kathy Sewell

October

10- Lou & Carol Faraci

(cont'd from page 1)

Andover Newton Theological School, earning several honors during her time there along the way. She then made her way into her new career of ministry by offering sabbatical coverage, pulpit supply, pastoral care and bridge ministry to churches in the Farmington Valley until the call came to serve as settled Senior Minister at the Oxford Congregational Church. Just last year, Gale and her husband Terry moved to Oakdale to be near their two grown daughters, and soon thereafter served a stint as interim minister at the Park Church in Norwich.

Pastor Gale is quick to tell you that she and her husband Terry are a package deal. We can expect him to be a welcome presence in our midst too.

Pastor Gale says of herself, "I am passionate about helping people of all ages to grow spiritually and to become empowered to serve God." *Most importantly at this time in our growth as a community of faith, she will work with us to live this simple truth in our church ... No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

We are grateful that Gale Grayson's rich and full life experiences have brought her here to us at First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam.

Welcome, Pastor Gale!



Terry and Rev. Gale Grayson

Meet and Greet Pastor Gale and Terry following worship on September 9th.



RALLY DAY!!!

People often ask what is Rally Day?

Rally Day is typically held in September or October to mark the beginning of the Church Calendar Year. At First Church, it has evolved into a calling back to our Sunday school students and getting back to the business of our church!

*This year we will have a **pancake breakfast** to kick off the Sunday school year! Breakfast will start at 9am and end in time for worship at 10am.*

*Please join us as we also **welcome our new Pastor Gayle Grayson**. A **meet and greet coffee hour** will take place after worship*

If you have any questions, please call Val Seaver at 860-818-1561.

First Church Cemetery Association, Inc. Report

Saturday, September 1st is Cemetery work Day. Come help spruce up the cemetery and prepare it for Venture Smith Day. **We will be there from 9am-11am... please note the time change.** If you would like to help, bring your work gloves and yard tools. Many hands make light work!

Contact Karl Stofko for more information.



Venture Smith Day

Saturday, September 8th 1pm-4pm, the Annual Venture Smith Day will take place. The speakers will be Karl Stofko and Dr Jesse Nasta from Wesleyan University.

The beautiful and unique quilts by the “Sisters In Stitches Joined By The Cloth”, of Eastern Massachusetts, will be on display as well as other photos and artifacts.

Refreshments will be served. If you would like to help provide refreshments, please contact Kathy Sewell.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

If it rains, the event will take place in the sanctuary of the church.

Cemetery Tour

In October, Town/Church Historian, Karl Sofko will lead a cemetery tour.

He does it every 2 years. **Date and time will be announced.**

(editor’s note: if you have never taken this tour, it is a must do! Interesting and loaded with fun facts about all those brown stones and the people buried in our cemetery)

23rd Annual Quilt & Needle Arts Show October 6th & 7th

Our annual Quilt Show is scheduled for Columbus Day Weekend, October 6th & 7th, 2018.

There will be the traditional displays of quilts and needle arts along with vendors and a boutique for shopping. Also popular is the café to satisfy appetites with homemade soups and pies. Keeping these things in mind, we will need bakers and soup chefs as well as helpers to be at the show over the weekend. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall in September. If you, or someone you know, have quilts or needle arts, please consider exhibiting your handiwork at the show. Forms are available at the church or on the website, firstchurcheh.org.

Raffle tickets are on sale for \$1 each. Buy one or more for a chance to win the beautiful queen-size raffle quilt, “**Prairie Rose**”, pictured below.

For more information contact Margaret Charney, Kathy Sewell or Betty Haines.

**Show hours: Saturday October 6th 10am-5pm
Sunday October 7th 1pm-5pm**





The Nita Porter Knitting Ministry is nearing it's 2,000th prayer shawl!

Imagine! We have made, prayed over and distributed 2,000 prayer shawls to people who were given "A little Hug " from God! Knitters feel the warmth of the fabric ,add love and prayers to each and every one of them! At this time we would like to thank all of the knitters for their dedication to the knitting ministry and also thank those that have donated so that these gifts are possible. We plan on having a celebration in the near future to mark the 2,000th shawl. If you or someone you know would like a prayer shawl, please feel free to pick one up in the knitting room .Please be sure to fill out the little white card that is attached ,so that we have a record of who received them.



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, the family of Peggy Carlson. Those in recovery, and teachers everywhere. Emitt and Justine as Emitt undergoes Chemo, the family of Sue Prueher, the family and friends of Joanne Roczniak, the family and friends of Don Ozalsa.

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 Djer 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.

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

The next 5th Sunday for Fuel is Sept 30, 2018. Look for the pink envelopes in the bulletins.

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?

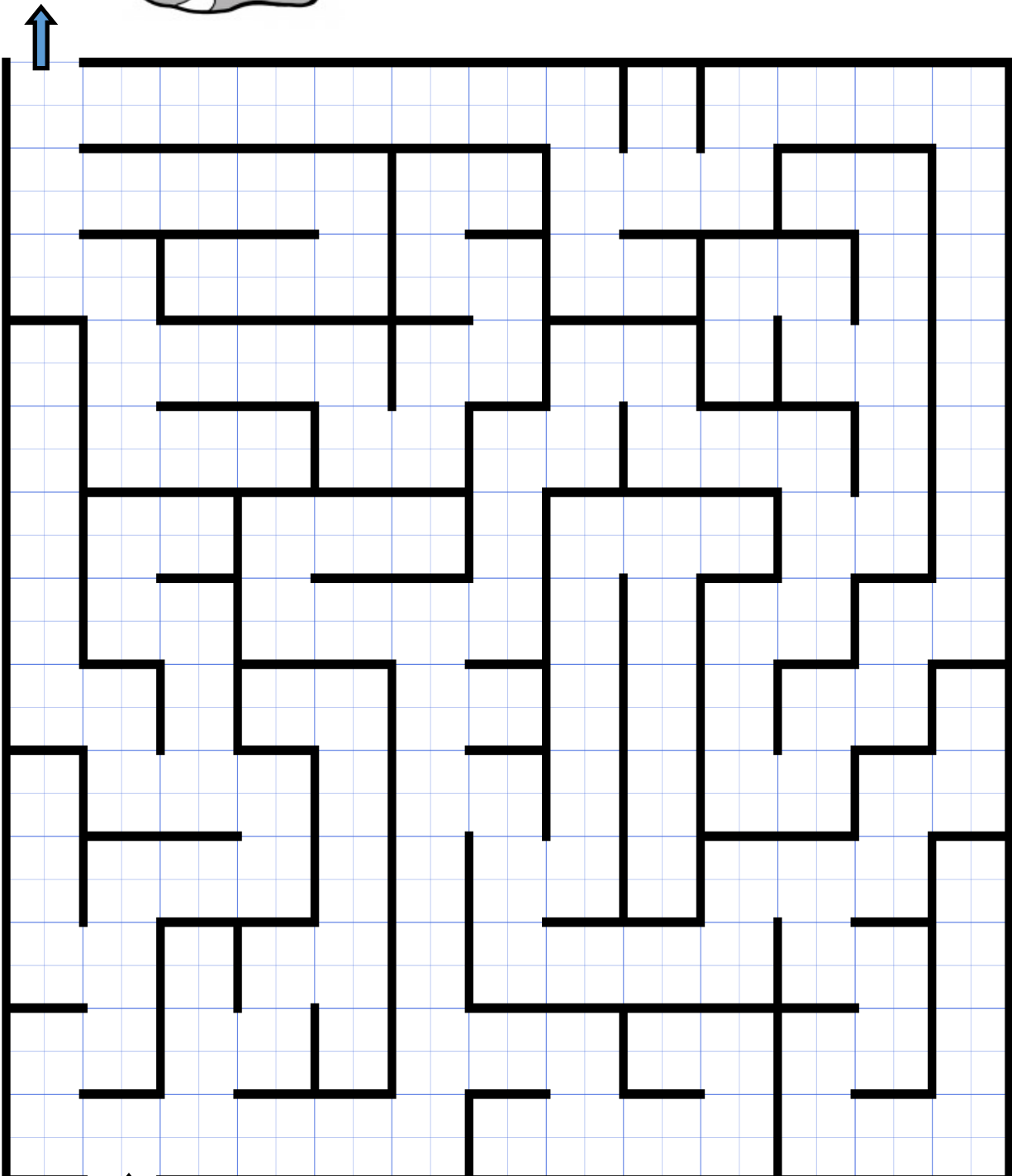
Do you have a couple of hours on Monday mornings?

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



Rally Day!





From the Editor

The front page of the Tidings is featuring a welcome article for our new Designated Minister, Rev. Gale Grayson. She will have her first article in the next issue of Tidings.

The Lectionary Series on the back page follows the actual readings that Rev. Grayson plans to use.

Thank you to Sue Merrow who wrote "What is a Seminarian" and "A New Door is Opening At First Church".

You can contact me at schleppsister35@gmail.com.

The deadline for the November/December 2018 Tidings is October 15th.

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

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
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2018



Lectionary Series

September

2—Deut 4:1-2, 6-9,
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
9— Psalm 100
Eph 2:17-22
16— James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38
23—James 3:13-43, 7-
8a
Mark 9:30-37
30— James 5:13-20

October

7-Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 8
14— Mark 10:17-31
21-Job 38:1-7
Mark 10:35-45
28-Psalm 126
Mark 10:46-52

Contact us

Minister

Rev. Gale Grayson

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860-873-9084 (Leave message)

Chair of Deacons

Lydia Sherman

lydgeosherm@aol.com

Tidings Editor

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